

-PA ——— Environment Digest

*An Update on
Environmental
Issues in
Pennsylvania*

Edited By David E. Hess, Crisci Associates

July 14, 2008

[PA Environment Digest Video Blog](#)

DEP Secretary Kathleen McGinty Resigns, Joseph Powers Named Acting



Gov. Rendell announced the resignation this week of Department of Environmental Protection Secretary Kathleen A. McGinty, effective July 18.

DEP Executive Deputy Secretary Joseph Powers was named Acting Secretary until a replacement can be named.

"Katie's tenure as DEP secretary has been marked by many achievements that will have a lasting benefit for this commonwealth," said Gov. Rendell. "From her first day in office, she brought a unique perspective to the way we view environmental challenges: that those challenges are economic opportunities in disguise. Operating under that philosophy, Pennsylvania has become a center of progress and innovation.

"Her tenacity and passion have resulted in a stronger Pennsylvania on issues that are critical to protecting our land, air, water and climate. She has been a driving force in my administration, greatly improving the quality of life for all Pennsylvanians by fostering a cleaner environment and a stronger economy. Her vision, leadership and counsel will be missed."

Pennsylvania established itself as a leader in the development of alternative and renewable energy sources during Secretary McGinty's term as DEP secretary, with one of the nation's most ambitious alternative energy portfolio standards that lead to more than \$1 billion in private investment in projects that have created more than 3,500 jobs.

Her efforts also helped to produce the recently passed \$650 million investment fund that will help consumers save money by reducing their energy consumption, while also growing the state's renewable energy industry and creating at least 10,000 additional jobs.

Under Secretary McGinty, the Commonwealth reclaimed hundreds of dangerous abandoned mines and improved the quality of the state's waterways by instituting 'nutrient trading' and other innovations that encourage land preservation, conservation and riparian buffers over capital-, chemical-, and energy-intensive conventional approaches to water pollution.

DEP revamped its permitting review processes to encourage the re-development of older properties and ensure that economic development and environmental protection projects can get underway more quickly and at less of a cost to the applicants.

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Secretary McGinty's leadership also helped to revamp the state's antiquated mine safety procedures through historic new legislation that overhauled the Commonwealth's 120-year-old mine safety law.

As DEP secretary, the department instituted new regulations requiring cleaner-running and more fuel-efficient cars and light-duty trucks, adopted a state-specific mercury reduction rule for coal-fired power plants that far exceeds weaker federal standards, and revitalized thousands of acres of brownfields.

Secretary McGinty did not announce her future plans.

Gov. Rendell also announced the appointment of DEP Executive Deputy Secretary Joseph Powers as Acting Secretary until a replacement can be found, saying, "I have great confidence in Joe Powers' ability to direct an important agency that works hard to protect our environment, as well as the health and safety of every Pennsylvania resident."

Prior to joining the Rendell administration, Powers worked in a number of policy development and committee management positions within the General Assembly. He also was chief of staff to the Lieutenant Governor from 1987 to 1993. He has taught Political Science classes at several universities and holds a bachelor's degree from St. Joseph's University in Philadelphia.

NewsClips: [McGinty Steps Down At PA DEP](#)
[PennFuture Exit Interview With Secretary McGinty](#)

Links: [Biography of Kathleen McGinty](#)
[Secretary McGinty's Awards and Honors](#)
[Secretary McGinty's Remarks, Testimonies and Letters](#)
[DEP Annual Accomplishment Reports](#)
[PA Environmental Milestones – 1995-2002](#)

Fair Share Coalition: New Budget Supports Wastewater Plants, Farmers Left Behind

Pennsylvania's new budget agreement contains a major victory for clean water with the approval of water infrastructure funding legislation that helps communities and ratepayers meet looming mandates. At the same time, farmers throughout the Commonwealth got little help as they struggle to meet these same clean water mandates, according to the [PA Fair Share for Clean Water Coalition](#).

The Coalition has also recommended changes to the state's nutrient credit trading program, but these were not yet addressed.

Infrastructure funding – potentially reaching \$1.2 billion in statewide grants and loans for water-related projects – comes just in time for wastewater treatment ratepayers eyeing sewer rates that could double or triple to finance required upgrades.

The Department of Environmental Protection has already directed the first 63 wastewater plants in Pennsylvania to take steps to meet new federal Clean Water Act nutrient reduction requirements in the Susquehanna River Watershed. The cost of meeting those requirements for a total of 184 plants in just this watershed is estimated to be over \$1 billion. Similar restrictions will be put in place in other areas of the state in the near future.



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Coalition members thanked House and Senate legislative leaders and Gov. Rendell for their support of [Senate Bill 2](#) (Earll-R-Erie) and [Senate Bill 1341](#) (Musto-D- Luzerne), which authorize the additional water infrastructure funding.

"The new infrastructure funding approved in this budget is an excellent start as we begin to address Pennsylvania's \$20 billion need for water and sewer system upgrades," according to John Brosious, Deputy Director of the PA Municipal Authorities Association. "These funds will help alleviate some of the burden communities face as they undertake costly upgrades to comply with federal and state requirements to reduce nitrogen and phosphorus loadings to local streams and the Chesapeake Bay," Brosious said.

Senate Bill 2, sponsored by Sen. Jane Earll (R-Erie), authorizes \$850 million to be spent from gaming revenues on wastewater and drinking water plant upgrades, flood protection projects and high hazard dam repairs. Senate Bill 1341, sponsored by Sen. Ray Musto (D-Luzerne), places a question on the fall election ballot asking voters to approve a \$400 million bond issue for wastewater, drinking water plant improvements and nonpoint sources pollution controls.

Meeting the new federal and state nutrient reduction mandates, however, requires both upgrades to wastewater plants and farmers to install conservation practices. The final budget left major gaps in the funding needed to help farmers meet these costs, which the Department of Environmental Protection has estimated will be over \$600 million alone for the Susquehanna River Watershed..

"The Fair Share for Clean Water Plan can be described as a three-legged stool," said Matthew Ehrhart, PA Executive Director for the Chesapeake Bay Foundation. "Simultaneous and significant progress is needed on three fronts – point sources, agriculture and nutrient credit trading – if the state is to meet water quality mandates and still accommodate future growth," Ehrhart said. "We're thrilled with the new funding for point sources, but disappointed that we don't have the tools in place to work on the other two legs of the stool."

Coalition members urged state leaders to provide the support that is desperately needed by farmers who also face clean water mandates to install practices that reduce nutrient and sediment runoff from their operations.

Joel Rotz, Governmental Affairs Director for the Pennsylvania Farm Bureau, explained why higher state conservation funding is so critical. "Pennsylvania farmers take stewardship seriously and have already made significant progress in the areas of conservation tillage, cover crops, nutrient management, buffer plantings and beyond." Rotz said. "They're willing to do more, but can't shoulder the burden by themselves. We're disappointed that instead of seeing a significant boost in conservation funding, we're barely holding the line."

Conservation Districts saw no increase in their budget despite the fact that a 2005 Legislative Budget and Finance Committee report found many conservation districts struggling for funds to deliver key farm and environmental programs at the local level. Since then, funding for districts has increased by only 1 percent. As costs continue to escalate, many conservation districts will be faced with the difficult decision of which programs to reduce or discontinue in order to keep their doors open.

"Conservation Districts deliver not just state conservation programs, but federal programs as well," said Susan F. Marquart, Executive Director of the PA Association of Conservation Districts. "The federal government has expanded the new Farm Bill to help farmers in the Chesapeake Bay watershed meet water quality mandates. It would be a

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shame if the higher conservation funding levels within the new Farm Bill are underutilized because there are too few technical people in the field to help farmers qualify for the very programs the federal government has expanded."

The Coalition, which includes the PA Builders Association, also hoped for more significant progress on a key, non-budgetary item: enhancements to the nutrient credit trading program. Nutrient credit trading allows credits to be generated, primarily through the installation of agricultural improvements, which can then be purchased by point sources and developers to offset nutrient discharges that exceed mandated limits. Without a functioning trading program, pollution limits may curb economic growth in the Commonwealth.

Robert J. Fisher, President of R. J. Fisher & Associates and Chairman of the Pennsylvania Builders Association's Chesapeake Bay Tributary Strategy Task Force, expressed disappointment that proposals to enhance certain aspects of the state's trading program did not move forward at budget time. "Nutrient trading holds significant promise for holding costs down and accommodating future economic growth," Fisher said. "But due to a number of flaws with the current structure and implementation of the trading program, it has not been viewed as a viable option either by potential credit users or generators. We had hoped that our recommendations for the program could have moved forward before the summer recess, as opportunities are lost with each month that the trading program needs are left unresolved."

