

-PA ——— Environment Digest

*An Update on
Environmental
Issues in
Pennsylvania*

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[PA Environment Digest Video Blog](#)

Agriculture Committees OK Fair Share Clean Water Plan for Farmers

The Senate and House Agriculture and Rural Affairs Committees this week unanimously approved funding increases for cost share, technical assistance and the REAP Tax Credit Program designed to help farmers reduce nutrient pollution to meet federal Clean Water Act mandates.

The increases were included in [Senate Bill 1449](#), sponsored by Sen. Roger Madigan (R-Bradford) and [House Bill 2656](#), sponsored by Rep. Mike Hanna (D-Centre), and recommended by the [Fair Share for Clean Water Coalition](#).



“We want to thank all the sponsors of these bills and the members of the Agriculture Committees for recognizing the urgent need to help farmers in Pennsylvania meet state and federal Clean Water Act mandates,” said Matthew Ehrhart, Pennsylvania Executive Director for the Chesapeake Bay Foundation. “Farmers play a critical role in water quality improvements, but they can’t do it alone. These bills provide much needed assistance to farmers to install conservation practices and the technical assistance they need to reduce nitrogen and phosphorus pollution.”

Sen. Mike Brubaker (R-Lancaster) serves as Majority Chair of the Senate Agriculture and Rural Affairs Committee and Sen. Michael O’Pake (D-Berks) serves as Minority Chair. Rep. Mike Hanna (D-Centre) serves as Majority Chair of the House Agriculture and Rural Affairs Committee and Rep. Art Hershey (R-Chester) serves as Minority Chair.

“The problems caused by the runoff of fertilizer and other nutrients into groundwater and streams have to be addressed, but many agricultural producers struggle with the cost of implementing a nutrient reduction plan,” Rep. Hanna said. “This program would help farmers reduce nutrient runoff while easing any financial burden involved.”

“Almost 70 percent of Pennsylvanians obtain their drinking water from surface water sources, and we have a vested interest in helping farmers, businesses and wastewater facilities meet water quality standards all across the state,” Brubaker said.

“These investments are a significant step to getting Pennsylvania on track for cleaner water, benefitting everyone in the state,” Sen. Brubaker said.

The PA Fair Share for Clean Water Coalition includes the Pennsylvania Municipal Authorities Association, Pennsylvania Farm Bureau, Pennsylvania Builders Association,

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Pennsylvania Association of Conservation Districts, the Chesapeake Bay Foundation and a growing list of 30 other environmental, business and local government groups.

Both the Senate and House bills outline a seven year program to provide farmers with \$390 million in 50-50 cost share and technical assistance funding. For fiscal year 2008-09, funding includes:

- \$10 million in funding for the Department of Agriculture;
- Increasing the Resource Enhancement and Protection Act (REAP) farm conservation tax credit to \$35 million,
- \$10 million increase in county conservation district funding; and
- Creating a new \$15 million 50-50 cost share program to put farm conservation practices on the ground.

"We are at a cross-roads. Farmers are continuously asked to produce more food and fuel for our growing populations, yet environmental requirements for improvements and maintenance pose a heavy financial burden for them," said Joel Rotz, State Governmental Relations Director for the Pennsylvania Farm Bureau. "Senate Bill 1449 and House Bill 2656 will help provide the financial support that farmers need to meet ever-increasing demands in achieving water quality mandates

"The PA Association of Conservation Districts commends the bipartisan support of both Senate and House Agriculture Committees in approving Senate Bill 1449 and House Bill 2656, and look forward to working with sponsors to insure the funding programs are included in the state budget, to secure adequate agricultural funding including conservation district funding in the state budget," said Susan Marquart, Executive Director of the PA Association of Conservation Districts. "County Conservation Districts provide essential technical assistance and implementation of proper conservation practices on farms, yet we've seen cuts in funding in the past year, at a time when these services are most needed by farmers."

"Because of the short deadlines imposed by the federal Clean Water Act and the state Department of Environmental Protection, the General Assembly and the Governor must address funding for farmers and wastewater treatment plants as part of this year's budget," said Ehrhart. "If this issue is not addressed in the next few weeks, sewer system ratepayers will see their rates double and triple and family farmers will incur financial burdens they cannot pass along in the cost of their crops and livestock."

The legislation approved this week will address the agricultural funding needs proposed in the Fair Share Plan. Other recent legislative initiatives have addressed other aspects of the Fair Share Plan and include:

- [Senate Bill 2](#), introduced by Sen. Jane Earll (R-Erie), provides a priority for funding for nutrient reduction projects at wastewater treatment plants. It passed the Senate last week and is now in the House;
- [Senate Bill 1341](#), introduced by Sen. Ray Musto (D- Luzerne), authorizes a \$400 million bond issue referendum to fund drinking water and wastewater projects, including nutrient reduction projects and is in position for a final vote in the Senate next week;
- [Senate Bill 1493](#), introduced by Sen. Pat Vance (R-Cumberland), provides enhancements to the state's Nutrient Credit Trading program that will drive down the cost of meeting clean water mandates; and

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- [House Bill 2654](#), introduced by Rep. Mike Hanna-D-Centre establishing the entire Fair Share for Clean Water Nutrient Reduction Program, farm and wastewater infrastructure.

Additional Supporting Groups

These groups have joined the growing list of over 35 supporters of the PA Fair Share for Clean Water Plan—Pennsylvania Environmental Council, Coldwater Heritage Partnership, Somerset County Conservation District, Chester County Conservation District, York County Conservation District, Westmoreland County Conservation District, Sullivan County Conservation District and Dover Township, York County.

The [PA Fair Share for Clean Water Plan](#) would invest \$170 million in 2008-09 in several ways to reduce the financial burden on ratepayers and farms:

- \$100 million to help wastewater plants finance required improvements;
- \$50 million in direct cost share aid to farmers to install conservation practices (\$35 for REAP farm tax credits and \$15 million in cost share grants);
- \$10 million to county conservation district to expand technical assistance to farmers;
- \$10 million to restore cuts to the Department of Agriculture budget in farm programs; and
- Proposes reforms to the state’s nutrient credit trading program that will help to make it a viable alternative to provide for both environmental improvements to the Bay and sufficient future sewage capacity for new development.

Over the course of seven years the Fair Share for Clean Water Plan will invest up to \$890 million in upgrades to sewage treatment plants and agricultural practices for nutrient reduction efforts for the Chesapeake Bay and cleaning up streams statewide.

For more information, visit the [PA Fair Share for Clean Water Plan website](#).

NewsClips: [Fair Share Bill Passes Senate, House Ag Committees](#)
[Chesapeake Plan Meeting Scheduled in Williamsport](#)
[Lower Lackawanna Sewer Rates Could Increase 50 Percent](#)
[Huntingdon Hikes Sewer Rates to \\$42](#)
[Bradford Authority Discusses Proposed Sewage Facilities Update](#)
[Susquehanna River In Need of Help \(Online Video\)](#)
[Editorial: Water, Sewer Needs Worthy of Gaming Revenues](#)

Links: [Coalition Proposes Fair Share Clean Water Funding Plan, Original Announcement](#)
[16,000 Miles of Polluted Streams Add Urgency to Call for Clean Water Funding](#)
[CBF, Other Groups Ask State to Be a Partner in Chesapeake Bay Cleanup Plan](#)
[40,000 More Acres of Corn, Soybeans Increase Conservation Needs](#)
[Brubaker, Musto Say Senate Infrastructure Bill Should Be Expanded](#)
[New Federal Farm Bill Promises Aid, But PA Farmers Need \\$600 M for Cleanup](#)
[Rep. Perry, 37 Co-Sponsors Introduce Chesapeake Bay Nutrient Reduction Plan](#)
[New House Bill Opens Debate on How to Fund Nutrient Pollution Cleanup](#)
[Support for PA Fair Share For Clean Water Plan Grows, New Website Open](#)
[Task Force Hears Support for Fair Share Clean Water Plan – Video Blog](#)
[PA Fair Share Coalition Ask Gov. Rendell to Keep Commitment on Bay Cleanup](#)
[Bills Including Fair Share for Clean Water Plan See Action in Senate, House](#)

Spotlight

REAP Gives Eby Farm the Opportunity to Expand No-Till Farming Practices

Earlier this spring Leon Eby and his wife Elsie learned that their application for state tax credits through the [Resource Enhancement and Protection Act \(REAP\)](#) had been approved.

The Eby's and over 200 other farmers throughout the Commonwealth are the first to receive tax credits through this new Pennsylvania program.

The Eby's earned REAP tax credits after purchasing a no-till planter which Leon used for the first time in May to plant 10 acres of corn. "It's a start," says Leon. "I'd like to transition to all no-till very soon."

The Eby's own 95 acres of farmland in Lancaster County where they plant crops of corn, barley, and soybeans on approximately 80 acres. The other 15 acres are permanently dedicated to hay, which he uses for the steer he raises.

Leon says he's interested in no-till farming because it will help him keep his soil on the farm, rather than losing it, as was the case with conventional crop planting. "Under the conservation plan an annual soil loss of 4-5 tons is acceptable. I was losing approximately 4 tons of soil but no-till will reduce that to 1 ton."

No-till planting is very different from conventional planting in that the soil is not 'turned over' in order to plant the seeds. Instead, the special design of the no-till planter places the seeds in small rows that are cut through the soil with thin knives or blades, followed by another attachment that tamps the ground overtop all done in one pass with the planter.

Not only does no-till help keep the soil in place, but it maintains plant "residue" from the previous crop. Both work together to prevent erosion and keep moisture in the ground.

Additional benefits of no-till include a savings in time expended for planting, and the amount of fuel used. "With no-till, I make one pass and I'm done. It's not like conventional planting where several passes are needed in the process. Saves me time and money, and my yields are just as good with no-till."

This is not the first conservation practice Leon has implemented on his farm. He has implemented a conservation planting practice, called crop rotation, alternating crops of hay in between corn, soybeans, and barley.

He also protects water quality and prevents soil loss through a grass waterway. a sloping grass-covered channel area where storm water normally flows. By channeling water through the grass, rather than bare soil, the waterway helps to keep soil on the field where it belongs.

Additional conservation efforts include a manure storage bin, a concrete barnyard, and a covered manure and compost area. These practices were implemented through a variety of funding sources. "These programs help me improve my farm, and I find it very worthwhile."

The Eby farm is a positive example of the conservation efforts that can be implemented to help protect water quality while still making a profit.

The REAP program, approved in July 2007, offers landowners state tax credits toward a portion of the costs of a variety of water quality enhancing projects.

The 2008 REAP Guidelines and Applications are now available at the [State Conservation Commission website](#).

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County conservation districts and private consultants can help farmers with the necessary planning to qualify for the tax credits.

Applications will be accepted by the Commission on a first-come, first-served basis beginning August 4. Any applications received by the Commission which are postmarked prior to July 30 will be returned.

State Budget Talks Coming Down to the July 1 Deadline

With the July 1 deadline for adopting a state budget looming, there were a series of meetings and actions this week designed to move the process along to a successful conclusion; at least everyone hopes so.

Senate Republicans, with Senate Democrats voting no, approved what they called a bare-bones budget which Senate Appropriations Chair Sen. Gib Armstrong (R-Lancaster) said did not reflect anyone's full set of budget priorities.

[Senate Bill 1389](#) calls for \$27.9 billion in general fund spending, which is an increase of \$749.2 million (2.76 percent) over the current budget.

The proposal is \$415.8 million lower than what the Governor requested for FY 2008-09. Overall, the bill cuts \$457.2 million from specific line items in the budget proposal unveiled by the Governor in February.

For his part, Gov. Rendell said he still projects a budget surplus for the year of about \$300 million, but noted revised revenue collections for June will not be available until the end of the month. Leaders have been waiting for revenue collections before making final decisions on major provisions in the budget.

The House Appropriations Committee last week amended a budget bill-- [House Bill 2380](#) (Evans-D-Philadelphia)-- to spend \$28.5 billion, restoring many of the cuts proposed by Gov. Rendell.

The House is set to vote on the General Fund budget starting June 23, but House Appropriations Chair Rep. Dwight Evans has said he hopes to avoid slogging through over 153 amendments proposed to their version of the General Fund budget in House Bill 2380.

Under the leadership of Rep. Evans, the House Appropriations Committee last week amended their General Fund budget bill to include much of the funding for the Department of Agriculture as proposed in the Fair Share Plan and a \$2.3 million increase for county conservation districts over the line items proposed by Gov. Rendell.

Will the General Assembly accept the environmental spending priorities outlined by the Governor for energy independence, repairing high hazard dam and taking \$29.2 million out of the Environmental Stewardship Fund and away from watershed projects to pay debt service on the Growing Greener II bond? ([See 2/11/08 Pa Environment Digest](#))

It is interesting to note the budgets for the Department of Environmental Protection and Agriculture have not returned to the 2002-03 spending levels, however, the Department of Conservation and Natural Resources, Fish and Boat and Game Commissions are all higher than they were in 2002-03.

The House and Senate are scheduled to be in voting session all next week. Stay tuned for the finale (we hope soon) of the state budget for 2008-09!

NewsClips: [Economic Slowdown Casts Shadow Over PA Budget](#)
[Lawmakers Seek Ways to Make PA Budget Work](#)
[Electric Rate Caps Emerge as Budget Issue](#)

Online Video Feature

Bare Facts About Bear Encounters, How to Avoid Attracting Bears



[In this online video story](#), the *Pocono Record's* Mike Kuhns and Delaware Water Gap National Recreation Area Park Ranger Chris Cross discuss what to do when you encounter a Pennsylvania Black Bear.