Fisher did note the Senate will schedule a hearing on nutrient credit trading legislation introduced by Sen. Vance (R-Cumberland)-- [Senate Bill 1493](#). He also reported that Senate Bill 1341 was amended last week to include the purchase or trading of nutrient credits as an allowable use of those funds.

The Credit Bank concept is also included in [House Bill 2654](#), introduced by Rep. Mike Hanna-D-Centre, and [House Bill 2441](#) (Perry-R-Cumberland).

The Fair Share Coalition will send letters this week to the chairs of the Senate and House agriculture and environmental committees asking them to hold hearings on additional agricultural funding needs for the Nutrient Management Program, the REAP State Tax Credit Program and other conservation programs that enable farmers throughout the state to comply with federal and state clean water mandates.

The Fair Share for Clean Water Coalition will be working actively in the Fall to promote voter approval of the \$400 million bond issue referendum contained in Senate Bill 1341.

Fair Share supporting groups include: Pennsylvania Association of Conservation Districts, Pennsylvania Builders Association, Pennsylvania Municipal Authorities Association, Chesapeake Bay Foundation, Pennsylvania Association of Realtors, Juniata Valley Audubon, PA Federation of Sportsmen Clubs, American Farmland Trust, Environmental Defense Fund, Middletown Twp. Land Conservancy, Lower Susquehanna Riverkeeper, Northumberland Co. Conservation District, Brubaker Farms, PA State Assoc. of Boroughs, Lancaster Farmland Trust, County Commissioners Assoc of PA, PA State Association of Township Supervisors, Tioga County Conservation District, PA Landscape and Nursery Association, Chester County Economic Development Council, Tioga County Concerned Citizens Committee, Inc., PA Project Grass, GreenTreks Network, Inc., Warwick Township Municipal Authority, PA Association for Sustainable Agriculture, PA No-Till Alliance, PA State Grange, Cedar Meadow Farm, Somerset County Conservation District, Dover Township, Chester County Conservation District, York County

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Conservation District, Coldwater Heritage Partnership, Westmoreland County
Conservation District, Pennsylvania Environmental Council, Sullivan County
Conservation District, Lancaster County Conservation District, Manheim Borough
Authority, Union County Conservation District and McKean County Conservation District,
Fulton County Conservation District, Adams County Conservation District, PA
Manufactured Housing Association

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

NewsClips: [Budget Disappoints Farmers](#)

[Budget May Ease Sewer Hikes](#)

[Water Cleanup Could Drain Budgets](#)

[Budget Contains Funding for Sewer Plant Upgrades](#)

[State Funding for Sewer Upgrade Great News](#)

[State Budget Breakdown on Chesapeake Bay, Farm Funding](#)

[Editorial: Do Elected Leaders Feel Sewer Cost Crisis?](#)

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](#)
[Agriculture Committees OK Fair Share Clean Water Plan for Farmers](#)
[Spotlight- REAP Gives Eby Farm the Opportunity to Expand No-Till Farming](#)
[Senate OKs Another Part of Fair Share Clean Water Plan, Budget Talks Continue](#)
[\\$1.2 Billion Approved for Infrastructure Upgrades, Farmers Left Behind](#)

Chesapeake Bay Foundation – Mixed Results for Water Quality

Pennsylvania's fiscal year 2008-09 budget shows mixed results for reducing pollution to local rivers, streams, and the Chesapeake Bay, according to the [Chesapeake Bay Foundation](#).

New funding, approximately \$500 million, is allocated to provide a 50 percent match for sewage treatment plant upgrades, significantly reducing the burden on local ratepayers. Funding to reduce agricultural runoff, on the other hand, will see stable or declining funding depending on the program.

"In an extremely tight budget year, we commend the Governor and General Assembly for providing historic levels of new funding to upgrade local sewage treatment plants," said CBF Pennsylvania Executive Director Matt Ehrhart. "It is disappointing, however, that the Governor and General Assembly didn't increase funding for agriculture, one Pennsylvania's leading industries and one of the largest sources of impairment to local rivers and streams."

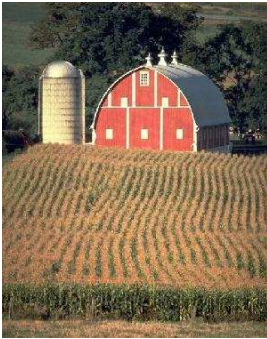
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The REAP program, which provides transferable tax credits to farmers and businesses to implement conservation practices on local farms, saw funding hold steady at \$10 million. Conservation Districts, which provide technical assistance for farmers, did not receive long overdue funding increases. Nutrient management programs and agricultural research saw budgets decline.

"Pennsylvania farm families have repeatedly demonstrated their willingness to invest time and money to implement conservation practices, but they can't shoulder the burden alone," Ehrhart said. "We want to thank Senators Roger Madigan and Mike Brubaker, Representatives Jerry Stern and Mike Hanna, and other elected officials for their continued leadership on this issue, and look forward to continuing to work with them to make Pennsylvania agriculture a national leader in conservation. We'd also like to thank our many partners, from agriculture, the business community, and local governments, who joined the PA Fair Share Coalition to support funding for agricultural conservation and sewage treatment plant upgrades."

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

PA Farm Bureau - State Budget Falls Short on Vital Agriculture Programs



The [Pennsylvania Farm Bureau](#) said the new state budget for fiscal year 2008-2009 continues a troubling trend of funding cuts to essential programs for farmers that also benefit all Pennsylvanians.

The state budget cuts include a 37 percent reduction in agricultural research conducted through the Department of Agriculture that provides farmers with new technology while benefiting consumers through advanced food safety. Other budget shortfalls for agriculture include technical assistance to help farmers comply with stringent and costly environmental regulations.

During discussions in Harrisburg since last November, Pennsylvania Farm Bureau explained the need for about \$11 million of additional funding in eight program areas, much of which was to merely restore dollars cut from programs last year. Farm Bureau said the funding requests were rejected and another \$1 million was cut from important priorities for agriculture.

"It's an understatement that Pennsylvania's farm families will be disappointed when they learn the details," said PA Farm Bureau President Carl T. Shaffer. "It will be hard for them to understand how a \$28 billion state budget can't include \$11 million for programs that will help secure the future of agriculture, grow our food supply and preserve the rural character of Pennsylvania." He noted that the \$11 million amounts to approximately one-hundredth of one percent (.001) of the state budget's increase.

Farm Bureau noted that the budget for the Department of Agriculture was increased by 5.4 percent, but believes that most of the funds are for personnel cost increases, not new or expanded assistance to farms.

PFB said one bright spot in the state budget is the continuation of funding for a program called REAP that offers limited tax credits for qualifying farmers who implement certain water quality environmental measures. Last year's budget allocation enabled approximately 325 of Pennsylvania's 58,000 farms to use the program. Other important legislation enacted before the General Assembly's recess will provide incentives for the

state's biodiesel industry, eventually providing farmers new crop production and income opportunities.

Pennsylvania Farm Bureau said there was strong advocacy for reasonable funding for agriculture by Sen. Mike Brubaker (R-Lancaster County) and Rep. Mike Hanna (D-Centre County), respective chairs of the Senate and House Agriculture & Rural Affairs Committees.

Pennsylvania Farm Bureau is the state's largest farm organization with a volunteer membership of more than 44,000 farm and rural families, representing farms of every size and commodity across Pennsylvania.

For more information, visit the [Pennsylvania Farm Bureau](#) or [PA Fair Share for Clean Water Plan](#) websites.

\$1.2 Billion Water Infrastructure Bills Become Law

Gov. Rendell signed legislation into law this week that would provide \$1.2 billion in funding for water and wastewater facilities, as well as inadequate flood control measures and unsafe and high-hazard dams.

The bills were [Senate Bill 2](#) (Earll-R-Erie) and [Senate Bill 1341](#) (Musto-D- Luzerne).

"A sustainable infrastructure that is capable of protecting its citizens and providing quality, dependable services is paramount to the public's health and well-being," said Gov. Rendell. "Our water-related

infrastructure—our drinking water and wastewater plants, our dams and our flood protection projects—are aging and deteriorating after decades of neglect and underinvestment. These bills provide new investments not just for capital improvements, which are increasingly expensive but, as in the case of wastewater facilities, to support other nonstructural options that are oftentimes more cost-effective."

Senate Bill 2 will provide \$800 million over the next 10 years for critical water, sewer, flood control projects and repairs to unsafe, high-hazard dams in areas outside of Philadelphia and Pittsburgh. The debt service on the bond will be repaid using uncommitted game revenues distributed by the Commonwealth Financing Authority.

Senate Bill 1341 will place a referendum on the November ballot asking voters to approve an additional \$400 million for improvements in public drinking water and wastewater systems, including innovative, cost-effective strategies such as nutrient trading. If approved, the funding would be used for grants and loans to be administered by the Pennsylvania Infrastructure Investment Authority.

"With this new law (Senate Bill 1341) we are providing a great opportunity for citizens to make a substantive new investment in our clean water infrastructure," Sen. Musto, Minority Chair of the Senate Environmental Resources and Energy Committee said. "The grants and low-interest loans that would be available through this legislation will provide badly needed financial assistance to communities throughout Pennsylvania who are struggling to maintain aging water and sewer systems."

Federal/State Clean Water Mandates

Under both bills, the 183 publicly-owned water systems in Pennsylvania that are facing federal mandates to reduce the amount of nutrient pollution in the Susquehanna and



Potomac river basins and downstream in the Chesapeake Bay will be eligible for additional support. The grants and loans may be directed towards plant upgrades, but other more cost-effective options – such as nutrient credit trading, water conservation and water reuse – may also be eligible.

"Communities like Mechanicsburg are facing ever-increasing costs to provide a clean, reliable source of drinking water and effective wastewater treatment for its residents and businesses," said the Governor. "Rather than only considering capital upgrades to these facilities, which can leave ratepayers with substantially higher rates, we want to ensure other cost-effective options, such as regionalization and nutrient trading are considered."

The Governor pointed to examples like Mount Joy Borough, Lancaster County, which used nutrient credit trading to lower its nutrient reduction costs 35 percent, and Fairview Township, York County, which followed suit and saved its taxpayers 75 percent as opposed to a capital upgrade.

The Department of Environmental Protection will work with the Commonwealth Financing Authority and PENNVEST in evaluating projects to ensure applicants are pursuing measures that result in the lowest cost to Pennsylvania's citizens and communities.

Water Infrastructure Needs

In Pennsylvania, there are 900 community drinking water facilities and 1,100 community wastewater operations that are owned by a municipality or municipal authority that would qualify for funding under Senate Bill 2. Grants will range from \$500,000 to \$20 million.

According to a recent federal clean water needs survey, Pennsylvania is facing nearly \$11 billion in unmet drinking water infrastructure needs and at least \$7.2 billion in unmet wastewater infrastructure needs.

As part of his efforts to address Pennsylvania's aging water-related infrastructure, Gov. Rendell established the [Sustainable Water Infrastructure Task Force](#) through executive order.

The task force is responsible for calculating an estimate of total water infrastructure needs facing the commonwealth and identifying innovative technical, operational and financing strategies to meet the state's needs.

The group of legislative, business, municipal and public interest leaders will issue a report by October 1 that provides recommendations and financing options to support water-related services in the Governor's fiscal year 2009-10 budget proposal.

Flood Protection

Senate Bill 2 also provides at least \$100 million for flood control projects. Applicants would be responsible for providing easements and rights-of-way, relocating buildings and utilities, altering or rebuilding inadequate bridges in association with the flood protection project when necessary, and operating and maintaining the project.

"As Pennsylvania is one of the nation's most flood-prone states, we must take steps to ensure our communities are safeguarded against the threat of having a flood control project or dam fail and wash out homes and businesses," said Gov. Rendell. "While the costs of these projects can be daunting if our infrastructure is allowed to deteriorate, so, too, will Pennsylvania's business climate and quality of life."

Senate Bill 2 also provides a minimum of \$35 million to address state and municipally owned unsafe, high-hazard dams in need of repair. Applicants are responsible

for funding of at least 25 percent of the amount authorized by the Commonwealth Financing Authority for a project.

DEP will review the applications and make recommendations to the authority, which ultimately decides which grants are awarded. Criteria for funding include the level of hazard posed by the dam and whether the proposed project is the most cost-effective way to address the hazard.

Grants from Senate Bill 1341, if approved, would be up to \$50 million, depending on the type of project and the size of the system.

"While these measures are a step in the right direction, they will by no means close the almost \$20 billion gap in funding for Pennsylvania's water infrastructure needs," said Gov. Rendell. "We need continued funding as well as an in-depth examination of at non-structural alternatives such as best management practices and right-sizing."

Senate Bill 2 is now Act 63 of 2008 and Senate Bill 1341 is now Act 64 of 2008.

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

Gov. Rendell Signs Historic Great Lakes Compact to Protect Region's Fresh Water

Gov. Rendell has followed through on an agreement reached in 2005 to protect one of the world's largest bodies of fresh water -- the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence River basin—as he signed [House Bill 1705](#) (Harkins-D-Erie), which will ensure this invaluable resource is protected for the millions of people who rely on its resources for energy, recreation, agriculture and industry.



House Bill 1705 ratifies an interstate agreement reached with seven other Great Lake states and the Canadian provinces of Ontario and Quebec. The five Great Lakes are the world's largest surface freshwater system—accounting for about 20 percent of the freshwater on the planet. The compact will prohibit water diversions outside of the Great Lakes basin combined with state programs to conserve and manage the basin waters adhering to unified and cooperative principles, policies and programs throughout the basin.

"Today, Pennsylvania is proud to join with other Great Lakes states in forging a renewed commitment to protect the region's vast water resources that provide so many environmental and economic benefits for our communities," said Gov. Rendell. "Effective management of the waters of the Great Lakes basin is essential for sustaining tourism, recreation, boating and fishing, our state parks at Presque Isle and Erie Bluffs, international shipping through the Port of Erie, as well as water supplies for homes, farms and businesses in Pennsylvania's Lake Erie and Lake Ontario watersheds."

The Governor's signature on July 4 enacts the Great Lakes-St. Lawrence River Basin Water Resources Compact in Pennsylvania. Pennsylvania joins Minnesota, Illinois, Indiana, New York, Wisconsin, Ohio and Michigan in approving the agreement. The compact will not become effective until the U.S. Congress provides its consent.

"This is a historic moment for Pennsylvania and for the Great Lakes," said John Walliser, Vice President of Legal and Governmental Affairs for the Pennsylvania Environmental Council. "We commend the leadership of the General Assembly –

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particularly the Erie delegation including Rep. Patrick Harkins (D-Eire), Sen. Mary Jo White (R-Venango), Senator Jane Earll (R-Erie), and Rep. John Hornaman (D-Erie)– for protecting a vital environmental, economic, and recreational resource for our state.”

In December 2005, following a nearly five-year negotiation, the Great Lakes governors endorsed the agreement on the compact. They reached a similar, good faith, agreement with Ontario and Québec the same year, which the provinces are using to amend their existing water programs for greater regional consistency.

The interstate compact legislation signed by Gov. Rendell states that: continued sustainable, accessible and adequate water supplies for the people and economy of the basin are of vital importance;

Future diversions and consumptive uses of basin water resources have the potential significantly to impact the environment, economy and welfare of the region; Regional goals and objectives for water conservation and efficiency will be developed and reviewed every five years. Each state will develop and implement a water conservation and efficiency program;

Collecting and sharing technical data by compact states will improve the scientific base of information, which will improve decision-making by the governments; and The states and provinces have a shared duty to protect, conserve, restore, improve and manage the renewable, but finite, waters of the basin for the use, benefit and enjoyment of all citizens.

In addition, House Bill 1705 establishes a new water management program that the Department of Environmental Protection will administer in the Lake Erie and Lake Ontario (Genesee River) watersheds located in parts of three Pennsylvania counties: Erie, Crawford and Potter.

DEP will review proposals for new or increased water withdrawals that equal or exceed 100,000 gallons per day, consumptive uses that equal or exceed 5 million gallons per day, and any diversion of water from the basin consistent with the uniform standard contained in the compact and applied by each state and province.

"This joint effort ensures an adequate supply of fresh water is available to support the region's economic activity, while protecting the ecological integrity of the Great Lakes basin," said Gov. Rendell.

To date, more than 1,200 state legislators have voted to approve the compact—about 95 percent of all legislators who have cast a vote on its protections. Additionally, it has attracted the support of key members of Congress, both of the presumptive presidential nominees, mayors and local government officials, as well as more than 150 diverse groups of stakeholders who depend on the Great Lakes.

The bill is now Act 43 of 2008.

The complete text of the compact and additional information is available at the [Council of Great Lakes Governors website](#).

NewsClip: [States Approve Compact to Protect Great Lakes](#)

Link: [Pennsylvania Adopts Historic Great Lakes Compact Legislation](#)

Update to PA Underground Mine Safety Act Now Law

Gov. Rendell this week signed the first major update of Pennsylvania's 125-year-old bituminous deep mine safety law in 45 years, ensuring better protection for the Commonwealth's 4,200 underground bituminous coal miners.