"As a result of Pennsylvania's large human and bear populations, bears and people are coming into contact frequently," Mike Ternent, Game Commission black bear biologist said. "These encounters occur because housing developments and businesses continue to encroach into bear habitat and more bears are living closer to people than ever before. Chance encounters in the field also appear to be more common than before in some areas."

"Now is the time to keep bears from becoming a nuisance later in the summer," Ternent said. "Bears that wander near residential areas in search of food are less likely to stay or return if they do not find anything rewarding. Conversely, if bears find food in your backyard they quickly learn to associate residential areas with food and begin to spend more time in those areas. Encounters between humans and bears increase, as does property damage, the risk of human injury and vehicle accidents involving bears."

"The best solution is to prevent bears from finding food at your house in the first place," Ternent said. "Food placed outside for any reason - whether it is food for wildlife, pets or unsecured garbage - is food available for bears. Homeowners should begin now to remove food sources or make them unavailable to bears."

The Game Commission provides [this additional advice](#) on how to avoid attracting bears around your home, farm or cabin as well as what to do if you encounter a bear.

Video Blog: [Bare Facts About Bear Encounters](#)

On the Hill

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

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

Session Schedule

The Senate and House will return to voting session on June 23.

House 2008 Session Days—

June 23, 24, 25, 26, 27, 28, 29, and 30

Senate 2008 Session Days--

June 23, 24, 25, 26, 27, 30

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

Calendars/Committees

The Senate and House published committee schedules for next week and floor Calendars for June 23--

Calendars

House (June 23): [Senate Bill 356](#) (M.White-R-Venango) establishing the PA Center for Environmental Education in law; [Senate Bill 1020](#) (Wonderling-R-Montgomery) updating the 1945 Conservation District Law; [House Bill 2549](#) (Siptroth-D-Monroe) authorizing funding for unsafe high hazard dam repairs; [House Resolution 788](#) (Longietti-D-Mercer) urging Congress to investigate the role of speculators related to rising oil prices; [House Resolution 546](#) (George-D-Clearfield) urging Congress to investigate gas and energy prices; [House Resolution 627](#) (George-D-Clearfield) urging federal government to provide more heating assistance funding; [House Bill 934](#) (Scavello-R-Monroe) authorizing counties to impose up to a \$4/ton solid waste management fee to support local recycling, anti-litter programs; [House Resolution 712](#) (Hutchinson-R-Venango) re-establishing the Forestry Task Force; [House Resolution 719](#) (George-D-Clearfield) endorsing request for federal funding for PA river basin commissions.

[Special Session House Bill 13](#) (Bennington-R-Mifflin) amends the Alternative Energy Portfolio Standards Act to provide for increased use of energy efficiency, extends the compliance period from 15 to 21 years and provides additional milestones for the use of alternative energy; [Special Session House Bill 17](#) (McIlvaine Smith-D-Montgomery) excluding purchase price of hybrid electric vehicles from sales and use tax; [Special Session House Resolution 6](#) (Thomas-D-Philadelphia) designating November 15 as “Pennsylvania GIS Day” and the week of November 11-17 as “National Geography Awareness Week.”

Senate (June 23): [Senate Bill 949](#) (Kasunic-D-Somerset) update to the Bituminous Coal Mine Safety Act; [Senate Bill 352](#) (Robbins-R-Mercer) providing for a Low-Income Energy Assistance Program allocation of funds; [Senate Bill 1062](#) (Wonderling-R-Montgomery) providing for the reimbursement of developers for reuse of brownfield sites; [House Bill 1329](#) (Kessler-D-Berks) further providing for appeals and challenges to zoning ordinances; [House Bill 221](#) (Tangretti-D-Westmoreland) establishing an Historic Preservation Incentive Program; [House Bill 1742](#) (Pashinski-D-Luzerne) prevention of scrap material thefts.

Committees

House: the **Environmental Resources and Energy Committee** meets to consider [House Bill 1319](#) (Siptroth-D-Monroe) increasing penalties for scattering rubbish and including an acknowledgement of littering laws on learner’s permit; the **Agriculture and Rural Affairs Committee** meets to consider [House Bill 2347](#) (Kessler-D-Berks) creating an Organic Agriculture Development Fund Program; the **Finance Committee** meets to consider [House Bill 664](#) (George-D-Clearfield) providing for a Sales Tax exemption for biomass projects; the **Urban Affairs Committee** meets to consider [House Bill 2559](#) (Petroni-D-

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Allegheny) extending the guaranteed energy savings contract period from 15 to 20 years; the **Labor Relations and Urban Affairs Committees** hold a joint hearing on [House Bill 2445](#) (Eachus-D-Luzerne) providing for neighborhood blight reclamation and revitalization.

Senate: the Appropriations Committee meets to consider [Senate Bill 1330](#) (D.White-R-Indiana) establishing the Coal Methane Review Board.

Bills Introduced

The following legislation of interest was introduced this week—

Nutrient Credit Trading Bank: [Senate Bill 1493](#) (Vance-R-Cumberland) establishing the Nutrient Credit Trading Bank.

River Basin Funding: [Senate Resolution 344](#) (Brubaker-R-Lancaster) urging Congress to fund the interstate river basin commission within the Commonwealth.

Fair Share Nutrient Reduction Plan: [House Bill 2654](#) (Hanna-D-Centre) establishing the entire Fair Share for Clean Water Nutrient Reduction Program.

Fair Share Nutrient Reduction Plan for Farmers: [House Bill 2656](#) (Hanna-D-Centre) establishing the Fair Share for Clean Water Nutrient Reduction Plan for Farmers.

Dump the Pump Day: [House Resolution 806](#) (McIlvaine Smith-D-Chester) recognizing June 19 as “Dump the Pump” Day to encourage mass transit.

Small Business Ombudsmen: [House Resolution 808](#) (George-D-Clearfield) welcoming the 2008 National Conference of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and state Small Business Ombudsmen to Harrisburg.

Advanced Coal Gasification: [Special Session House Bill 62](#) (DePasquale-D-York) amending the Alternative Energy Portfolio Standards Act to add advanced coal gasification and carbon sequestration projects.

Fuels for Schools: [Special Session House Bill 63](#) (Rapp-R-Forest) establishing the Fuels for Schools and Beyond Program to encourage biomass energy.

Biomass Diesel: [Special Session House Bill 64](#) (Kessler-D-Berks) amending the Alternative Fuels Incentive Act to encourage biomass diesel production.

Senate/House Bills Moving

These bills of interest saw action in the House and Senate this week—

Senate

Waste Tire Recycling: [Senate Bill 1050](#) (Baker-R-Luzerne) providing funding for waste tire removal and recycling was passed by the Senate and sent to the House for consideration.

"We need to fund the clean up of large scrap tire piles, which pose a threat to our health, safety and environment," Sen. Baker said. "These piles are mosquito breeding grounds that could lead to the spread of West Nile Virus. They are also prone to fires that are very difficult to extinguish and produce toxic air emissions and harmful groundwater runoff."

Sen. Baker noted the legislation is needed because Pennsylvania hasn't finished the job that it began over a decade ago. Funding for tire cleanups expired in 2001 despite there being at least 39 piles throughout the Commonwealth with at least 10,000 tires each, some with hundreds of thousands.

"This bill is about priorities, and we have to finish what we started," Sen. Baker added. Additionally, the bill does not divert funds from county recycling programs.

NewsClip: [Senate Passes Bill to Cleanup Tire Pile](#)

Deep Mine Safety: [Senate Bill 949](#) (Kasunic-D-Somerset) update to the Bituminous Coal Mine Safety Act was amended to restore the bill to the Senate-passed version and reported from the Senate Rules Committee by a vote of 12-5 (Senators Kasunic (D-Somerset), Fumo (D-Philadelphia), O’Pake (D-Berks), Mellow (D-Lackawanna) and Hughes (D-Philadelphia) voting in opposition).

Great Lakes Compact: [House Bill 1705](#) (Harkins-D-Erie) adopting the Great Lakes Water Resources Compact was referred to the House Appropriations Committee.

Brownfields: [Senate Bill 1062](#) (Wonderling-R-Montgomery) providing for the reimbursement of developers for reuse of brownfield sites was amended and reported from the Senate Appropriations Committee and is now on the Senate Calendar for action.

Water Infrastructure II : [Senate Bill 1341](#) (Musto-D-Luzerne) authorizing a \$400 million bond issue voter referendum for water, wastewater and stormwater projects was reported from the Senate Appropriations Committee.

Historic Preservation: [House Bill 221](#) (Tangretti-D-Westmoreland) establishing an Historic Preservation Incentive Program was amended and reported from the Senate Community, Economic and Recreational Development Committee and is on the Senate Calendar for action.

Non-Structural Flood Control: [Senate Bill 1408](#) (Wozniak-D-Cambria) and [Senate Bill 1409](#) (Wozniak) authorizing the use of nonstructural alternatives to address flooding problems were referred to the Senate Appropriations Committee.

House

Funding Dam Repairs: [House Bill 2549](#) (Siptroth-D-Monroe) authorizing funding for unsafe high hazard dam repairs was reported from House Rules Committee and referred to and reported from the House Appropriations Committee.

Nonstructural Alternatives to Flooding: [House Bill 2539](#) (Seip-D-Schuylkill) and [House Bill 2546](#) (Conklin-D-Centre) authorizing nonstructural alternatives to control flooding were reported from the House Rules Committee, then referred to and then from the House Appropriations Committee.

Planning Code: [House Bill 1525](#) (Steil-R-Bucks) amending the Municipalities Planning Code relating to comprehensive plans and compliance by counties was reported from the House Appropriations Committee.

Elk Fencing: [House Bill 2575](#) (Hanna-D-Centre) that authorizes elk deterrent fences and reimbursement for certain damages and was referred to and from the House Appropriations Committee.

Funding Wildlife Commissions: [House Bill 1676](#) (Levdansky-D-Allegheny) earmarking a portion of the Sales Tax to fund the Game and Fish and Boat Commissions was reported from the House Finance Committee and referred to House Rules Committee.

Mercury Thermostats: [House Bill 44](#) (Rubley-R-Chester) prohibiting the sale of mercury thermostats was amended and reported from the House Environmental Resources and Energy Committee, then referred to the House Rules Committee.

Oil Speculation: [House Resolution 788](#) (Longiotti-D-Mercer) urging Congress to investigate the role of speculators related to rising oil prices was reported from the House Environmental Resources and Energy Committee and is on the House Calendar for action.

Conservation Districts: [Senate Bill 1020](#) (Wonderling-R-Montgomery) updating the 1945 Conservation District Law was reported from the House Appropriations Committee and is on the House Calendar for action.

Floodplain Mapping: [House Resolution 465](#) (Hanna-D-Centre) urging the Federal Emergency Management Agency to expedite floodplain mapping updates was adopted by the House.

"Some of the maps being used are 20 years old," Rep. Hanna said. "These maps have to be updated to help municipalities develop a strategy to deal with flooding emergencies. The maps should also be revised more often because they're used to determine whether or not people have to buy flood insurance, and flood patterns change over the years."

NewsClips: [Agnes Flood Records Will Fall, Experts Say](#)
[FEMA Expands Area Flood Zones](#)

House Committee Met on Carbon Sequestration, Mercury Thermostats, Oil Costs

The House Environmental Resources and Energy Committee met this week to hear a presentation by DCNR Secretary Michael DiBerardinis on the agency's [Carbon Management Plan](#) and approved legislation that would ban the sale of new thermostats containing mercury and to urge Congress to investigate the role of speculators in the rising cost of oil.

[Testimony provided](#) by DCNR Secretary Michael DiBerardinis provided an overview of the goals and objectives of the Carbon Management Plan that was developed with the help of a stakeholder group facilitated by the [Pennsylvania Environmental Council](#).

[A presentation](#) provided by John Quigley, DCNR's manager for the project, outlined the recommendations in the plan and the next steps to finalize the strategies.

Link: [DCNR Carbon Management Plan Available for Public Comment](#)

The bills considered by the Committee included:

- [House Bill 44](#) (Rubley-R-Chester) prohibiting the sale of mercury thermostats; and
- [House Resolution 788](#) (Longietti-D-Mercer) urging Congress to investigate the role of speculators related to rising oil prices.

Rep. Rubley thanked the Committee for their action saying, "The legislation encourages plans to be put in place and educational programs to be offered to raise public awareness to properly dispose of mercury thermostats as people upgrade to Energy Star-rated, mercury-free programmable thermostats. Our resources need to be recycled, and our waste properly handled so that the soil, waterways and air are protected. Hazardous post-consumer waste should not be disposed of in landfills, where dangerous metals can run off into streams, but instead be recycled and reused."

Rep. Longietti said, "I am pleased that my colleagues serving on the House Energy Committee support this resolution and are eager to find out the role of speculators in the price of oil in the commodities market. Over the last few years the trends have been startling in terms of the shift in investment when it comes to oil. The price of oil on the commodity market rose 13 percent last week alone. A public investigation is warranted and would be highly productive in learning more about what could be causing the record prices of oil."

"This resolution does not hold any weight of law but it does represent a clear bipartisan voice to our federal government that we are not going to ignore the signs that commodities' speculators could be the root problem of the rising fuel prices," Longietti said. "It is one of the few ways that we, as a state legislature, can act to deal with rising gas prices."

Rep. Bud George (D-Clearfield) serves as Majority Chair of the Committee and Rep. Scott Hutchinson (R-Venango) serves as Minority Chair.