The new law-- [Senate Bill 949](#) (Kasunic-D-Somerset)-- incorporates recommendations to improve safety conditions that were made following the [2002 Queecreek Mine Rescue](#) in Somerset County.

It also allows Pennsylvania mines to be competitive in the national and international markets while holding mine operators responsible for the safety of their mines, and it creates a process to update mine safety regulations in the future.

"Our miners and their families face the dangers of working underground every day to provide us with the energy we need to carry on our way of life," said Gov. Rendell. "We owe it to them to provide a safe workplace.

"This industry and its dedicated workers have been a cornerstone of our economy for more than 200 years. Thanks to the hard work of the legislature and representatives of labor and industry, we have enacted one of the nation's strongest mine safety laws, which completes the work begun following the Queecreek Mine accident."

Pennsylvania began regulating mine safety in 1869. The bituminous mine safety law was first written in 1883, but it had not been updated since 1961.

Most significantly, the new law creates a seven-member Board of Coal Mine Safety that will be chaired by the secretary of the Department of Environmental Protection, with equal representation among mine owners and mine workers. The board will have the authority to write new mine safety regulations-something the department is unable to do through existing statute.

In addition, the new law will:

- Make the mine owner or operator primarily responsible for safety compliance at the mine and allow DEP to assess fines and penalties for noncompliance. Currently, only individually certified employees or supervisors, such as foremen, can be held responsible for an accident, not the mine company or its executives;
- Increase to 500 feet from 200 feet the distance from which a bituminous underground operator must conduct advanced drilling when approaching an adjacent mine that may contain water or gas to provide an extra measure of security so miners don't accidentally breach an abandoned mine pool, as happened at Queecreek; and
- Authorize the department to use emergency contracting provisions to pay for mine rescue and other mine safety activities.

"Mining can be a dangerous profession and we need to be able to protect against the realities of 21st century mining if we're to keep our miners safe," said Gov. Rendell. "Our old mine safety law contained out-dated language that had little to do with modern coal mining, including references to animals and stables in mines. This bill makes substantial improvements to ensure that owners and operators are responsible for the safety of their mines and allows us to adapt quickly to changing mining methods and technologies."



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Updating Pennsylvania's underground mine safety program has been a priority since 2002 when nine miners at the Quecreek Mine in Somerset County were trapped underground after they breached a flooded and abandoned mine that was not shown on mining maps. All nine miners survived following a dramatic rescue.

The measures in this bill supplement administrative changes made by DEP's Bureau of Mine Safety since the Quecreek accident, including:

- Giving mine safety officials the authority to review every mine permit application and reject applications if they think unsafe conditions may exist;
- Implementing stringent new requirements to validate and verify underground mine maps before new mining can take place;
- Increasing the distance between planned mining and abandoned mines from 200 feet to 500 feet-to provide an extra measure of security so miners don't accidentally breach an abandoned mine pool containing millions of gallons of water, as happened at Quecreek;
- Replacing outdated equipment that was more than 30 years old with 84 new, self-contained breathing units, at a cost of \$745,000, for underground mine rescue teams. These new units are housed at mine rescue stations in Uniontown, Fayette County; Ebensburg, Cambria County; and Tremont, Schuylkill County;
- Developing and implementing training for dealing with mine inundation, as well as continuing education programs for mining professionals, mine managers, and mine inspectors on mine safety issues; and
- Increasing salaries for engineers, inspectors and training staff in order to be more competitive when recruiting and maintaining quality safety professionals.

In October, Gov. Rendell signed the [Mine Families First Act](#), sponsored by Rep. Bob Bastian (R-Somerset), into law to ensure that families of miners involved in underground emergencies are treated with dignity and respect while they await information on their loved ones.

The act establishes a plan for notifying families about the status of their relatives and the progress of rescue operations; provides for transportation to and from a place for family members to gather; institutes security measures to ensure privacy; and provides counseling through social service organizations.

Pennsylvania is the fourth largest coal producing state, following Wyoming, West Virginia and Kentucky, with 35 underground bituminous mines reporting production in 2007, including four of the six highest-producing underground mines in the nation. More than 20,000 bituminous coal miners have died in accidents since the commonwealth began keeping records in 1877.

With Gov. Rendell's signature on the new mine safety legislation, the Department of Environmental Protection has followed through on every recommendation made by the Gov. Schweiker's Commission on Mine Safety, DEP's Bureau of Mine Safety, the state Attorney General's Office, the U.S. Attorney's Office, and the U.S. Mine Safety and Health Administration in the wake of the Quecreek accident.

The bill is now Act 55 of 2008.

For more information, visit DEP's [Deep Mine Safety webpage](#).

NewsClip: [Rendell Signs Updated Mine Safety Bill Into Law](#)

[State Addresses Mining Issues](#)

[Editorial: New Regulations Focus on Advances Since Quecreek](#)

[Coal Miner Dies in Underground PA Mine](#)

Spotlight

6th Anniversary of Quecreek Mine Rescue Features Visitor Center Groundbreaking

The [Quecreek Mine Rescue Foundation](#) will host a groundbreaking ceremony for a new visitors' center on July 26 to help celebrate the 6th anniversary of the 2002 rescue of nine miners trapped in the Quecreek Mine in Somerset County, Pa.

“With more than 10,000 visitors every year to the rescue site, we were just getting overwhelmed. The new visitors' center will help us tell the story of the Quecreek miracle,” said Bill Arnold, President of the Quecreek

Mine Rescue Foundation. “This is a working farm and we used our own storage building to display the rescue capsule, drill bit and other equipment used in the rescue.”

The photo pictures the mine rescue site at Quecreek during rescue operations.

The new visitors' center will be housed in a 2,400 square foot building to be constructed overlooking the mine rescue site. It will include educational display areas and other typical visitor center amenities.

The building will incorporate parts of the Sipesville Fire Hall where mine families waited for news during the rescue. Several doors, the outside columns and oak flooring were salvaged from the building before it was torn down to make way for a new fire hall.

“Incorporating parts of the old Sipesville Fire Hall we thought was important to help preserving the history of the mine rescue and to recognize the important role the fire company played,” said Arnold. “It's also another way to remember the lows and highs the families experienced during the rescue.”

“We want to thank all those who contributed their labor, materials, equipment or their donations to help build the visitors center. So far we've raised about half of the \$200,000 needed to finish the building,” said Arnold. “We certainly welcome participation in this unique project from those who believe, as we do, that the Quecreek mine rescue was a miracle.”

On July 24, 2002 miners broke through into an abandoned, water-filled mine flooding the Quecreek Mine with over 50 million gallons of water. Nine miners scrambled to safety, but nine were trapped in a pocket of air in the dark, cold, water-filled mine. They were rescued four days later through the combined efforts of state and federal mine rescue agencies and hundreds of workers and volunteers.

In 2006 the Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission officially recognized the mine rescue site as part of the state Historical Marker Program erecting a blue and gold historic marker at the Arnold Farm.

Last year the General Assembly passed the Mine Families First Act to put into law the policies Gov. Mark Schweiker adopted to keep mine families involved in accidents informed of the progress of rescue operations before the media.

This week, Gov. Rendell signed into law the first update to the Bituminous Coal Mine Safety Act in 45 years, prompted in part by the lessons learned from the Quecreek Mine Rescue.



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The anniversary celebration will begin at 9:00 a.m. at the mine rescue site located at 151 Haupt Road, Somerset, Pa.

The first part of the program will feature a flag ceremony followed by music performed by local artists and brief remarks by local and state dignitaries. The groundbreaking ceremony will begin about 10:00 a.m.

Several of the miners rescued at Quecreek and their families will be participating in the celebration. In addition, there will be a silent auction for the two copies of the hardcover book “Our Story: 77 Hours That Tested Our Friendship and Our Faith,” autographed by all nine miners and Gov. Mark Schweiker. Two other autographed copies will be put up for bid shortly on EBay.

The Quecreek Mine Rescue Foundation is a non-profit charitable organization that relies on support from the public to educate the public about the rescue and to maintain and operate the mine rescue visitors’ area.

Contact the Quecreek Mine Rescue Foundation by writing: 151 Haupt Road, Somerset, PA 15501, calling 814-445-4876 or visiting the [Quecreek Mine Rescue Foundation website](#).

Significant Update to Conservation District Act Signed Into Law

The [Pennsylvania Association of Conservation Districts](#) applauds the General Assembly for its unanimous passage of [Senate Bill 1020](#) (Wonderling-R-Montgomery) and Gov. Rendell for signing the legislation into law.

This legislation updates the Conservation District Law, which is the Pennsylvania statute that created the State Conservation Commission and provided the authority for county governing bodies to create conservation districts.

Pennsylvania’s conservation districts administer a wide array of delegated and contracted state programs with a number of funding sources. The bill increases the capacity of conservation districts to deliver locally led conservation, and further defines and strengthens the State Conservation Commission and includes these changes:

- Establishing a procedure for those members of the SCC and local directors who do not, or cannot perform their responsibilities;
- Offering appropriate training assistance and certification for directors, staff and volunteers of the conservation districts;
- Requiring SCC approval of delegation and contracting for certain functions and powers of the districts;
- Allowing the Commission to administer grant, loan, and tax credit programs for landowners to implement non-point source best management practices on their properties;
- Reducing the requirement to at least one eligible nominee for each director to be appointed;
- Allowing the county government body to require that directors of the conservation district be residents of the county;
- Requiring the county governing body to provide names and contact information of directors to the SCC;

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- Further delineating a list of activities conservation districts can engage in including any natural resource program approved by the Commission;
- Allowing districts to contract with state and local agencies for payment for services rendered;
- Allowing conservation districts to accept contributions from federal, state, and local government entities;
- Allowing any state agency to delegate one or more of its regulatory and enforcement functions to conservation districts;
- Adding the President of PACD, the Secretary of DCNR, and the Secretary of DCED as associate, non-voting members of the SCC;
- Providing the farmer and public members of the Commission with a \$150 per diem which will be adjusted every 4 years for inflation, plus reimbursement for expenses incurred as a result of their SCC duties. Additionally, the bill allows per diem payments to county directors if funding is available;
- Allowing SCC review of fees for services established by conservation districts for the purpose of determining if such fees are reasonable in relation to the scope of the service to be provided;
- Explicitly stating that the law does not diminish, limit, or in any way interfere with the authority given to state agencies under other laws;
- Allowing Commonwealth agencies to agree to fee schedules for work performed by conservation districts for E&S, stream encroachments and other work or services;
- Requiring any Commonwealth agency to provide the SCC with analyses of funding and compensation, conditions affecting funding, and a clear delineation of the duties, authorities, deliverables and tasks to be performed prior to the SCC's approval of any delegation agreement;
- Allowing directors to serve no longer than six months beyond an expired term; and
- Allowing associate directors who have had two or more years of active service to fill an unexpired term as director.

Susan Marquart, PACD Executive Director stated, “We are thrilled with the passage of Senate Bill 1020. The unanimous vote confirms the bi-partisan effort and importance of this legislation to strengthen the Conservation District law.”

Larry Kehl, PACD President agreed. “We would like to thank the PA House of Representatives and Senate for their support of Senate Bill 1020 as well as the Governor for signing the legislation into law.”

The bill is now Act 75 of 2008.

Gov. Rendell OKs \$650 Million Bill to Promote Renewable Energy, Conservation

Gov. Rendell this week gave his approval to a new law-- [Special Session House Bill 1](#) (DePasquale-D-York) -- creating a new fund that will save families and small businesses money on their energy bills by supporting investments in energy conservation and efficiency.

As part of the \$650 million package, residential consumers and small businesses will be eligible for \$92.5 million in loans, grants, reimbursements and rebates to



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support energy conservation and weatherization projects that can ultimately reduce energy bills.

Another \$40 million is available to provide financial assistance through the state's Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program, or LIHEAP, and establish an energy efficiency loan fund through the Pennsylvania Housing Finance Agency.

Households and small businesses can also qualify for \$100 million to support the installation of solar energy technology. Solar power is a key cost-saving technology that enables homes and businesses to generate their own electricity and sell any excess power back to the grid through net metering.

Carnegie Mellon University estimates the technology could help reduce electricity demand by 5 percent during the 100 most expensive hours of the year—typically, times when the sun is most intense and temperatures the highest—which would save Pennsylvania ratepayers \$1.9 billion annually. Electricity rates can be 15 to 30 times more during periods when demand is highest.

The Governor said these kinds of investments are important today because consumers who now find it difficult to pay for gasoline, diesel fuel, natural gas and heating oil will only face greater financial hardship when the generation rate caps that have held electricity prices in check since the mid-1990s expire, leading to double-digit rate increases.

"Families are having to make the difficult decision of whether or not to stay in their homes because they can barely afford to fill up their gas tank or go to the grocery store where higher energy prices have pushed up the price of food," said Gov. Rendell.

"Likewise, businesses are questioning whether or not to shut their doors because it costs so much to keep the lights on and the machines running.

"This should concern all of us because the residential consumers and businesses in the five utility service territories where rate caps haven't expired—PECO, PPL, Allegheny Power, MetEd and Penelec—are facing a \$4 billion increase in their electricity rates by 2011," said the Governor. "At a time when gasoline and diesel fuel are at \$4 and \$5 per gallon and natural gas has more than doubled since last year, these rate increases will be the straw that breaks the camel's back.

"We're putting new resources in place that will help consumers lower their energy use and generate their own power in a cleaner and increasingly more cost-effective manner."

The Governor will also work throughout the summer to reach an agreement with the legislature on measures that will improve what he called the state's flawed energy policies and protect consumers from the pending electricity rate spikes.

"While I'm disappointed we were unable to reach an agreement on key measures related to electricity, specifically on conservation, energy efficiency and requiring service to be provided at the lowest reasonable rate, I'm encouraged by the commitment by all of the parties to get something done this fall. We'll work throughout the summer to improve Pennsylvania's energy policy so it works for consumers and protects them from the volatility of the open market and collusion or fraud.

"It is a moral imperative that we act promptly to protect consumers from these rate spikes. It has been more than a year and a half since I first unveiled my plan to shield families and businesses from feeling the financial pain that will result from the shortcomings of deregulation. Too much time has elapsed and our ratepayers are now that much closer to paying billions of dollars in electricity costs," the Governor said.

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In addition to supporting energy conservation, efficiency measures, and financial assistance, the Governor outlined new strategic investments made possible under the fund that will spur billions of dollars in new, private economic development projects from alternative energy companies and early stage businesses that will create thousands of jobs in a rapidly growing industry.

"Pennsylvania has established itself as leader in developing and deploying clean renewable energy resources," said the Governor, citing some of the world's leading businesses that now call Pennsylvania home, like Conergy, Gamesa and Iberdrola. "However, the \$1 billion in private investment that has flowed into Pennsylvania and the 3,000 jobs we've created in the renewable energy industry only begin to scratch the surface of our potential.

"This new investment fund will strategically target new resources to leverage as much as \$3.5 billion in private investment and create at least 13,000 new, good-paying jobs in an industry that is sure to be to the 21st century what information technology and biosciences were to the later 20th century."

Included among the new \$650 million fund is \$500 million that provides:

- \$165 million for loans and grants to spur the development of alternative and renewable energy projects (except solar) among businesses and local governments;
- \$100 million to provide loans, grants and rebates that cover up to 35 percent of the costs residential consumers and small businesses incur for installing for solar energy technology;
- \$80 million in grants and loans for economic development projects in the solar sector;
- \$40 million to the Ben Franklin Technology Development Authority to support early stage activities, such as incubator support services, translational and early stage research in startup businesses that develop and implement energy efficiency technologies;
- 25 million for wind energy and geothermal projects;
- \$25 million for green buildings. Homeowners and small businesses will benefit from grants and loans to build energy efficient structures or renovate an existing building to improve its energy efficiency;
- \$40 million (\$10 million annually for four years) to support LIHEAP so the commonwealth can help low-income customers manage higher energy prices, severe weather conditions, or disasters; and
- \$25 million for pollution control technology to help energy generators meet state and federal standards.

The law, originally Special Session House Bill 1, will also establish a \$150 million consumer energy program for individuals and small businesses that will support projects that conserve energy and use it more efficiently—something that is increasingly important as the costs for electricity, fuels and natural gas continue to increase.

The \$150 million will be allocated over eight years, with \$20 million annually through 2014-15 and another \$10 million in 2015-16 that will include:

- \$92.5 million so homeowners and small business owners can cover 25 percent of the cost of purchasing and installing energy conservation tools and weatherize their buildings;

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- \$50 million in tax credits of up to \$1 million a year per project for developing and building alternative energy projects, which will help Pennsylvania companies invest and grow here; and.
 - \$5 million to support an Energy Efficiency Loan Fund through the Pennsylvania Housing Finance Agency.
- Special Session House Bill 1 is now Special Session Act 1 of 2008.