Senate Committee Holds Hearing on Electronic Waste Recycling

The Senate Environmental Resources and Energy Committee held a public hearing this week on the issue of electronic waste recycling and heard from a variety of witnesses on the growing demand for these services.

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[Tom Fidler](#), Deputy Secretary with the Department of Environmental Protection, said the volume of electronic waste will increase dramatically as televisions, radios and other equipment becomes obsolete because of the change to digital formats.

He noted that 13 states now have adopted programs on electronic waste recycling.

[Ric Erdheim](#), Counsel for Phillips Electronics, said the biggest problem facing electronics recycling is cathode ray tubes as new televisions and computer monitors are phased into service.

[Valerie Rickman](#), from the Information Technology Industry Council, said states have adopted alternative approaches to electronics recycling, including a point-of-sale fee system like California, other states like Maryland impose a fee on manufacturers the state then uses to fund local collection/recycling programs.

[Brian Rider](#), Pennsylvania Retailers Association, said his group supports producer responsibility for recycling and encourages consumer education on recycling.

[Francis Valluzzo](#), Dell, Inc., said Dell has established a global recycling system that is free to consumers and is designed to prevent computers from ending up in landfills. He offered [draft legislation](#) for the Committee to consider.

[John Frederick](#), Professional Recyclers of Pennsylvania, said DEP has done a lot of work on electronics recycling and was glad the issue was being discussed and not ignored. He said consumer convenience needed to be a priority in any system as well as a program for any hazardous wastes that come through the process.

To watch an online video of the hearing, go to the [Senate Environmental Resources and Energy Committee webpage](#).

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

House Environmental Committee to Consider Litter Education Bill

The House Environmental Resources and Energy Committee meets to June 24 to consider [House Bill 1319](#) (Siptroth-D-Monroe) increasing penalties for scattering rubbish and including an acknowledgement of littering laws on learner's permit applications.

Rep. Bud George (D-Clearfield) serves as Majority Chair of the Committee and Rep. Scott Hutchinson (R-Venango) serves as Minority Chair.

June Environmental Synopsis Features One Story - Mandatory Trash Collection

The June edition of [Environmental Synopsis](#) published by the Joint Legislative Air and Water Pollution Control and Conservation Committee features an article on a survey done by Mansfield University on mandatory trash collection and rural dumping issues.

The Mansfield survey found that over 76 percent of those surveyed favored mandatory trash collection in all municipalities across the state in order to combat illegal dumping.

However most of those surveyed—92 percent—already had regular trash collection service now and 77 percent said their communities have no illegal dumping problems.

[The Joint Legislative Air and Water Pollution Control and Conservation Committee](#) is chaired by Rep. Scott Hutchinson (R-Venango) and Sen. Ray Musto (D-Luzerne) serves as vice-chair.

Other News

Wildlands Conservancy Announces 2008 Friend of the Lehigh River Awards

The [Wildlands Conservancy](#) this week announced the winners of the 2008 Friend of the Lehigh River Awards: Stephen Baier, Larry Rafes, the late Peter W. Nestor, and the County of Lehigh.

The Friend of the Lehigh River award is Wildlands Conservancy's annual acknowledgement of individuals, groups, organizations, businesses, institutions, governmental bodies, and others who deserve to be recognized for their commitment to the Lehigh River.

"The preservation and protection of one of the Lehigh Valley's most vital resources is a collaborative effort among many individuals, organizations, and government bodies. This award allows Wildlands Conservancy to applaud those who make a conscious effort to either protect the Lehigh River or educate others on its importance" says Christopher Kocher, president of Wildlands Conservancy.

The recipients will be honored on June 23, at 4:45 p.m. at Tri-boro Sportmans Club in Northampton, Pa during the 12th annual Lehigh River Sojourn

Stephen Baier's dedication to environmental involvement started over 30 years ago as a student at Williamsport High School, and, since then, Baier has dedicated his life to environmental education.

Baier is currently a teacher at Emmaus High School and during his tenure has helped develop and implement an Advanced Placement Environmental Science course along with a CP Environmental Science course.

Baier is also the advisor of the Earthwatch Club, which has helped organize clean-ups, stream testing of the Little Lehigh, and recycling at Emmaus High School. He also has led winning teams from the high school at the annual Envirothon event held at Pool Wildlife Sanctuary.

Baier has also involved Emmaus High School as one of the four pilot schools in the Lehigh Valley with the Shad in Schools program, which raised and released American Shad in the river. Baier participates in numerous environmental-awareness activities outside of the classroom including his title as Vice President of Emmaus/Upper Milford Environmental Advisory Council.

Larry Rafes has been actively involved in educating and promoting awareness of the importance of the Lehigh River to numerous Lehigh Valley residents. Rafes has been an integral part of the Lehigh River Sojourn for the past twelve years.

For the past several years, Rafes served as Chairman of the Lehigh River Sojourn Committee and has helped grow the event since its start in 1997. During that time, he has exposed thousands of people to the Lehigh River.

For ten years, Rafes served on Whitehall Township's Environmental Advisory Council where he assisted with a variety of programs including the implementation of Whitehall's recycling program.

He also was the Chair of the Whitehall Parkway Committee for five years, guiding the Parkway's development (a 110-acre passive recreational area). He has volunteered countless hours to a variety of organizations including the Pennsylvania Forest Stewardship Program and Wildlands Conservancy.

Peter W. Nestor was an integral part of connecting people to the Lehigh River and brought about awareness of this once degraded resource.

Nestor's love for fishing started when he was in his twenties and grew after he returned from World War II and opened a fishing shop in Cementon. This small shop eventually moved to Whitehall and became [Nestor's Sporting Goods](#).

Nestor's keen interest in fishing, not only for himself, but also as a form of recreation for people of all ages, drove him to promote the sport vigorously along with his business through special events and films he produced.

In the late sixties, after being convinced that the Lehigh River might again be able to support trout, he came up with the idea of stocking the river with tagged fish. Nestor sponsored a long-running contest to encourage fisherman to return the tags to the store for prizes - ranging from fishing tackle to a grand prize, of an all-inclusive fishing trip to an exclusive fly-in camp in Alaska.

Nestor's Sporting Goods sponsored the stocking and the Lehigh River Trout contest for over five years. Eventually the stocking of trout in the Lehigh was taken over by the sportsmen's clubs along the river, most notably the Tri-Boro Sportsman Club in Northampton.

Lehigh County. Despite the rapid growth of the region, the [County of Lehigh](#) has made great strides in protecting its natural treasures through fee acquisition, conservation easements, regional planning and stewardship of its existing natural and recreational areas.

Lehigh County has reached out and partnered with Wildlands Conservancy in helping protect the conservation easement on the Leister Farm and has been an integral part of the development of the Trexler Nature Preserve to provide additional recreational opportunities to the community.

Lehigh County has shown leadership and imagination in land acquisition, river-access improvement, community organization, and monetary investment in their pursuit of the protection of natural resources and the improvement of the quality of life in the county. The county has also assisted in acquisition of riverfront property and trail corridors along the river.

Lehigh County's continuous support of the conservation community, their proactive approach to land preservation, their strong support of comprehensive planning, their willingness to invest in the preservation of natural resources, and their work to help protect the conservation easement on the Leister farm and the protection of county owned recreational resources make them a worth recipient.

The Honorable Don Cunningham, Lehigh County Executive, and Dr. Percy Dougherty, Chairman of the Lehigh County Board of Commissioners, will be accepting the award on behalf of Lehigh County.

Environmental Groups, Legislators Urge DEP to Adopt Forest Buffer Rule

The [Pennsylvania Campaign for Clean Water](#) this week publicly launched its "Buffers 100" initiative to urge the Department of Environmental Protection to propose new regulations that would require minimum 100 foot buffers on new development on all rivers and streams in the state.

The proposal has been endorsed by 110 organizations, businesses and municipal organizations from across the state, along with 25 legislators from both parties and both chambers of the General Assembly.

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The Campaign’s proposal would require new developments to preserve a strip of land at least 100 foot wide from the top of the stream bank, keeping that land in its natural state with native vegetation and trees.

The proposal would impact new development only and could not affect existing structures within the buffer zone. Buffers would be built and maintained by developers, at no cost to taxpayers.

Maya van Rossum, the Delaware Riverkeeper, explained, “If we are to protect our communities from flooding, drought and pollution, if we are to provide our communities with high quality drinking water, recreation, and growing businesses, it is critical we protect our streams and rivers with forested buffers that are a minimum of 100 feet wide, and greater where we have more sensitive streams.”

Myron Arnowitz, state director for Clean Water Action, noted, “12,500 miles of streams in Pennsylvania are already degraded by pollution. Buffers can help restore many of these streams to health and protect the rest from harmful pollution.”

Tavis Dockwiler, a landscape architect from Viridian Landscape Studio, described how streams would benefit from buffers, “Through a lack of understanding about how important protecting our streams is, we have paved over and otherwise abused our watersheds. We must stop making the same mistakes. 100 foot minimum stream buffers are not a luxury of environmentalists but instead are necessary to protect our health and safety. These buffers protect and clean our water, and reduce both flood damage and the cost of stormwater management.”

Andy Paravis of the Federation of Northern Chester County Municipalities noted that his township, North Coventry, has already adopted a 100 foot buffer requirement and has seen positive benefits from it. But he added, “the state needs to require buffers on all streams since water doesn’t respect municipal boundaries and we’re all affected by what the municipality upstream does.”

Rep. Camille George (D-Clearfield), chair of the House Environmental Resources and Energy Committee, Rep. Kate Harper (R-Montgomery), and Rep. Robert Freeman (D-Northampton) all spoke in favor of the proposal, urging DEP to propose strong buffer regulations.

“Mother Nature needs a buffer zone. We need a buffer zone,” said Rep. George. “There is nothing extreme about this except for extreme common sense.”

Rep. Harper stated, “We have only recently become aware of how our use of nearby land affects the quality and quantity of water and aquatic life in our rivers and streams. With that knowledge comes a responsibility to define for the entire Commonwealth a safe buffer area for Pennsylvania waterways so that we can continue to enjoy the benefits of clean water for generations to come.”

Rep. Freeman agreed, “Establishing riparian buffers along our Commonwealth’s waterways is critical to protecting the quality and availability of water across Pennsylvania, enhancing our environment, and mitigating the potential for destructive flooding.”

The three legislators were joined by other members of the House and Senate who demonstrated their support for the Campaign for Clean Water’s “Buffers 100” proposal urging the DEP to propose regulations that would require minimum 100 foot buffers.

[Handouts from the press conference are available online.](#)

For more information, visit the [Buffers 100 webpage](#).

NewsClip: [Coalition Says Stream Buffers Needed for Clean Water](#)

PA Trout Unlimited Announces Trout In the Classroom Grant Awards

[PA Trout Unlimited](#) this week announced grants to 14 schools across the state to participate in its [Trout in the Classroom](#) environmental education program.

PA Trout Unlimited is also seeking an Outreach Coordinator for the TIC Program. (*See separate story*)

Trout in the Classroom is an environmental education program in which students in grades K-12 will: raise trout from eggs to fry; monitor tank water quality; engage in stream habitat studies; learn to appreciate water resources; begin to foster a conservation ethic; and grow to understand ecosystems.

TIC has interdisciplinary applications in science, social studies, mathematics, language arts, fine arts, and physical education. Most programs end the year by releasing trout in a state-approved stream near the school or within a nearby watershed.

The schools receiving the grants and their sponsoring organizations follow:

- South Buffalo Elementary School, Armstrong County, Arrowhead Chapter of TU;
- Hamburg Area School District, Berks County, Tulpehocken Chapter TU;
- Council Rock High School South, Bucks County, Bucks County TU;
- Butler Junior High School, Butler County, Connoquenessing Watershed Alliance;
- South St. Forest Hills High School, Cambria County, Mountain Laurel TU;
- Curwensville Jr / Sr High, Clearfield County, Curwensville Area SD;
- DuBois Area Middle School, Clearfield County, Allegheny Mountain TU;
- Cedar Cliff High School, Cumberland County, Cumberland Conservation District;
- Wilson Middle School, Cumberland County, Cumberland Valley of TU;
- New Cumberland Middle School, Cumberland County, Cumberland Valley of TU;
- Mechanicsburg Middle School, Cumberland County, Cumberland Valley Chapter TU;
- Match / Science Academy, Dauphin County, Doc Fritchey Chapter of TU;
- Marys Street Elementary, Elk County, James Zwald TU;
- Elk County Catholic High School, Elk County, Elk Conservation District;
- Carmichaels Area, Fayette County, Chestnut Ridge TU;
- Hickory Grove Elementary School, Jefferson County, Iron Furnace Chapter of TU;
- Lack-Tuscarora Elementary, Juniata County, Penns Creek Chapter of TU;
- Jersey Shore Area Middle School, Lycoming/Clinton Counties, Lloyd Wilson TU;
- Clear Run Intermediate School, Monroe County, Brodhead TU;
- Evans Elementary, Montgomery County, Friends of Mingo Creek; and
- Easton High School, Northampton County, Forks of the Delaware TU.

Record Number of Paddlers Participate in Schuylkill River Sojourn

The [Schuylkill River Heritage Area](#) held its 10th Annual Schuylkill River Sojourn in June, taking a record 250 participants on a 110-mile, seven-day guided canoe/kayak tour.

Not only did the sojourn have record participation—up from 195 registrants in 2007—it also featured unique programming at evening campsites and lunch stops.

The Schuylkill River Heritage Area partnered with the Philadelphia-based American Philosophical Society Museum (best known for having educated the Lewis and Clark expedition) to create programming tied to the museum's exhibit titled “Undaunted: Five American Explorers, 1760-2007.”

Sojourners paddling 14-18 miles per day became field explorers of the river. They kept journals in handcrafted books, collected and pressed plant specimens daily, and sampled the river water at every major stop.

Since its inception in 1999, the sojourn has attracted more than 1,500 participants and garnered support annually from more than 70 public and private partners. It is a fun and educational event that draws attention to the river as a valuable natural, recreational, historic and economic resource.

Paddlers not only discover unfamiliar places, but, through entertaining evening and lunch programs, they learn about the river's role in history and its continued importance as a source of drinking water for over one million people.

Youghiogheny Sojourn Activities Salute River of the Year, Community Involvement

The Youghiogheny River's dominant role in Western Pennsylvania history and its rebirth from a threatened past to a promising recreational future will be highlighted during a [four-day sojourn in July](#) offering events for rafters, bikers, anglers and other outdoors enthusiasts.

The registration deadline for the July 17 – 20 sojourn is June 27. All registrations must be made online at the [Youghiogheny River Sojourn webpage](#). The [Pennsylvania Environmental Council](#) is sponsoring the sojourn and is developing an official water trail along the Youghiogheny.

"The array of sojourn activities appropriately celebrates the Youghiogheny River's designation as Pennsylvania's River of the Year for 2008," said Department of Conservation and Natural Resources Secretary Michael DiBerardinis. "Scores of partners working to preserve, protect and enhance this great state resource have pumped new life into the river and the many surrounding communities.

"The Youghiogheny River Sojourn offers visitors a chance to see first-hand why the waterway is so deserving of statewide recognition. We invite residents from across the state to participate in many unique activities, including an interpreted whitewater raft outing, a 'Family Fishing Event,' and optional scenic bike ride along that section of the river paralleling the Great Allegheny Passage."

Popularly known as "the Yough" (pronounced: "Yock"), the river flowing north 132 miles from its origination in Maryland to its mouth at McKeesport, was picked for the annual honor by DCNR. A more than 70-mile section of the Youghiogheny River in Pennsylvania drains 1,250 square miles in Somerset, Fayette, Westmoreland and Allegheny counties before emptying into the Monongahela River.

Boasting a 150-foot-wide waterfall, the river is the focal point of the 19,000-acre Ohiopyle State Park, which attracts more than 1.5 million visitors a year. The river's whitewater attracts 100,000 boaters each year for the thrill of rapids that can be run all summer with releases from Youghiogheny River Lake.

Annual DCNR "River of the Year" honors recognize local residents, governments, non-profit and conservation organizations working to improve waterways and the quality of life in their watersheds across the state. Sojourns are hosted to provide water- and land-based journeys for canoeists, kayakers and others to raise awareness of the environmental, recreational, tourism and heritage values of rivers.

The Youghiogheny sojourn highlights include:

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- July 17 — An 11-mile paddle down the Middle Yough to Ohiopyle on class I and II river sections; dinner at the Ohiopyle State Park campground; and a history presentation.
- July 18 — A seven-mile whitewater adventure down the Lower Yough (Class III and sometimes Class IV water) including three interpretive stops to explore geologic and other features; and an interpretive hike in the evening.
- July 19 — Brunch in Dawson at the Cochran House and a historical tour; a 10-mile canoe paddle to Cedar Creek; a "Family Fishing Event" at Cedar Creek Park campground.
- July 20 — A natural history hike; a 10-mile canoe paddle and an optional tour of the nearby Milestone Hydroponic Greenhouse.

The minimum age for participation in whitewater rafting is 12.

As an alternative to whitewater rafting July 18, sojourn participants may opt to bicycle the Yough River section of the Great Allegheny Passage from Ohiopyle to Confluence and back.

The Great Allegheny Passage is one of the world's premier rail-trails running 132 miles from Pittsburgh to Cumberland, Md., where it links to the C&O Canal Towpath to offer an off-road trail from Pittsburgh to Washington, D.C.

Costs for participation in all four days of the sojourn range from \$140 to \$235 per person, depending upon boat rental fees and whether or not registrants choose to go whitewater rafting.

Full details and registration information can be found at the [Youghiogheny River Sojourn webpage](#).

Plan to Reduce Nutrients to Mississippi River From 31 States Released By EPA

The [Mississippi River/Gulf of Mexico Watershed Nutrient Task Force](#) this week released an Action Plan that involves state and federal partners in reducing hypoxia in the Northern Gulf of Mexico. The watersheds include the Ohio River Watershed in Western Pennsylvania

The Plan is similar to the steps now being taken in the Susquehanna River Watershed to reduce nutrients going to the Chesapeake Bay. ([See PA Fair Share for Clean Water Plan website](#))

The 2008 Action Plan for Reducing, Mitigating, and Controlling Hypoxia in the Northern Gulf of Mexico and Improving Water Quality in the Mississippi River Basin builds upon the 2001 plan by incorporating emerging issues, innovative approaches, and the latest science, including findings from EPA's Science Advisory Board.

"Our improved plan unites governments and citizens across the country to take action upstream and along the coast to reduce river nutrient pollution and increase Gulf of Mexico health," said Assistant Administrator for Water Benjamin H. Grumbles. "Sound science, cooperative conservation, and innovation will accelerate environmental progress throughout the 31-state watershed and this plan puts us on a course to do just that."

Improvements include more accountability through an Annual Operating Plan, better tracking of progress, state as well as federal nutrient reduction strategies, and a plan to increase awareness of the problem and implementation of solutions. The plan connects upstream and downstream problems to solutions in sustaining the Mississippi River Basin and its tributaries.

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Nutrients are important to the environment, but too much, particularly nitrogen and phosphorus, can harm water quality by feeding algae blooms and creating oxygen-deprived “dead zones” where marine life can not survive. Pollution from the whole 31-state Mississippi River watershed is carried downstream to the Gulf of Mexico by the Mississippi and Atchafalaya Rivers.

Excess nutrients flowing downstream from agricultural and developed land, soil erosion, factory and wastewater treatment plant discharges, and even from the air trigger excessive algal growth that deplete the oxygen in the water when they die, sink to the bottom and decompose.

The Task Force, made up of state and federal officials, leads efforts to promote and support nutrient management in the Mississippi/Atchafalaya River Basin and works to accelerate efforts to reduce the size of the zone through building strong partnerships, developing voluntary and regulatory approaches, and increasing national awareness.

EPA is committed to the work of the Task Force and to meeting its ambitious goals through innovative approaches such as numeric nutrient standards in permits, restoring or creating wetlands for purifying runoff, and encouraging nutrient cap and trade systems for improved water quality.

More information, visit the [2008 Action Plan webpage](#).

York County Alliance to Hold Annual Watershed Weekend September 27-28

The [Watershed Alliance of York](#) is pleased to announce the opening of registration for the 6th Annual Watershed Weekend to be held September 27 and 28.

The purpose of the Watershed Weekend is to increase public awareness about the importance of their watersheds. The idea is to encourage as many WAY partner organizations as possible to plan and sponsor one activity, locally.

Past venues have included: educational programs, hiking and paddling tours, stream cleanups, riparian buffer plantings or any activity that will draw people to you and allow them to participate in some manner while learning more about your organization and watershed.

Individuals and families would be encouraged through multi-media Public Service Announcements to tour one or more of their local watersheds and attend the specific activities being hosted by each group. Also, we will prepare and distribute before-hand a self-guided tour brochure listing all of the planned activities, a brief description and directions to your location.

The Watershed Alliance of York, Inc. is a coalition of stakeholders committed to being innovative leaders encouraging watershed-based planning, restoration and protection, through locally led conservation, education and stewardship initiatives, in York County, Pennsylvania, and beyond. WAY will serve a central coordinating role, handling advertising and promotion and provide technical assistance for the venue.

Our responsibility will be to get as many organizations and people involved in the tour as possible. Venue sponsoring organizations will be responsible for planning, staffing and implementing their sponsored activity.

Watershed Weekend participation is open to all conservation, environmental, sportsmen, and watershed groups, nonprofit organizations, and governing agencies in Maryland’s Upper West Shore of Maryland and Pennsylvania’s Lower Susquehanna River regions, of the Chesapeake Bay Watershed.

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There is no cost to register or participate. If you would like to sponsor a venue, then please visit [our website](#) to download and complete a registration form and mail or e-mail it to WAY, 118 Pleasant Acres Road, York, PA 17402 or send email to: Gary R. Peacock at gpeacock@yorkccd.org.

For more information about how to sponsor a Watershed Weekend venue, you may call Gary R. Peacock at 717-840-7430 or e-mail.

Clarion County Plant Completes Third Phase of Partnership for Safe Water

The Pennsylvania American Water Co.'s Clarion Plant recently completed the third phase of the [Partnership for Safe Water program](#), a voluntary effort to take additional steps to provide safe drinking water.

Presently, the water system provides drinking water service to approximately 16,600 people. The Clarion water filtration plant is one of only a handful of water plants to complete this phase of the Partnership in Pennsylvania.

The Partnership for Safe Water is made up of DEP, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, the Pennsylvania Section American Water Works Association and other drinking water organizations. Its goal is to implement preventative measures that are based on optimizing treatment plant performance.

Phase III entails a detailed, peer-reviewed report that summarizes the rigorous self-assessment portion of the program.

This phase is specifically geared toward identifying weaknesses in plant operation, design and administration that could lead to a breakthrough of waterborne disease-causing organisms into the finished water that is distributed to consumers. Correcting these weaknesses helps prevent waterborne disease outbreaks from pathogenic organisms like *Cryptosporidium* and *Giardia*.

By completing this phase of the program, the Pennsylvania American Water Company - Clarion Water Treatment Plant is working to provide an additional measure of protection to drinking water consumers.

Currently, 98 surface water treatment plants serving over 5 million people are now involved in Pennsylvania's Partnership program.

For more information contact Kevin Anderson at 717 772-4018 or send email to: keanderson@state.pa.us.

Delaware Estuary Part of New EPA Climate Ready Estuaries Program

The Delaware Estuary and five other estuaries across the United States are part of a new U.S. Environmental Protection Agency program called "[Climate Ready Estuaries](#)." The six estuaries will be case studies for local action to protect sensitive coastal ecosystems and economies from the potential effects of climate change.

"EPA's Climate Ready Estuaries work will help coastal communities understand and adapt to climate change," said Assistant Administrator for Water Benjamin H. Grumbles. "Our aim is to build capacity for local decision makers and resource managers to help take pro-active, practical steps for bays at risk."

The six pilots include New Hampshire Estuaries Project, Massachusetts Bays Estuary Program, [Partnership for the Delaware Estuary](#), Albemarle-Pamlico Sounds

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National Estuary Program, Charlotte Harbor Estuary Program and San Francisco Estuary Project.

Each estuary program will receive technical assistance to assess and reduce their vulnerability to climate change. The programs will apply analyses and tools to help them make decisions to protect their communities and build knowledge to help other communities adapt to a changing climate. Communities with plans approved by their local stakeholders will be designated as “Climate Ready Estuaries” by EPA.

The Climate Ready Estuaries effort will take the lessons learned from the pilots to provide information and leadership to other coastal communities around the nation. Under the Climate Ready Estuaries framework, EPA will use the 28 National Estuary Programs, Web-based resources and other means identified through the initial pilots to support local efforts in all of the nation’s coastal communities to effectively plan and adapt to climate change.

The Climate Ready Estuaries program is one of more than 40 specific actions to respond to the water-related impacts of climate change that are described in a draft strategy developed by the National Water Program. The draft strategy is designed to help water resource managers adapt their programs to a changing climate.

For more information, visit EPA’s [Climate Ready Estuaries webpage](#).

PNC Financial Group, PA Horticultural Society Honored in Global Awards Program

Pittsburgh-based PNC Financial Services Group, Inc. has won an inaugural [Sustainable Cities Award](#) sponsored jointly by the Urban Land Institute and the Financial Times. The Pennsylvania Horticultural Society was a finalist in the same program.

PNC received the recognition for its commitment to environmentally-friendly buildings. Since 2000, when its corporate headquarters was the first financial building to be LEED certified, the largest green building at the time, PNC has led all U.S. companies in LEED certifications. PNC has incorporated this commitment into a corporate policy that now includes 41 "[Green Branch](#)" locations.

"The Sustainable Cities Award confirms our belief that PNC is a global pioneer in the effort to create commercial spaces that are ecologically viable and economically superior to standard construction," said Gary Saulson, director of PNC Corporate Real Estate, who accepted on behalf of the company in London on June 16. PNC was the largest U.S. corporation and the only financial services company selected.

PNC's environmental leadership was affirmed last year by the U.S. Patent & Trademark Office with a trademark for the term "Green Branch," which applies to 41 banking offices certified by the United States Green Building Council. PNC's other certified green buildings include the J. Richard Carnall Center in Wilmington, Del. and PNC Firstside Center in Pittsburgh.

Twelve recently completed Green Branch locations are awaiting Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design certification from the USGBC. PNC has another green office tower, Three PNC Plaza, under construction in Pittsburgh, and another planned for Washington, D.C.

More than half of material used in each Green Branch location is locally manufactured or made from recycled or green materials. Energy usage is reduced nearly 35 percent or more compared to a traditional branch and water usage is reduced by nearly

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4,000 gallons a year. Window walls are three times more efficient than code and provide an open, airy space for employees and customers.

In addition to its own green building program, the award jury cited PNC for its effort to influence its supply chain. PNC trains its contractors in green building methods and advocates for the sourcing of more sustainable materials.