Link: [\\$650 Million Renewable Energy Program, BioFuels Mandate, Incentives OK'd](#)

Biofuels Mandates Now Law, A Study of Environmental Impacts Required

Gov. Rendell this week also signed legislation that will help spur the development of homegrown biofuels in Pennsylvania by establishing new requirements that every gallon of gasoline and diesel fuel contain a percentage of ethanol and biodiesel.

The mandates and incentives were included in [House Bill 1202](#) (Gerber-D-Montgomery) establishing a state mandate for biodiesel and cellulosic ethanol use based on in-state biofuel production capacity and [Special Session Senate Bill 22](#) (Tomlinson-R-Bucks) providing for biodiesel production incentives of 75 cents per gallon for three years (\$5.3 million annually) and creating a nitrogen tire inflation system grant program

"Pennsylvanians are struggling with higher fuels costs," said Gov. Rendell, who signed House Bill 1202 and Special Session Senate Bill 22 into law at the National Armory in Montgomery County. "Record-high fuel prices are straining family budgets and pinching the bottom lines of our businesses. We need to reduce our dependence on foreign oil and keep our energy dollars in Pennsylvania, to invest in our economy and create jobs."

The biofuel percentage requirements established under the new law will go into effect once in-state production reaches certain levels.

The requirements—which include what is believed to be the nation's first state-specific cellulosic ethanol mandate—will also spur new economic development in renewable biofuels by directing that more of the money spent each year by Pennsylvanians on imported fuels stay in the state.

"These bills will position Pennsylvania to emerge as a national leader in the development and deployment of biofuels, including the next generation alternative cellulosic ethanol, which promises to be better for our environment than conventional fuels."

PA Farm Bureau President Carl T. Shaffer said, "The incentive will help kick-start Pennsylvania's struggling biodiesel industry, which has had difficulty competing with subsidized biodiesel producers from other states. Renewable fuels play a key role in efforts to reduce our dependence on foreign energy sources, boost our economy and protect our environment.

"Higher energy costs are directly affecting the cost of food in grocery stores. Transportation, processing and packaging costs are big factors in higher food bills. Increased production of biodiesel, ethanol, wind power and other alternative sources of energy will help combat some of those costs in the future," concluded Shaffer.

"These mandates will ensure Pennsylvania carries its weight in helping to make America more energy independent, will result in our burning cleaner fuel and will make Pennsylvania a leader in the emerging green energy economy," said Rep. Mike Gerber (D-

Montgomery), prime sponsor of House Bill 1202, said. "Also, with fast-rising gas prices, Pennsylvanians could benefit from affordable, homegrown, renewable fuel sources.

"I am particularly proud that Pennsylvania is now the only state that has a cellulosic-specific mandate and is the first state to respond to the federal legislation passed in December that calls for greater investment in cellulosic technologies," Rep. Gerber added.

Sen. Robert Tomlinson (R-Bucks), prime sponsor of Special Session Senate Bill 22, said, "With rising gas prices and concern for the environment, consumers are demanding alternatives to oil. These changes will make the fund even more effective in helping consumers to afford alternative fuel vehicles and other renewable energy efficient products.

"Encouraging the use of these fuels will not only help to clean up our environment but also make us stronger economically to produce our own fuel," Sen. Tomlinson added. "I'm very pleased that the Governor and General Assembly worked together to pass this very important environmental initiative."

Under House Bill 1202, as much as 1 billion gallons of biofuels will be added to the state's fuel supply. The law establishes the following for ethanol and biodiesel production and consumption:

All diesel fuel sold at retail must contain:

- 2 percent biodiesel, once in-state production reaches 40 million gallons;
- 5 percent biodiesel, once in-state production reaches 100 million gallons;
- 10 percent biodiesel, once in-state production reaches 200 million gallons; and
- 20 percent biodiesel, once in-state production reaches 400 million gallons.

All gasoline sold at retail must contain 10 percent ethanol, once in-state cellulosic ethanol production reaches 350 million gallons.

In addition, the use of renewable fuels results in a significant reduction in lifecycle greenhouse gas emissions compared to the petroleum fuel that is displaced. Biodiesel reduces greenhouse gas emissions by about 50 percent, while cellulosic ethanol could reduce greenhouse-gas emissions up to 86 percent, according to the U.S. Department of Energy.

Because of controversy over the environmental and climate change impacts of biofuels, Special Session Senate Bill 22 requires a comprehensive study of the air quality impacts of biofuels.

Pennsylvania already has an in-state biodiesel production capacity of approximately 60 million gallons per year. There are no cellulosic ethanol plants in Pennsylvania or the United States.

The state's first large-scale ethanol plant—a 100-million-gallons-per-year operation—is under construction in Clearfield County, although the production capacity is based on corn-based ethanol with a promise, in the future, to change the plant to produce cellulosic ethanol. Another cellulosic demonstration facility is planned for Madison, Westmoreland County.

Most independent observers believe production capacity will not meet even the threshold production triggers in the legislation for many years to come. In addition, the new federal biofuels mandate adopted at the end of 2007 will require a six-fold increase in the use of biofuels nationwide. (*See 12/24/2007 Pa Environment Digest*)

"Pennsylvania can be to cellulosic ethanol what corn-based ethanol was to Iowa and the Midwest," said Gov. Rendell. "Pennsylvania has an abundant supply of cellulosic

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ethanol feedstocks, including switchgrass, woodchips, municipal waste and agricultural waste. This alternative fuel law ensures that Pennsylvania farmers and businesses will fully realize the benefits of these resources."

Special Session Senate Bill 22 is now Special Session Act 2 of 2008 and House Bill 1202 is now Act 78 of 2008.

Link: [Federal Biofuels Mandate Will Eclipse Need for State Mandate Biofuels Could Nearly Double Greenhouse Gas Emissions](#)

Online Video Features

Upper Mount Bethel Environmental Advisory Council Pioneers Osprey Relocation



Working with [Reliant Energy](#) and local boy scouts, the [Upper Mount Bethel Environmental Advisory Council](#) in Northampton County, Pa sponsored the first successful osprey relocation effort in the state starting in 2001.

This [Video Blog Feature](#) describes how the project got started and the contributions it made to the propagation of this endangered species across

Pennsylvania and throughout the country.

To find out what other local Environmental Advisory Councils are doing, visit the [PA Environmental Council EAC website](#).

Link: [Game Commission Osprey Webpage](#)

On the Hill

On the Senate/House Agenda/Session Schedule

The Senate and House committee meeting schedules and floor Calendars (such as they are) are listed here--

Session Schedule

See you in September! The House returns to voting session on September 15. The Senate returns to voting session on September 16.

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

Calendars/Committees

The Senate and House committee meeting schedules (there's one) and floor Calendars as they left them for summer recess--

Calendars

House (September 15): [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 Bill 44](#) (Rublely-R-Chester) banning the sale, installation and unsafe disposal of mercury thermostats; [House Resolution 546](#) (George-D-Clearfield) urging Congress to investigate gas and energy prices;; [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: All bills on the Calendar were tabled before the summer break.

Committees

House: The Agriculture and Rural Affairs Committee holds a hearing on the Clean and Green Program.

On the Governor’s Desk

The following bills were signed into law by Gov. Rendell this week. There are no other bills awaiting his action.

Deep Mine Safety: [Senate Bill 949](#) (Kasunic-D-Somerset) update to the Bituminous Coal Mine Safety Act was signed into law by the Governor and is now Act 55. ([See separate article](#))

Great Lakes Compact: [House Bill 1705](#) (Harkins-D-Erie) adopting the Great Lakes Compact regulating water withdrawals was signed into law and is now Act 43. ([See separate article](#))

PA Environmental Ed Center: [Senate Bill 356](#) (M.White-R-Venango) establishing the PA Center for Environmental Education in law was signed into law as Act 71.

Water Infrastructure: [Senate Bill 1341](#) (Musto-D-Luzerne) authorizing a \$400 million bond issue voter referendum for water, wastewater and stormwater projects was signed into law as Act 64 and [Senate Bill 2](#) (Earll-R-Erie) providing \$800 million in funding for drinking water, wastewater, flood protection and high hazard dam repair projects was

signed into law as Act 63. Both are part of the [PA Fair Share for Clean Water Plan](#). (*See separate article*)

Climate Change Plan: [Senate Bill 266](#) (Erickson-R-Delaware) requiring the development of a state climate change action plan was signed into law as Act 70.