The Pennsylvania Horticultural Society was honored as a finalist for its [Philadelphia Green](#) program which brings together more than 5,000 constituents and 90 community groups to reclaim more than 138 acres of vacant land, planted more than 21,000 trees, and harvested 22,000 pounds of local produce in community gardens throughout Philadelphia.

In addition to increasing community parkland and reducing stormwater runoff, the program serves as a model for cities facing similar problems of vacant land and urban blight.

New EPA Guide to Help Businesses Confront Climate Challenge

This U.S. Environmental Protection Agency this week released a new resource, [A Business Guide to U.S. EPA Climate Partnership Programs](#), for businesses committed to addressing the risks and opportunities associated with climate change.

The guide features profiles on 35 EPA climate-change related partnership programs, as well as a handy table so companies can look up programs most appropriate for their industry and business objectives.

Each program profile defines the environmental value delivered by the program and the business case for participating, such as cost savings, operational efficiency, reduced business risk, new or expanded markets, enhanced reputation and brand protection.

The guide also describes the benefits of partnering with EPA, such as environmental performance benchmarking, public recognition, professional training and networking, and preparation for regulatory developments.

There are currently more than 13,000 firms and other organizations participating in EPA climate-related partnership programs. Through participation, members are investing in energy efficiency, clean energy supply, and other practices and technologies for mitigating climate risks.

EPA developed the guide in consultation with Businesses for Social Responsibility, a nonprofit business association. BSR, which provides practical resources for businesses seeking sustainable solutions, is promoting the guide to its 250 members and other Global 1000 enterprises.

For copies of this guide and for more information, visit the [EPA Partnership Programs webpage](#) or [Businesses for Social Responsibility](#).

Gov. Rendell Again Calls for Cuts in State Agency Energy Use

Gov. Rendell this week announced a number of strategic initiatives the Commonwealth will take to expand on the steps it has been taking since 2004 to reduce energy costs and stimulate renewable energy among state agencies.

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An extensive energy reduction and conservation initiative in state office buildings that Governor Rendell called for in 2004 has reduced energy consumption by 10 percent annually under [Executive Order 2004-12](#).

"Rising energy prices affect every customer, including state government," Gov. Rendell said. "We need to make immediate, sweeping adjustments to the way state government operates to counter escalating gas prices and rising energy prices. "The steps I am announcing today will reduce our environmental impact by using less energy, and helping to grow our renewable energy sector by purchasing more clean, renewable energy," he said.

"My goal is to have the commonwealth reduce its energy consumption by an additional 10 percent by the end of 2010," Gov. Rendell said. "Cutting energy consumption by 20 percent in just eight years is a very ambitious goal, but one that we can achieve by implementing these initiatives."

Specifically, Gov. Rendell has directed the Department of General Services to:

- **Purchase 50 percent Green Power** — Increase the commonwealth's purchase of green power from the current 30 percent of all electricity to 50 percent by mid 2010. The state will increase its purchase of energy from green sources, including solar, wind, geothermal, low-impact hydropower and biomass sources, such as methane from landfills, wood and energy crops. Green power costs are expected to decline while conventional power rates are expected to increase over the next few years. Pennsylvania already is the largest state purchaser of green power; this initiative will solidify that lead. At 50 percent, the commonwealth's green power use will exceed 500 million kilowatts; enough electricity to power all the homes in Allentown and Easton (50,000).
- **Reduce Energy Use by Another 10 percent** — Energy consumption in state buildings was reduced by 10 percent in 2006; the commonwealth will reduce energy use by another 10 percent. Energy reduction initiatives include:
- **Increasing Office Temperatures By One Degree.** Starting this month, the state will raise office thermostats to 75 degrees in the summer, from 74 degrees. The one degree change will reduce energy use by 5.3 million kilowatt hours annually.
- **Reduce Energy Use During Peak Periods.** The state will begin to review and implement smart meter and load shedding strategies in state-owned buildings to monitor a building's energy use throughout the day and automatically turning off certain items, such as central air, lamps or hot water heaters that draw energy during peak use times. This measure will set the foundation for effective load management for the future.
- **Convert to Sensor Lighting.** Transition lights on manual switches to sensor lighting where economically feasible within the Capitol Complex. Sensor lighting has already been installed in some office upgrade projects. All future projects will incorporate sensors. Light sensors will reduce energy use by about 600 kilowatt hours, or \$40 per unit annually.
- **Use Compact Florescent Lights.** The state annually buys 77,000 incandescent lights. Future state contracts will allow only the purchase of energy-saving compact florescent bulbs. Replacing all incandescent lighting with florescent lighting, once existing incandescent bulbs burn out, will reduce energy use by an estimated 61 million kilowatt hours annually; enough to power 6,100 homes.

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- **Reduce Fuel Use by Five Percent (367,000 gallons)** — By implementing stricter travel controls, such as encouraging carpooling and conference calling, the commonwealth will reduce fuel consumption by five percent, saving 367,000 gallons of gas annually. For example, the Capitol Police will decrease vehicle patrols and increase foot and bicycle patrols around the Capitol Complex.
- **Buy Smaller Vehicles** — Downsize the type of new vehicle purchased for the commonwealth fleet to improve fuel efficiency. For example, a Ford Taurus will be replaced by a smaller vehicle, such as a Ford Fusion; a Chevrolet Impala will be replaced by a Chevrolet Malibu. During a typical year, the state purchases between 125 and 150 vehicles.
- **Downsize Total State Fleet.** In 2003, there were 16,715 vehicles; in 2008, there are 16,225 vehicles, a decrease of 490 vehicles.
- **Extend Vehicle Use.** In 2003, vehicles were turned in for auction at 65,000 miles; in 2008, they are kept in use until after 100,000 miles.
- **Increase Use of Hybrids.** The state has increased the number of hybrids, from zero in 2003 to 53 in 2008. As long as automakers will be able to meet the demand, the state plans to introduce another 50 hybrids into the vehicle fleet next year.
- **Reduce SUVs.** The Commonwealth has reduced SUV use by 30 percent, or 460 vehicles, from 1,585 in 2003 to 1,125 currently in use today. It has also increased its alternative fuel fleet. In 2003, there were 95 alternative fuel vehicles in the fleet compared to 711 alternative fuel vehicles in use today.

PUC Chairman Holland Participates in Joint Federal-State Smart Grid Collaborative

In a time of rising energy prices and aging infrastructure systems, [Public Utility Commission](#) Chairman Wendell F. Holland will be working to address these issues and several other priorities as a participant on the National Association of Regulatory Commissioners – Federal Energy Regulatory Commission Smart Grid Collaborative.

"Rising energy prices and aging critical infrastructure are inextricably linked," said Chairman Wendell F. Holland. "Together, these issues create a significant challenge for the Commission and other regulators as we continue to balance the interests of our consumers and those who provide them with utility service. Working with members of the NARUC-FERC Smart Grid Collaborative will be a promising opportunity to improve Pennsylvania's infrastructure by developing it into a modern and more reliable system."

Chairman Holland is one of 16 state commissioners named by NARUC to serve on the joint federal-State Smart Grid Collaborative. Consistent with the Chairman's ongoing interests for Pennsylvania consumers, he will join the other members of the Collaborative to discuss technological and other issues that will ease the transition to a smart electric grid for Pennsylvanians.

"The transition to a smart electric grid in Pennsylvania will not only impact residential customers, but also commercial and industrial consumers," said Chairman Holland. "A smart grid will bring more and better smart metering options, which have the potential to mitigate rates for the average residential consumer and will also improve the power quality for businesses."

Holland will work alongside other state regulators, including Smart Grid Collaborative co-chairs Commissioner Suedeen Kelly of FERC and Commissioner Fred

Butler of the New Jersey Board of Public Utilities to discuss the importance of this technology.

"This dialogue between state and federal regulators gives us an avenue to reach the ratepayers who will benefit from the Smart Grid," Commissioner Butler of New Jersey said. "As industry technologies emerge, it is important that state and federal regulators understand the advancements and how they will benefit customers and impact the grid."

NewsClip: [Rendell Replaces Holland at PUC](#)

National Symposium on Conservation, Sustainability To Be Held In Philadelphia

Leaders from 16 states, including Pennsylvania, will gather at the University of Pennsylvania June 23 and 24 for a symposium entitled "Creating a New Natural Resource Legacy: Conservation and Sustainability ... Historic Missions Cast New in the 21st Century."

The forum is co-hosted by the Department of Conservation and Natural Resources, California, Iowa and Maryland and will feature discussions about how to use land management and conservation practices as powerful tools to achieve sustainability and address climate change.

"As 21st century environmental issues rapidly unfold, states across the nation must turn to their natural resource agencies and public lands for new and innovative solutions to emerging and often daunting challenges," Gov. Rendell said. "Paying attention to new practices and policies will help tackle climate change, renewable energy, carbon emissions, sustainability and more."

"Historically, state natural resource agencies have paid attention to and invested in the understood and time tested values of conservation: land, habitat and watershed protection; recreation; maintenance; and resource extraction," said Department of Conservation and Natural Resource Secretary Michael DiBerardinis. "New opportunities, including an increased value of public land management for carbon sequestration, sustainable forestry practices and a range of alternative energy initiatives, are arising and as good stewards we need to advance them in a way that continues to protect the long-term health of the resource."

The symposium will begin with discussions on what states currently are doing on renewable energy, sustainable community development and climate change. That will be followed by keynote remarks from environmentalist, entrepreneur and author Paul Hawken and a session on the opportunities that exist for a new conservation agenda.

The second day will be devoted to discussing how the agencies might need to change to address climate change and sustainability, and how states can influence national policies on these issues.

DCNR Releases Study of Proposed Wind Farm Impact on Cherry Springs State Park

The Department of Conservation and Natural Resources released a study recently by an internationally respected lighting consultant that indicates a proposed wind farm near [Cherry Springs State Park](#) in Potter County will have an unnoticeable impact on the dark sky viewing opportunities.



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“DCNR has the responsibility to protect the irreplaceable dark skies of Cherry Springs State Park—a facility that has garnered national attention for the quality of its astronomical viewing opportunities,” DCNR Secretary Michael DiBerardinis said. “After consulting with the International Dark Sky Association, we sought this review to understand what the impacts of this proposal might be, and to identify any mitigation measures that might be desirable or possible.”

DCNR chose Clanton and Associates of Boulder, Colorado, to do the study based on the recommendation of the International Dark Sky Association. The company used a conservative analytical method to estimate the worst case skyglow impact from the federally required lights on the proposed Headwaters Wind Energy wind turbines.

In addition to determining the project’s impact would be unnoticeable, the study said there would be “very minimal if any” line of site impact from the Cherry Springs observation field. Clanton and Associates also identified some outdoor lighting fixtures at the nearby Denton Hill State Park that could be adjusted and some opportunities on other public and private properties in the area that if achieved, would make the dark skies even darker.

DCNR contracted to do the study after the [Pennsylvania Outdoor Lighting Council](#) and numerous astronomy enthusiasts contacted the department when the project was first announced.

Project developer AES has been very cooperative and responsive during the review. The company retained its own lighting consultant and shared detailed project information and its own analysis with DCNR’s consultants. The project is undergoing local and permitting reviews.

[A copy of the Clanton report is available online.](#)

PA Preserves An Additional 6,400 Acres of Farmland

Farmland in 20 Pennsylvania counties will remain viable for agricultural production thanks to this week’s approval of more than 6,400 acres on 58 farms by the state Farmland Preservation Board, said Agriculture Secretary Dennis Wolff.

"Production agriculture is Pennsylvania's key source of food and fiber, and by protecting precious farmland, we can continue to provide for all citizens now and in the future," said Secretary Wolff. "As our number one industry, it is critical that we take every measure possible to keep farmland available to keep the industry growing."

A joint state, county and township investment of nearly \$22.78 million will secure 58 additional farms and 6,422 acres in 20 counties.

Agriculture Deputy Secretary Bill Wehry welcomed Jo Ellen Litz, a Lebanon County commissioner who joined the Pennsylvania Farmland Preservation Board in April. Litz served on the Lebanon County Farmland Preservation Board from 1990-1996 and was a member of the county's Conservation District Board for 13 years. She succeeds Warren Elliot on the board.

In total, Pennsylvania has preserved 3,579 farms and 395,636 acres, making it the national leader in farmland preservation. Later this summer, the state will celebrate its 400,000 acre preservation milestone.

The latest preserved farms are in the following counties: Bedford, Berks, Butler, Bucks, Carbon, Centre, Chester, Franklin, Juniata, Lancaster, Lebanon, Lehigh, Mifflin, Montgomery, Northampton, Perry, Susquehanna, Union, Washington, and York.

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

"As we celebrate the program's 20th anniversary, we can reflect on the positive work that has been done to protect farmland, and we can look forward to continuing Pennsylvania's rich farming tradition," said Secretary Wolff.

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

International Urban Parks Conference Slated for September in Pittsburgh

The green transformation of Pittsburgh and southwestern Pennsylvania will be on display to the world this September as the city hosts the [2008 International Urban Parks Conference](#) on September 21-23.

Over the course of three days, "Body and Soul: Parks and the Health of Great Cities" will bring together leading-edge research experts, public officials and management innovators to explore how parks support the physical, emotional, environmental and economic health of cities.

The departments of Conservation and Natural Resources and Community and Economic Development have contributed \$50,000 to support the conference, and DCNR Secretary Michael DiBerardinis will be a featured speaker.

Panel discussions will explore ways that park organizations across the country are building innovative partnerships with the public health community to promote active living. More than 90 speakers will provide practical information on environmentally sustainable parks management and will cover such topics as restoring historic natural areas, managing storm water, coping with the impact of global warming, and finding a balance for parks and cars.

Keynote speakers for "Body and Soul" are Teresa Heinz, chairman of the Heinz Family Philanthropies and The Heinz Endowments, and co-author of *This Moment on Earth: Today's New Environmentalists and Their Vision for the Future*; Luis Garden Acosta, founder of El Puente, a community human rights and environmental organization in Brooklyn, New York, and recipient of the Heinz Award for the Human Condition; and Californian Richard Louv, author of *Last Child in the Woods: Saving Our Children from Nature Deficit Disorder* and founder of the Children & Nature Network.

Secretary DiBerardinis will lead a general session entitled "Making the Most of This Moment in Time" following introductory remarks by Ron Tipton of the National Parks Conservation Association.

"Body and Soul" will spotlight Pittsburgh's near miraculous transformation from "Smoky City" to America's Most Livable City. Conference participants will have the opportunity to observe Pittsburgh's waterfront transformation aboard a lunchtime riverboat tour. Mobile workshops in Pittsburgh's parks will present in-depth case studies that showcase a wide range of innovative restoration and development initiatives.

Pre-conference tours include excursions to [Frank Lloyd Wright's Fallingwater](#), Olmsted, Olmsted, and Eliot's Vandergrift, a bike tour along Pittsburgh's riverfront, and kayaking on the Three Rivers.

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The Body and Soul Exhibit Hall will feature the parks-related products and services of nearly 50 organizations.

Continuing Education Units are available for “Body and Soul: Parks and the Health of Great Cities.”

“Body and Soul” is a presentation of City Parks Alliance and the National Association for Olmsted Parks and is a production of the Pittsburgh Parks Conservancy.

The complete conference schedule, speaker information, and registration information is [available here](#) or by calling 412-682-7275.

National Park Service Rivers, Trails, Conservation Program Looking for Applicants

The National Park Service [Rivers, Trails, and Conservation Assistance Program](#) has a new round of assistance available to partners to plan successful locally-led outdoor recreation and natural resource conservation projects.

The deadline is August 1.

The project applicant may be a state or local agency, tribe, non-profit organization, or citizens' group. Applicants are strongly encouraged to discuss their project with RTCA staff before sending in an application. It can be helpful to schedule an advance field visit by our staff to best understand how RTCA can be of assistance.

Those interested should return the completed application to the Program Leader for the region in which the project is located.

Visit the [Rivers, Trails, and Conservation Assistance Program webpage](#) for more information.

Guided Tours of Regal Fritillary Butterfly Habitat Slated at Fort Indiantown Gap

The public will have the opportunity to see the only viable colony of Regal Fritillary butterflies in the Eastern U.S. during free, guided tours beginning at 9 a.m. on July 4, 5, 14, and 21, and at 1 p.m. on July 13 at Fort Indiantown Gap, Annville.

"We take our responsibility as good stewards of the environment very seriously here at Fort Indiantown Gap," said Lt. Col. Grey Berrier, commander of the Fort Indiantown Gap National Guard Training Site. "The viability of our Regal Fritillary butterfly population is an excellent barometer of the success of our ongoing natural resources conservation team's efforts. These guided tours allow the public to see this rare colony first hand, as well as the many other natural spectacles that we have on post."

The tours also will include information related to current efforts to restore native grassland habitat across Pennsylvania with the ultimate goal of returning the Regal Fritillary to landholdings having a historic occurrence.

Tours will leave from the Fort Indiantown Gap Community Club, located at the intersection of Fisher and Clement Avenues (Rt. 934), each day and will last approximately two and half hours. All participants must arrive at the Community Club for an orientation meeting prior to the start of the field tour. Participants are encouraged to



wear appropriate clothing and shoes for a nature walk. No reservations are required and no rain dates will be scheduled.

In addition to the Regal Fritillary, which is considered a federal species of concern, Fort Indiantown Gap is home to 96 state species of concern. It also provides habitat for 36 species of mammals, 122 breeding species of birds, 34 species of reptiles and amphibians, 25 species of fish, 792 species of plants, and many notable species of invertebrates including 83 species of butterflies and 237 species of moths. This includes excellent populations of deer, turkey, bear, bobcat, rabbit, squirrel, wild trout, amphibians, reptiles, small mammals and songbirds.

The installation covers more than 17,000 acres, including over 3,000 acres of native grassland habitat – the largest in the Commonwealth.

Fort Indiantown Gap is the only live fire, maneuver military training facility in the commonwealth. It balances one of the region's most ecologically diverse areas with a military mission that annually supports 19,000 Pennsylvania National Guard personnel and more than 130,000 other states' Guard, military, law enforcement, and civilian personal each year.

For more information call the Department of Military and Veterans Affairs Wildlife Office at 717-861-2449.

Game Commission Looks Forward to Court Ruling on Deer Management

Game Commission Executive Director Carl G. Roe this week welcomed the opportunity for the agency to present its case to Commonwealth Court to resolve, once and for all, the scientific foundation of its [Deer Management Program](#).

"We recognize that the Commonwealth's deer management program is viewed differently by many people, and there are those who do not support some of the current outcomes," Roe said. "However, as the Game Commission manages all wild birds and mammals and their habitats for current and future generations, we must do what is right for all based on the best science available."

"We look forward to a speedy trial with few continuances, and the opportunity to have our many expert witnesses expound on the scientific basis and soundness of our management plan. Likewise, as part of the process, those who filed this lawsuit will have to validate their claims by presenting their scientific evidence and expert witnesses."

Roe noted that the only troubling part of the process is the expected costs that will be incurred by the agency and, in turn, license buyers.

"At a time when the Game Commission hasn't received a license fee increase since 1999, and given the rising costs we are faced with to continue to fulfill our wildlife management mission, the agency can ill-afford travel costs and reimbursement fees to the state Office of Attorney General to litigate this case, which could be considerable by the end of the process," Roe said. "Additionally, we will be forced to redirect staff time and attention away from important research and projects to prepare for court proceedings and to provide testimony."



"However, at the end of the trial, we are confident that this debate over the scientific validity will be resolved once and for all."

Visit the Game Commission's [Deer Management Program webpage](#) for more background information.

NewsClips: [Sportsmens Organization Wins Legal Battle Regarding Doe Hunting Court Says Deer Management Suit Can Proceed](#)

Links: [Hunting and Furtaking Licenses Go On Sale June 23](#)

Game Commission Posts Deer Management Advisory Committee Reports

To provide more information about its deer management public input process and challenges it faces, the Game Commission has posted the final reports from the five [Citizen Advisory Committees](#) held in Wildlife Management Units 2A, 4C, 4D, 4E, and 5A in 2008.

"Citizen Advisory Committees cultivate community outreach, program understanding and a commitment by the agency to increase regional involvement in deer management decisions," said Carl G. Roe, Game Commission executive director. "They provide members a chance to get involved and to see firsthand the diverse interests, concerns and priorities that influence deer management decisions. Most realize quickly this is a complex process that is anything but cut-and-dried."



First employed in the Game Commission's deer management program in 2006, CACs are part of the agency's ongoing effort to heighten public participation in deer management. Comprised of stakeholders with varying interests in deer, CACs provide a recommendation to agency wildlife management staff to increase, decrease or stabilize the deer herd over the next five years. However, final decisions are made by the Board of Game Commissioners, which also takes into account impacts on forest habitat health, health and productivity of the deer herd and deer-human conflicts.

This year, CACs were used to develop population management recommendations for WMU 2A, which consists of Greene County and parts of Allegheny, Beaver, Fayette, Washington and Westmoreland counties; WMU 4C, comprising parts of Berks, Carbon, Columbia, Dauphin, Lebanon, Lehigh, Luzerne and Schuylkill counties; WMU 4D, comprising parts of Blair, Cambria, Centre, Clearfield, Clinton, Huntingdon, Juniata, Lycoming, Mifflin, Snyder and Union counties; WMU 4E, comprising Northumberland and Montour counties and parts of Columbia, Dauphin, Lycoming, Luzerne, Schuylkill, Snyder and Union counties; and WMU 5A, which consist of part of Adams, Cumberland, Franklin and York counties.

When developing their recommendations, CACs consider deer population trend information in their respective WMUs, WMU-specific deer and forest habitat health information, as well as solicited public feedback. They conclude their work by making recommendations to allow deer numbers to increase, decrease or remain the same. Biologists in the agency's Wildlife Management Bureau consider that input when proposing antlerless deer license allocations to the Board of Game Commissioners, who also receive the results of the CAC process.

The five-year recommendations varied significantly from one committee to the next, illustrating both the differences in WMUs and member interactions and expectations. In WMU 2A, the committee recommended no change. In WMU 4E, the committee recommended a 40 percent population increase. In WMU 5A, the committee opted for a 12 percent population increase. Each of these recommendations to stabilize or increase deer populations were incorporated by the wildlife management staff in developing recommendations for the Board of Game Commissioners.

However, in WMUs 4C and 4D, the agency's deer biologists chose not to follow CAC recommendations, which were to increase the deer population by 20 and 15 percent, respectively. The primary reason for not following the recommendations was that forest habitat health in both units currently is considered "fair." Forest habitat health must improve and meet a specific quantitative target for the Wildlife Management Bureau to recommend an increase in the deer population. If this measure improves - and the deer and forest habitat health measures are checked annually - then agency staff will move to accommodate the CAC's desire to see the herd increase.

"We'd like to go along with every CAC recommendation," noted Jeannine Tardiff Fleegle, a deer biologist with the agency's Wildlife Management Bureau. "But, it's not that simple. We have to responsibly address all goals in the agency's deer management program. Deer populations must be balanced with habitat to ensure healthy forests and whitetail and wildlife populations and limit human conflicts."

In 2009, CACs are scheduled to be held in five WMUs: WMU 1A, which consists of Mercer and Lawrence counties and parts of Crawford, Venango, Butler, and Beaver counties; WMU 2E, comprising parts of Jefferson, Indiana, Clearfield, and Cambria counties; WMU 3A, comprising parts of McKean, Potter, Tioga, and Bradford counties; WMU 4A, comprising Blair, Huntingdon, Bedford, Fulton, and Franklin counties; and WMU 5B, which consist of part of Adams, Cumberland, Dauphin, Lebanon, Berks, York, Lancaster, and Chester counties.

For more information, visit the [Citizen Advisory Committees webpage](#).

Links: [Hunting and Furtaking Licenses Go On Sale June 23](#)

Residents Encouraged to Participate in Breeding Bird Atlas

The Game Commission and [Carnegie Museum of Natural History](#) are looking for both casual and avid birdwatchers to help monitor nesting wild birds as part of the Second [Pennsylvania Breeding Bird Atlas](#), an ambitious five-year project (2004-2008) that is literally putting Pennsylvania's breeding birds on the map!

"Virtually every Pennsylvania resident can step outside and see or hear birds," said Dan Brauning, Game Commission Wildlife Diversity Section supervisor, project director for the Second PBBA and editor and project coordinator of the First PBBA. "At a young age most of us learn the names of some of the more common, easy-to-identify birds like American robin, blue jay, and cardinal. But what about all of the unfamiliar chirps, tweets, and musical whistles we hear coming from inside leafy bushes and atop tall trees. In fact, just how many birds call Pennsylvania 'home' anyway? You might be surprised!"



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Across the state, nearly 3,000 volunteers have taken note of birds they see and hear during the spring and summer nesting season and have contributed more than 500,000 observations so far to the PBBA database. According to this statewide survey, at least 187 different species of birds nest and raise their young in our state.

To create the breeding bird atlas for Pennsylvania, the state has been divided into a grid of more than 4,700 "atlas blocks," each covering a 10-square mile area. The goal of the atlas is to compile as complete a list as possible of the bird species that breed in each and every one of these blocks.

"When all of the bird sightings reported by volunteers are plotted, block-by-block, onto a map of Pennsylvania, they will show the distribution of every species, from the most common (American Robin, found in 4,309 blocks through 2007) to the rarest, like Chuck-Wills-Widow and Black Rail (each found in just one block so far)," said Bob Mulvihill, of Carnegie Museum of Natural History and Second Pennsylvania Breeding Bird Atlas project coordinator. "Breeding bird diversity in Pennsylvania is as high as 100 or more species in dozens of individual blocks scattered throughout the state. The current statewide average is more than 60 breeding bird species per block."

From 1984 to 1989, another band of dedicated volunteers 2,000 strong conducted the First PBBA, the results of which were published in an "Atlas of Breeding Birds in Pennsylvania." Although now out of print, the book is available in many Pennsylvania public libraries and can be viewed online at the [PA Breeding Bird Atlas webpage](#).

"Once the current PBBA work is completed and a new Atlas published, comparisons of the new maps to those in the first atlas will provide a basis for assessing the ecological health of Penn's Woods and the conservation status of all of our state birds," Mulvilhill said.

With only one month left to collect and report atlas data, there still are some 50 blocks for which nobody has submitted any data. And to date, only about 2,000 blocks can be considered "complete," meaning that Second PBBA coordinators believe most - about 75 percent or more - of the possible breeding species in those blocks have already been reported by volunteers. That leaves more than 2,500 blocks statewide where more help is needed in order to complete the project.

"Your own backyard may be in the middle of one of these incomplete blocks, and, if not, there is sure to be a block somewhere near you that needs more attention," Mulvilhill said. "So, if you see or hear birds anywhere near where you live, work, or enjoy Pennsylvania's great outdoors this summer-for example, camping, fishing, hunting or hiking-then you can help. It's not too late! But, please don't wait! This is the very last year you can add your name to the list of dedicated volunteers who have made this effort possible and be sure that at least one of those dots on one of the final maps is your report!"