Renewable Energy: [Special Session House Bill 1](#) (DePasquale-D-York) that would provide the Commonwealth Financing Authority with \$500 million in bond funding and \$150 million in General Fund revenues for a variety of renewable energy programs was signed into law as Special Session Act 1; [House Bill 1202](#) (Gerber-D-Montgomery) establishing a state mandate for biodiesel and cellulosic ethanol use based on in-state biofuel production capacity is now Act 78; [Special Session Senate Bill 22](#) (Tomlinson-R-Bucks) providing for biodiesel production incentives of 75 cents per gallon for three years (\$5.3 million annually) and creating a nitrogen tire inflation system grant program was signed into law as Special Session Act 2. (*See separate article*)

Conservation District Law Update: [Senate Bill 1020](#) (Wonderling-R-Montgomery) updating the 1945 Conservation District Law was signed into law as Act 75. (*See separate article*)

Capital Budget Bill: [House Bill 1589](#) (D.Evans-D-Philadelphia) the 2007-08 Capital Budget itemized project bill was signed into law as Act 41.

Zoning Ordinances: [House Bill 1329](#) (Kessler-D-Berks) and [House Bill 1330](#) (Kessler) further providing for appeals and challenges to zoning ordinances were signed into law this week. House Bill 1329 is now Act 39 and House Bill 1330 is Act 40.

Legislation Introduced to Regulate Practice of Prescribed Burns

Representatives Mike Hanna (D-Clinton) and Gary Haluska (D-Cambria) announced this week they plan to introduce legislation that would regulate prescribed burning practices in Pennsylvania.

Prescribed burning, which is the skilled application of fire to existing vegetative fuels under planned and controlled conditions, is used to reduce hazardous fuel buildups, maintain and provide wildlife habitats, and control forest diseases and pests.

The legislation would establish standards for the safe use of controlled burning and establish a training program for prescribed burn managers and people under their supervision.

"Prescribed burning can benefit public safety, especially when there are hazardous amounts of vegetation that can lead to wildfires," Rep. Hanna said. "This legislation would provide an effective tool for land management and habitat preservation."

The legislation would also provide for limited liability exposure for people performing prescribed burns.

Link: [Prescribed Fire Helps Restore Oak and Pitch Pine Forests in PA](#)

Other News

Harrisburg Beach Closure Indication of Larger Systemic Pollution Problem

This week Harrisburg Mayor Stephen Reed announced the temporary closure of the public beach at City Island due to elevated E-Coli levels—a bacterium that can cause gastrointestinal illness if accidentally digested.

The closure is due to a recent water quality test that shows E-coli levels exceed safety standards by 400 percent.

This closure, and the many that are likely to occur this summer, are indicative of a much larger problem in the Susquehanna River and in many other rivers and streams in Pennsylvania: excess bacteria and nutrients from human and animal fecal matter in our waterways.

"Urban run-off, wastewater treatment plants and agricultural activities significantly impact our streams, the Susquehanna River, and ultimately the Chesapeake Bay," said CBF Pennsylvania Executive Director Matt Ehrhart. "The Governor and General Assembly have committed nearly \$1.2 billion for improvements to water and wastewater treatment systems and other infrastructure upgrades. While we applaud their action on this issue, they missed an opportunity to tackle agricultural pollution by not increasing funding to help farmers reduce pollution from agricultural practices."

With over 86,000 miles of streams and rivers, Pennsylvania has the most stream miles of any state in the continental United States. Unfortunately nearly 16,000 miles of those waterways are severely polluted. Excess nitrogen and phosphorus from agricultural practices, sediment-laden run-off from development, and inadequately treated wastewater treatment plant discharges are damaging water quality within the Susquehanna River watershed.

"The E-coli contamination that we're seeing here in Harrisburg is just one of many indicators that our rivers are out of balance," said Harry Campbell, CBF Pennsylvania Scientist. "Increases in E-coli levels tend to happen after large rain events, like the storms we encountered this past weekend."

When it rains, many older sewage treatment plants cannot handle the increased flow of water and are therefore forced to discharge raw sewage into the river. There are over 400 of these discharge points along the Susquehanna River, and 60 of them are in Harrisburg.

"Likewise, on farms, any manure near a stream will be flushed into that system by the rain. If we want healthy rivers and streams to fish, swim, and recreate in, then we must equally address both wastewater and agricultural pollution issues," Campbell said.

The health of our waters directly impacts the health of our communities. Over 80 percent of all Pennsylvanians get their drinking water from surface waters – our lakes, streams and rivers. While the closure of City Island is temporary, it should not be discounted as a temporary inconvenience.

"The problem with E-coli levels after heavy rain events is that tests are conducted only at public beaches and not on the majority of our waters," said Campbell. "So while we know for certain that the levels at the City Island beach are above the maximum, we simply don't know whether our other streams and rivers are suffering from bacterial pollution."

Learn more about water quality in local waterways and the Chesapeake Bay at the [CBF-Pennsylvania webpage](#).

NewsClip: [Stay Out of the Water on Harrisburg Beach](#)

Gov. Rendell Proclaims July as Lake Awareness Month

Department of Environmental Protection Northeast Regional Director Mike Bedrin represented Gov. Rendell in presenting a proclamation declaring July as Lake Awareness Month in Pennsylvania to organizations active in lake monitoring, sampling and protection July 8 at Lake Wallenpaupack in Pike County.

The annual lake awareness activities are coordinated by DEP, the Department of Conservation and Natural Resources and the [Pennsylvania Lake Management Society](#).

The presentation was made prior to the group going out on Lake Wallenpaupack to conduct the routine lake monitoring sampling.

The PALMS group and the [Lake Wallenpaupack Watershed Management District](#) conduct periodic sampling of the lake for a variety of water quality and chemical parameters, including phosphorus, nitrogen, dissolved oxygen, pH, and plankton. The watershed management district has been conducting this type of sampling for more than 20 years. Regional biologist Sherry Leap is the department liaison for PALMS.

[A copy of the Governor's proclamation is available online.](#)

DEP Invites Comments on TMDL for South Branch Plum Creek Watershed

The Department of Environmental Protection this week announced it is accepting comments on the Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) Plan for South Branch Plum Creek in Indiana County.

Public comments are due September 1 and DEP has scheduled a public meeting for July 30 at 6 p.m. at the Grange near Davis, Pa to answer questions on the plan and accept comments.

Copies of the TMDL Plan are available on [DEP's TMDL webpage](#). For more information contact Joe Boyland by sending email to joboylan@state.pa.us.

EPA Seeking Nominations for Water Efficiency Leaders



The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency is now accepting nominations for the [2008 Water Efficiency Leader Awards](#) to recognize organizations and individuals who demonstrate outstanding leadership and innovation in water efficiency.

Nominations are due August 29.

Winners will be chosen by a panel of national water experts and based on three criteria: leadership, innovation, and water saved.

"We encourage organizations and individuals who are saving water, energy and money for our nation's families and communities to apply for the 2008 Water Efficiency Leader Awards," said Benjamin H. Grumbles, EPA's assistant administrator for water. "Together, we are proving innovative technology and environmental stewardship can help conserve our country's greatest liquid asset."

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The Water Efficiency Leader Awards promote a nationwide ethic of water efficiency, which is critical to helping our growing economy and improving our quality of life.

The importance of water efficiency is also exemplified by [WaterSense](#), a partnership program started by EPA in 2006 to educate American consumers on making smart water choices that save money, water and energy, and maintain high environmental standards without compromising performance.

For more information, visit the [2008 Water Efficiency Leader Awards webpage](#).

Green Building Alliance Announces Product Innovation Grants, New Apps Due

[Green Building Alliance](#) this week announced a total of \$140,000 in [Product Innovation Grants](#) for three projects that seek to develop and introduce new and enhanced green building products.

A [Request for Proposals](#) for the third round of Product Innovation Grants was also released this week, with final proposals due September 12. Awards will be announced in December.

This is the second round of Product Innovation Grants awarded since GBA initiated its Green Building Product Initiative; a total of ten Pennsylvania recipients have received more than half a million dollars. The inaugural round of grants was awarded in December 2007.

Awarded through a competitive selection process, GBA's Product Innovation Grants will expedite the commercialization of new building products within the fast growing green building market. The green building product market is estimated to be worth \$30 to \$40 billion annually by 2010.

"The green market represents a significant economic opportunity for Pennsylvania, which ranks 2nd in the country in the number of LEED certified buildings. Our Product Innovation Grant projects include collaboration between private sector companies and university teams located within Pennsylvania," said Rebecca Flora, Executive Director of Green Building Alliance.

Three grants were awarded from fourteen proposals received by the Green Building Alliance for the second round of Product Innovation Grants. The recipients were:

- \$100,000 for commercialization of an innovative ventilation air energy recovery unit that utilizes a patent-pending membrane technology to allow water vapor molecules to pass freely while blocking other air molecules and particles; a project of Energy Wall, LLC, and Pennsylvania State University;
- \$20,000 proof of concept grant for a modular, reconfigurable, and sustainable residential floor & wall system to Drexel University; and
- \$20,000 proof of concept grant for a responsive daylighting panel integrating phase change material to Temple University.