To contribute to the Second PBBA, register and enter [bird observations online](#) or call the Second PBBA Main Office at 1-888-PABIRD1 (toll-free), or send an email with your name, address, date, place and details of your breeding bird observations by email to: mypabird@pabirdatlas.org.

Observations can also be mailed to Bob Mulvihill, 2nd PBBA Project Coordinator, Powdermill Avian Research Center, 1847 Rt. 381, Rector PA 15677.

The Second PBBA is funded through Pennsylvania State Wildlife Grants from the Game Commission and the Pennsylvania Wild Resource Conservation Program.

Game Commission Hosts 'eBird' on Website

The Game Commission has become the first state wildlife agency to host and manage an ["eBird" website](#). The eBird network is dedicated to helping birders throughout North America and the world record their bird observations and improve our understanding of seasonal bird activities and movements.



"Pennsylvania eBird" is a customized satellite website in the international eBird network that shares news about birds, birding, and conservation with birders and serves as a common database for their bird records. eBird is the premier birding database. It is a real-time, online checklist program that has revolutionized how the birding community reports and accesses information about birds.

Launched by the [Cornell Lab of Ornithology](#) and National Audubon Society, eBird has generated tremendous participation, both nationally and internationally, since its inception in 2002.

The Game Commission is partnering with the Pennsylvania Society for Ornithology and [Audubon Pennsylvania](#) to provide Pennsylvania eBird.

The stories featured on PA eBird are designed to appeal to casual and avid birders, and reflect the interests of partnering organizations.

"Birding draws hundreds of thousands of Pennsylvanians outdoors annually to experience the thrill of migration and the challenge of identifying wild birds through song and appearance," explained Doug Gross, Game Commission ornithologist. "Every sighting, whether in the backyard of a Philadelphia suburb or deep in the Allegheny National Forest, has value to us and helps develop a more complete picture of the world of wild birds. The geographical module of eBird helps us to construct interactive bird checklists for individual locations including State Game Lands, parks and preserves. It really connects birds to the places upon which they depend.

"When you see and identify a bird, whether you're a novice or veteran birder, you're holding a piece to a puzzle. Sharing your information helps us put this puzzle together, and that is the essence of eBird, birders sharing and working together for the betterment of wild birds, their conservation, and their management."

Pennsylvania eBird has two very distinct responsibilities: to inform and to collect data. The website will always feature a selection of articles on wild birds, ranging from the latest bird news and natural history to field research and conservation issues. In addition, it will serve birders interested in participating in ongoing efforts to collect field observations that will be used in a database that we expect will quickly become a vital source of bird information that will improve with each passing year and as more birders join the eBird team.

"We're hoping that Pennsylvania eBird becomes a destination that all of our birders eventually gravitate toward," emphasized Gross. "Right now, a few thousand Pennsylvania birders are participating in eBird. We already are one of the leading states in participation. As significant - and wonderful - as that is, it really is a drop in the bucket when you consider what Pennsylvania could be doing. This is our chance, and I'm encouraging Pennsylvania birders to rise to the challenge."

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Participants who submit wild bird observations to eBird do so by forwarding a checklist that will help wildlife managers at the Game Commission and elsewhere identify where a certain species lives, how abundant it is, and whether its numbers are changing over time.

Aside from data-collection, though, Pennsylvania eBird offers the opportunity to engage the birdwatching community more directly than ever before and teach the new birders about the art and science of bird identification, behavior-watching, and population monitoring.

"We are linking recreational birding with conservation and management issues," noted Gross. "Familiarity with any species and its habitat is essential to ensure its well-being and protection. eBird will help us augment that awareness and improve wild bird management in Pennsylvania and North America. We will learn what forests are best for wood thrushes, which wetlands support the most bitterns, and where shorebirds are most likely to stop over in migration.

"The data Pennsylvania eBird will gather also dovetails nicely with the state's Wildlife Action Plan, adopted in 2006. The plan expands and strengthens the state's management of fish and wildlife resources, particularly species of greatest conservation need. It requires managers to place greater emphasis on monitoring species to ensure they get management assistance before they require emergency room attention."

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

New Interactive Displays at Middle Creek Wildlife Management Area



The Game Commission announced this week that two interactive displays are now open to the public at the agency's [Middle Creek Wildlife Management Area](#) Visitors Center, along Hopeland Road, two miles south of Kleinfeltersville, Lebanon County.

The first of the two new displays at the Middle Creek Visitor Center is a migration map that depicts the migratory route of Canada geese, snow geese and tundra swans, which are the three of Middle Creek's most famous wildlife visitors.

Users can push a button causing lights to follow along each species' migratory route, emphasizing how Middle Creek plays a role in the bigger picture.

Donating partners for this project include: Janet Nyce, 2005 Budweiser Conservationist of the Year, and the Bridgestone/Firestone Trust Fund.

The second display is modeled after actual pit blinds used by waterfowl hunters at Middle Creek. This display helps users learn about waterfowl hunting and then enter the mock blind and experience what it is like to hunt from a pit blind.

Donating partners for this project include: the estate of Augustus "Gus" Ash; Janet Nyce; Susquehanna River Waterfowlers Association; Susquehanna River Wetlands Trust; Eastern Foundation for North American Wild Sheep; and the Delaware Valley Chapter of Safari Club International.

Links: [Hunting and Furtaking Licenses Go On Sale June 23](#)

ERM Holding Workshops on New Continuous Emission Monitoring Requirements

ERM has scheduled [a series of free workshops](#) to help businesses understand new rules adopted by the Department of Environmental Protection requiring updated Continuous Emission Monitoring Data collection.

The workshops will be held on June 24 in King of Prussia, Pa and June 27 in Grantville, Pa (Harrisburg area). Registration will begin at 7:30 a.m. and the workshop will run from 8:00 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

DEP is moving forward with testing of the new Continuous Emission Monitoring Data Processing System (CEMDPS) with several facilities. When the trial is completed and the BAQ is satisfied that the new CEMDPS is functional, the owners/operators of facilities that operate continuous emission monitoring systems (CEMSs) will be required to come under Revision 8 of the Continuous Source Monitoring Manual (CSMM) and utilize the new system.

It is anticipated that the new CEMDPS system will be fully tested and functional by late summer, 2008. At that time, the provisions of Revision 8 of the CSMM will require the initiation of reporting into the new CEMDPS within a relatively short time frame (6 months).

Terry Black, from ERM, said it is extremely important that companies understand the implications of the changes to the CSMM, including the new reporting requirements and have ample time to complete any revisions to your CEMS software and hardware that may be necessary.

The presentations at these workshops will assist companies in making plans for these changes and position firms to meet the reporting requirements in a timely and efficient manner.

DEP and software/hardware consultants will present an overview of the impending changes and provide you with the information you need to implement Revision 8 of the CSMM and the new reporting format.

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

3rd Annual GreenFest Philly Set for September 7



The 3rd Annual [GreenFest Philly](#) will take place September 7 from 11 a.m.-6 p.m. at 2nd and South Streets in Philadelphia. This year over 200 exhibitors and 20,000 visitors will fill the streets to learn and share how easy it is to be green!

This year's event theme is water. Challenge yourself to think about water quality, conservation and consumption.

What's your impact? What can change? Grey water systems, water-conserving appliances and rain barrels are just a few ideas.

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

DEP's Dan Desmond, Deputy for Energy, Retires, Daniel Griffiths Named

Department of Environmental Protection Secretary Kathleen A. McGinty this week announced the retirement of Daniel Desmond, Deputy Secretary for Energy and Technology Deployment at DEP.

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Secretary McGinty announced that Daniel Griffiths, a 30-year veteran of the energy and electricity industries and state government, has been named to replace Desmond.

Desmond, who has served the Commonwealth for 17 years and helped guide the growth of Pennsylvania's renewable energy industry, will leave office at the end of the week.

"Dan Desmond has been a visionary when it comes to developing a cleaner, greener, more sustainable Pennsylvania," said Secretary McGinty. "He has a passion for energy issues and his breadth of knowledge on the subject, which is apparent if you've spent any length of time with him, has been incredibly valuable.

"Dan has been an extraordinary public servant, an exceptional leader in making clean technology a reality instead of a pipedream, and more importantly, he has been a cherished friend. All of us at DEP will miss him dearly."

Desmond joined the Pennsylvania Energy Office in 1983 and served as its executive director until its merger with DEP in 1995.

From April 1995 until his appointment as deputy secretary in May 2003, he chaired the Pennsylvania Energy Resources Center, an advocacy and public education project to secure funding for renewable energy in the aftermath of utility deregulation.

He also served as president of Sustainable Systems Research, a Lancaster-based firm specializing in the development and commercialization of environmentally beneficial technology.

In his position as deputy secretary, Desmond is responsible for fostering the deployment and use of innovative environmental and advanced energy technologies, including renewable energy.

The Office of Energy and Technology Deployment works with citizen's groups, businesses, trade organizations, local governments and communities to help them understand and adopt pollution prevention and energy efficiency practices.

Secretary McGinty credited Desmond with playing a leading role in crafting Pennsylvania's ambitious Alternative Energy Portfolio Standard Act, which requires that at least 18 percent of all retail electricity sold in the state by 2021 be derived from advanced energy sources. Along with the state's strategic investments in the industry, the law has helped drive more than \$1 billion in private investment in Pennsylvania in projects that have created 3,000 jobs.

Desmond's work was also integral to helping Gov. Rendell to establish the Energy Harvest program and expand the Alternative Fuel Incentive Grant program. Since it began in 2003, Energy Harvest has invested nearly \$26 million and leveraged \$66 million in private investments.

The Alternative Fuel Incentive Grant was increased under Gov. Rendell to support energy security by investing in companies that produce and market homegrown biofuels and consumers that purchase hybrid vehicles.

Daniel Griffiths had previously served as the director of DEP's Bureau of Energy, Innovations and Technology Deployment – a position to which he was appointed in March 2007.

"Dan brings a tremendous work ethic to this position and thorough understanding of how the energy and electricity industries work," said Secretary McGinty. "He has worked tirelessly to help us build a new energy economy in Pennsylvania and has been at the forefront of Governor Rendell's efforts to protect consumers from the double-digit

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electricity rate increases that are just around the corner. His drive, his experience and his exceptional talents will be tremendously valuable to the administration in his new role."

Before arriving at DEP, Griffiths worked for nearly seven years as a senior analyst with the state's Office of Consumer Advocate. There, he represented consumer interests in cases before the electricity grid operator PJM and the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission. He also helped develop policies on renewable energy, distributed energy, and demand-side management, and analyzed energy supplies, prices and markets.

From 1979 to 1997, Griffiths worked with the Pennsylvania Public Utility Commission in roles of increasing responsibility, starting as a research analyst and later as the manager of planning and research in the Bureau of Consumer Services. During his last seven years with the PUC, he served as the energy assistant to then-Commissioner David W. Rolka.

Griffiths worked as a senior level executive in the private sector after leaving the PUC. He served as vice president for corporate development at New Energy Ventures, the director of operations at the Energy Cooperative Association of Pennsylvania, and as a senior consultant for Customized Energy Solutions.

Griffiths holds a bachelor's degree in International Relations from Lehigh University and has completed courses towards a master's degree in Political Science from The Pennsylvania State University.

NewsClip: [E-Town Retiree An Energy Policy Guru](#)

Help Wanted: PA Trout Unlimited Seeks Trout in Classroom Coordinator

[PA Trout Unlimited](#) is seeking a full-time Americorps service position, managed through the Pennsylvania Mountain Service Corps to serve as an outreach coordinator for its [Trout in the Classroom Program](#).

The deadline for applying is July 31.

This position will begin August 25, 2008 and go through August 21, 2009. The Americorps member receives a living stipend of \$11,400 and health care benefits. Upon completion of service, Americorps members earn an Education Award of \$4,725 that can be used to pay for college, graduate school or to repay qualified student loans. Current loans will be in forbearance during the Americorps year.

The outreach coordinator will be responsible for helping to implement the Trout in the Classroom program on behalf of PATU. In Pennsylvania, the Trout in the Classroom Program is a cooperative partnership between PATU and the Fish and Boat Commission.

Successful candidate will be working toward or has received a college degree and possesses a specific background in environmental education, environmental science, fisheries science or a related field.

CandidateS must be self-motivated and have the ability to work independently, as well as with a team. Excellent written and oral communication skills are required. Computer skills with some webpage development preferred.

PATU seeks a creative thinker interested in learning about conservation issues and communicating the importance of protecting and improving our coldwater streams and fisheries. Knowledge about fish tank maintenance or aquaculture a plus! Must have valid drivers license and be willing to travel. The position will be housed out the Fish and Boat Commission offices in Pleasant Gap, Pa.

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To apply, please send resume and cover letter with a brief explanation of why you would like the position by July 31 to the PA Council of Trout Unlimited, PO Box 5148, Pleasant Gap, PA 16823 or send email to: Deborah Nardone at dnardone@coldwaterheritage.org .

In Memoriam: Bill Apgar, PA Senior Environment Corps Volunteer, Passes

Bill Apgar, a long-time employee of the Department of Environmental Protection and Chairman of the Capital Area Chapter of the Pennsylvania Senior Environment Corps, passed away this week.

Bill (*pictured in the center of the photograph*) was always enthusiastic about his work at DEP and was well liked by everyone he worked with.

Through his work with the Capital Area Chapter of the PA Senior Environment Corps doing water sampling on the Yellow Breeches and other streams in Cumberland County and as a board member of the Yellow Breeches Creek Watershed Association, he continued to make a major contribution to improving the environment.

In a [Video Blog story](#) last year, Bill explained how volunteers from PaSEC Team-X did water monitoring, including a now 100-year old senior Homer Foster.

Bill, you will be missed.

[Read his obituary.](#)



In Memoriam: William McDonnell, Former DEP Regional Director

William McDonnell, former Regional Director for DEP's Wilkes-Barre Office, passed away this week.

Bill worked for the Department of Environmental Protection for 22 years from 1972 to 2004. He started out in the Waste Management Program and then rose through the ranks until he was named Regional Director in charge of the Wilkes-Barre Office.

Bill was very involved in his community as a member of local community and watershed groups and as a member of the Falls Township Planning Commission. In 1998 he received the Friend of the Lehigh River Award from the Wildlands Conservancy for his work in restoring and protecting watersheds.

Bill had a unique understanding of Northeast Pennsylvania had how it worked. He was tough, fair and professional, but most of all he used his considerable personal skills to convince people to do the right thing by the environment, like convincing a local landfill operator to become the first ISO 14,000 certified facility in the country.

He always had a good story, knew the best places to eat and had an infectious laugh. He is too soon gone.

[Read his obituary.](#)

Opinion

Data Quality Act Needed by Pennsylvania **by Sen. Edwin Erickson**



Recent reforms to the way Harrisburg conducts itself have challenged many in state government to re-focus their energies on nurturing the public trust. Enacting Pennsylvania's Open Records law earlier this year was a strong move in that direction. However, there is more work that needs to be done.

Last year, I introduced [Senate Bill 752](#), also known as the "Data Quality Act." My legislation seeks to further expand transparency in state government by asking that our regulatory agencies provide the science, research, and statistics behind new regulations they wish to promulgate.

It does not require additional research or effort from state agencies – just merely the requirement that they share the data upon which their regulations have been crafted and explain why it was selected.

As simple as this approach is, its implications will be profound.

Enacting the Data Quality Act will empower the public with greater access to the critical information government uses in arriving at its regulations. And, a more thorough review of the government rule-making process ultimately encourages stronger regulations that are of improved quality and of greater usefulness to all Pennsylvanians.

Currently, there is no system in place for government to disclose this information nor the opportunity for the public to examine the scientific basis of these regulations.

The result is a bureaucratic process of imposing regulations on Pennsylvania residents and businesses with no recourse to remedy faulty or incorrect information that may form the foundation of a new government regulation.

In recent months, the state legislature has taken several steps to open up our government to the public by expanding access and increasing transparency. And, we are ready to take the next step.

The Data Quality Act has already received strong bi-partisan support in both chambers of the General Assembly. It has passed unanimously out of the state Senate and is currently awaiting consideration in the House.

I invite the Governor to join both the Senate and House leaderships by offering his support to the Data Quality Act.

[Sen. Ted Erickson](#) represents the 26th Senatorial District, covering parts of Delaware and Chester counties. He served as Regional Administrator for the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency in Philadelphia, has taught microbiology, biochemistry, general biology, anatomy and physiology, cell physiology and zoology at Hamilton College, Drexel University and East Stroudsburg University and was County Executive of Delaware County.

Grants & Awards

This section gives you a heads up on upcoming deadlines for grants and financial assistance as well as nominations for awards and other recognition programs. **NEW** means from last week—

- **June 30**—[DEP Energy Use Reduction Grants](#)
- **June 30**—[Dept. of Agriculture Healthy Farms, Healthy Schools Grants](#)
- **June 30**—[DCNR Wild Resources Conservation Grants](#)
- **June 30**—[Appalachian Renewable Energy, Energy Efficiency Grants](#)
- [RC&D Grants for Improving Livestock Operations](#)
- **July 7**— [DEP Coastal Zone Land Acquisition Grant Proposal](#)
- **July 18**— [DEP Composting Infrastructure Development Grants](#)
- **August 1**—**NEW**. [NPS Rivers, Trails, and Conservation Assistance Grants](#)
- **August 4**— [Start Submitting REAP Farm Conservation Tax Credit Applications](#)
- **August 29**—[DEP Local Government Greenhouse Gas Reduction Grants](#)
- **September 9**— [EPA Water Quality Trading Funding Proposals](#)
- **September 20**— [Fish & Boat Commission Boating Facilities Grants](#)
- **September 24**— [Coca-Cola, NRC Recycling Bin Grants](#)
- **October 15**—[PPL Project Earth Environmental Education Grants](#)
- **October 31**—[PA Resources Council Lens On Litter Photo Contest](#)

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

Quick Clips

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

[Bear Encounter Tips Online Video](#)
[State Aims to Reduce Lehigh Valley Deer](#)
[Sportsmens Organization Wins Legal Battle Regarding Doe Hunting](#)
[Court Says Deer Management Suit Can Proceed](#)
[Gypsy Moths Damage Trees, Leave Messes](#)
[Trees Become Headstones for Pocono Eco-Cemetery](#) [Online Video](#)
[Wiping Out the Waterfowl](#)
[Pittsburgh's Phipps Conservatory Gets \\$5 Million Grant](#)
[York Daily Record Launches New Green Webpage](#)
[Bicycling's Tour of PA is 450-Mile Test of Endurance](#)
[Pottstown Considering More Recycling to Save Money](#)
[Single Stream Recycling Coming to Upper Darby](#)
[Franklin County Recycling Coming Up Green](#)
[Philadelphia Convention Center Should Be Far More Green](#)
[Rendell Nominates Two to PUC](#)
[Rendell Pledges to Cut State's Fuel, Energy Bills](#)
[Rendell Orders State Buildings to Use Conservation Measures](#)

[Take a Hike! It's Dump the Pump Day](#)
[Rendell Proclaims Dump the Pump Day](#)
[York Transit Gets 10 Hybrid Buses](#)
[Developers Build With Energy-Saving Supplies](#)
[Op-Ed: Biomass Has Great Potential as Fuel Source](#)
[Another County Goes to 4 Day Work Week to Save Gas](#)
[Officials Take Sunny View of Solar Energy](#)
[Northwest Farmers Grow Camelina for Biofuel](#)
[Drilling Into Shale for Gas Taps Concerns](#)
[Township Says Gas Leases May Shore Up Revenues](#)
[Op-Ed: Solving the Energy Crisis Should Be the Top Priority](#)
[State Global Warming Plan MIA](#)
[Editorial: Global Warming: Dogmatics Vs. Skeptics](#)
[DEP Preps for Water Tampering Investigations in Wilkes-Barre](#)
[Pittsburgh to Fund Environmental Programs, Sustainability Coordinator](#)
[Townships Collaborate on Zoning, Growth](#)
[Gov. Rendell Awards \\$1 Million for Parks in Philadelphia](#)
[State Park, Preserve Resort Once Sought for Curing Powers](#)
[Mon Wharf Trail Work Set for September](#)
[Chester County Land Trust Resolves Trail Dispute](#)
[Editorial: Plan for Fairmount Park](#)
[Editorial: Reorganizing Local Governments to Serve Regions](#)
[Lebanon Conservancy Seeks \\$200,000 to Save Swans' Foraging Area](#)

Watershed NewsClips

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

- [Northeast Pocono RC&DC Seeks Public Input on Pirorities](#)

[Ohio Basin Cleaner, Fish Safer After 60 Years' Work](#)
[BioBlitz Planned for Kettle Creek](#)
[Group Fights to Keep Fees on Exported Coal](#)
[Conservationists Protect Erie Bluffs](#)
[Science Buoy Protecting Lake Erie Beaches](#)
[Volunteers Needed for Indiana Township Water Surveys](#)
[Sojourn Reveals Wonders of Lehigh River](#)
[Susquehanna Sojourn Paddles Into Valley](#)
[Sojourn on the Susquehanna Returns to Valley](#)
[Pittsburgh's River a Wide World of Fish](#)
[Officials Make Case for Flood-Control Funding](#)
[Agnes Flood Records Will Fall, Experts Say](#)
[FEMA Expands Area Flood Zones](#)
[Lawmaker Proposes Fund for Flood Cleanups](#)
[Balancing Susquehanna's Environmental, Economic Interests](#)
[Keeping Pickering Creek Clear](#)
[Lake Wallenpaupack Cleanup Called a Success](#)

[Green Roof Plants New Ideas of Rainfall Runoff \(Online Video\)](#)

[Chesapeake Plan Meeting Scheduled in Williamsport](#)

[Lower Lackawanna Sewer Rates Could Increase 50 Percent](#)

[Huntingdon Hikes Sewer Rates to \\$42](#)

[Bradford Authority Discusses Proposed Sewage Facilities Update](#)

[Susquehanna River In Need of Help \(Online Video\)](#)

[Editorial: Water, Sewer Needs Worthy of Gaming Revenues](#)

[Fair Share Bill Passes Senate, House Ag Committees](#)

Regulations

The Governor's Office published its [Regulatory Agenda](#), a list of regulations proposed by agencies, including DEP and others, pending and a schedule for future activity. The Environmental Quality Board approved each of the items on its [June 17 agenda](#).

[Pennsylvania Bulletin – June 21, 2008](#)

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

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

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

Technical Guidance & Permits

The Governor's Executive Board published a reorganization plan for the Department of Conservation and Natural Resources. (*Pa Bulletin page 3361*)

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

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

Calendar of Upcoming Events

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

- **NEW.** [Revised Schedule of meetings for DEP Solid Waste Advisory Committee, Recycling Fund Advisory Committee.](#)
- **June 23**—**NEW.** Senate Appropriations Committee meets to consider [Senate Bill 1330](#) (D.White-R-Indiana) establishing the Coal Methane Review Board. Rules Committee Room. Off the Floor.

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- **June 23**—**NEW**. House Labor Relations and Urban Affairs Committees hold a joint hearing on [House Bill 2445](#) (Eachus-D-Luzerne) providing for neighborhood blight reclamation and revitalization. Room 60 East Wing. 11:00.
- **June 24**—**NEW**. House Environmental Resources and Energy Committee meets to consider [House Bill 1319](#) (Siptroth-D-Monroe) increasing penalties for scattering rubbish and including an acknowledgement of littering laws on learner’s permit. Room 39 East Wing. 9:30.
- **June 24**—**NEW**. House Agriculture and Rural Affairs Committee meets to consider [House Bill 2347](#) (Kessler-D-Berks) creating an Organic Agriculture Development Fund Program. Room G-50 Irvis Building. Call of Chair.
- **June 24**—**NEW**. House Finance Committee meets to consider [House Bill 664](#) (George-D-Clearfield) providing for a Sales Tax exemption for biomass projects. Room 140. 9:00.
- **June 24**—DEP [Small Systems Technical Assistance Center Advisory Board](#) meeting. Room 105 Rachel Carson Building. 10:00.
- **June 25**—**NEW**. House Urban Affairs Committee meets to consider [House Bill 2559](#) (Petroni-D-Allegheny) extending the guaranteed energy savings contract period from 15 to 20 years. Room 302 Irvis Building. 10:00.
- **June 25**—**NEW**. Senate Local Government Committee meets to consider [House Bill 1280](#) (Freeman-D-Lehigh) amending the Municipalities Planning Code to further define traditional neighborhood development. Room 8E-B East Wing. 10:00.
- **June 25**—DCNR [Conservation and Natural Resources Advisory Council](#) meeting. Room 105 Rachel Carson Building. 10:00.
- **July 1**— House Labor Relations Committee meets to consider [House Bill 2445](#) (Eachus-D-Luzerne) providing for neighborhood blight reclamation and revitalization. Room 60 East Wing. 10:00.
- **July 9**—**CANCELLED**. DEP Water Resource Advisory Committee meeting. Rescheduled for July 22.
- **July 9**—DEP [Laboratory Accreditation Advisory Committee](#) meeting. Room 206 Bureau of Laboratories Building, 2575 Interstate Dr., Harrisburg. 10:00.
- **July 9**—**NEW**. DEP Solar Work Group meeting. Second Floor Training Room, Rachel Carson Building, Harrisburg. 10:00. Contact: Libby Dodson, 717-772-8907 or send email to: ldodson@state.pa.us.
- **July 15**—House Agriculture and Rural Affairs Committee hearing on the Clean and Green Program. G-50 Irvis Building. 1:00.
- **July 22**—[Governor’s Sustainable Water Infrastructure Task Force](#) meeting. Room 105 Rachel Carson Building. 9:30.
- **July 22**—DEP [Water Resource Advisory Committee](#) meeting. Room 105 Rachel Carson Building. 1:00.
- **July 24**—**NEW**. [DEP Mining and Reclamation Advisory Board](#) meeting. DEP Pottsville Office, 5 West Laurel Blvd., Pottsville. 1:00.
- **August 7**—[Governor’s Sustainable Water Infrastructure Task Force](#) meeting. Room 105 Rachel Carson Building. 9:30.
- **September 3**—[Governor’s Sustainable Water Infrastructure Task Force](#) meeting. Room 105 Rachel Carson Building. 9:30.

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- **September 18**—Joint Conservation Committee Sewage Management and Treatment Task Force. Penn Stater Conference Center, State College. 10:00.
- **September 23**—[Governor’s Sustainable Water Infrastructure Task Force](#) meeting. Room 105 Rachel Carson Building. 9:30.

[DEP Calendar of Events](#)

[Environmental Education Workshop/Training Calendar](#)

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

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

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

Stories Invited

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

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 Crisci Associates and the public. Crisci Associates is a Harrisburg-based government and public affairs firm whose clients include Fortune 500 companies and non-profit organizations. For more information on Crisci Associates call 717-234-1716. All rights reserved.

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