"We solicited Product Innovation Grant proposals in early January from established Pennsylvania companies looking to develop innovative sustainable building products or green existing product lines or processes, from start-up Pennsylvania companies looking to enter the green building product marketplace, and from Pennsylvania university researchers and teams developing innovative green building products and the processes to produce them," explained Aurora Sharrard, PhD, GBA's Research Manager and program

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manager of the Product Innovation Grants. "We're very pleased with the continued interest in the product grant program and look forward to the third round of submissions."

Pennsylvania State University and Drexel University have received awards in both rounds of Product Innovation Grants. A total of \$181,062 has been awarded for full proposals submitted by partnerships including Penn State and \$40,000 has been awarded to Drexel for two Proof-of-Concept grants. Carnegie Mellon University, Temple University, University of Pittsburgh, and Villanova University also have been partners on or recipients of Product Innovation Grants.

Proposals are assessed based on the criteria of green building leadership, technical merit, commercialization plan viability, partnership resources, and potential market impact. Grant award decisions are made at the discretion of GBA on the recommendations of the Product Innovation Grant Review Committee, which is comprised of individuals with a variety of relevant experience, expertise, and background, including consultants, manufacturers, investors, economic development stakeholders, and academic researchers. Participation on the Review Committee is kept confidential.

Funding for GBA's Green Building Products Initiative, under which the Product Innovation Grants are awarded, is due in part to the following funders: Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, Ben Franklin Technology Development Authority; The Heinz Endowments; and the Richard King Mellon Foundation.

For more information, visit the [Product Innovation Grants webpage](#).

Reilly Finishing Discontinues Use of Priority Chemicals in EPA Partnership

[Reilly Finishing Technologies](#), of Nanticoke, Pa., was recognized this week by U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Regional Administrator Donald S. Welsh for pledging to eliminate cadmium in their electrolysis nickel plating process.

The president of the company accepted the National Partnership for Environmental Priorities enrollment plaque at the June 18 National Small Business Environmental Assistance and Small Business Ombudsman Conference in Harrisburg, Pa.

The NPEP is a voluntary partnership program led by EPA to encourage public and private companies to reduce the use or release of 31 Priority Chemicals.

For more information, visit the [National Partnership for Environmental Priorities webpage](#).

Allegheny County, PRC Hold Hard to Recycle Event July 26

The [Allegheny County Health Department](#), [Appliance Warehouse](#), [e Loop LLC](#) and the [Pennsylvania Resources Council](#) are sponsoring a Hard to Recycle Collection event at the [Mall at Robinson](#) in Allegheny County on July 26 from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

The public is encouraged to bring appliances, electronic waste, televisions, tires without rims, ink and toner cartridges and cell phones. There are fees for recycling some items.

For more information, visit the [PRC Events webpage](#) or contact Sarah Alessio with questions or to volunteer at 412-431-4449 ext. 236 or send email to: saraha@ccicenter.org

West Branch Susquehanna River & Roadway Cleanup Event July 19

[Clinton County CleanScapes](#) issued a reminder this week volunteers are needed for the July 19 West Branch Susquehanna River and Roadway Cleanup starting at Farrandsville Road, Woodward Twp., Clinton County.

[Details are available online.](#)

Event registration and questions should be sent to CCC Project Director Elisabeth Lynch McCoy at 570-893-4123 or by email to: elynch@clintoncountypa.com.

Adopt-A-Highway Groups Remove Litter From 16,000 Miles of PA Roads

Since early this spring, volunteers from PennDOT's [Adopt-A-Highway Program](#) and other programs such as the [Great PA Cleanup](#), have removed litter from 15,978 miles of Pennsylvania roadways -- 6,000 miles more than for the same period last year, according to PennDOT Secretary Allen D. Biehler, P.E.

"I'm pleased that we have so many groups and individuals dedicated to removing litter in Pennsylvania," Secretary Biehler said. "My thanks to all those civic-minded individuals who volunteer their time and efforts to keep our roadsides clean."

In addition to its own Adopt-A-Highway Program, PennDOT supports other cleanup efforts, such as the Great PA Cleanup, the first-ever Route 6 Round-up, and the Philly Spring Cleanup, which Keep America Beautiful confirmed as the largest single-day, citywide clean-up on record in the United States.

The department provided gloves and vests for the April 5 Philly Spring Cleanup, where 3,600 volunteers cleaned more than 6,000 miles in the Philadelphia region.

PennDOT also supported the Route 6 Round-up, May 2 - 3, where nearly 250 volunteers cleaned a combined 103 miles along the highway, picking up nearly 400 bags of litter.

So far this year, more than 92,000 volunteers in nearly 4,000 groups from PennDOT's Adopt-A-Highway and other PennDOT sponsored events have collected more than 200,000 bags of trash.

Groups interested in adopting a section of highway are encouraged to contact their local PennDOT county maintenance office and ask for the Adopt-A-Highway coordinator, or visit the [Adopt-A-Highway Program webpage](#).

Link: [Keep Pennsylvania Beautiful Alliance](#)

DEP to Hold Training on Submitting Air Quality Requests for Determinations Online

The Department of Environmental Protection will hold two free workshops later this month on its Internet-based "[Request for Determination](#)" application system, or RFD*Online, for industrial representatives, consultants and other interested participants.

The workshops will be held on:

- July 29 - DEP Southwest Regional Office, Waterfront Conference Room, 400 Waterfront Drive, Pittsburgh from 11:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.; and
- July 30 - DEP Southeast Regional Office, Delaware and Schuylkill Conference Rooms, 2 East Main Street, Norristown. From 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

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The RFD*Online system allows the owners and operators of companies to apply for air quality plan approval and operating permit requests for determination via the Internet.

The Bureau of Air Quality receives approximately 1,000 RFD applications each year from the owners and operators of industrial sources to request a determination of whether their project is exempt from plan approval or operating permit requirements.

To facilitate and streamline the RFD application submittal process and provide faster communication between applicants and DEP staff, BAQ launched the RFD*Online system in May 2007.

Since May 2007, approximately 345 applications have been officially submitted online. The DEP has issued decisions on 320 RFD*Online applications.

The RFD*Online workshop will include presentations on entering data into the system, automatic data validation and error checking, document attachment and note capabilities, online help, user manual and the submission process.

For more information, contact Jeanette Van Skike, by sending email to: jvanskike@state.pa.us or call 717-787-4325.

Persons with a disability who require an auxiliary aid or service during the workshops should contact Ms. Van Skike at 717-787-4325, or through the Pennsylvania AT&T Relay Service at 800-654-5984 (TDD users).

Pennsylvania Horticultural Society Announces Tree Tender Workshops

The [Pennsylvania Horticultural Society](#) will lead hands-on [Tree Tender Workshops](#) this fall in Delaware, Chester and Philadelphia counties to help residents take an important step in impacting the environment in their communities.

The free, nine-hour training includes tree identification, proper planting and maintenance techniques and a lesson in community organizing. Registration is required. The training will be held:

- September 10, 17 & 24 in Delaware County -- 6-9 p.m. Wednesdays, Springfield Township Municipal Building, 50 Powell Rd., Springfield;
- September 25, October 2 & 7 in Chester County -- 6-9 p.m. Thurs., , Valley Forge Christian College 1401 Charlestown Rd., Phoenixville; and
- October 15, 22 & 29 in Philadelphia County -- 5:45-8:45 p.m. Wednesdays, , PHS, 100 North 20th St., 5th Fl., Philadelphia.

Since 1993, PHS' Tree Tenders program has trained more than 2,000 community volunteers from 150 neighborhoods in Southeast Pennsylvania.

Tree Tenders help to support the [TreeVitalize program](#) designed by Pennsylvania's Department of Conservation and Natural Resources, working to increase tree cover and the benefits trees offer.

Trees not only improve air quality, but studies show greening can serve as an economic stimulus tool and raise nearby property values by up to 30 percent. Properly placed trees help to moderate indoor/outdoor temperatures, and can reduce energy costs, noise pollution and crime rates among many other environmental, social and health benefits.

Although individuals are welcome in this free training program, groups of three or more neighbors who complete the training can become an active Tree Tender group and receive tools and special opportunities/resources for planting trees in public spaces.

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To register, call Dawn Waters, 215-988-8810 or register online on the [Tree Tender Workshops webpage](#).

For more information about the Tree Tenders program, contact Barbara Van Clief, 215-988-8793 or send email to: bvanclief@pennhort.org , or Mindy Maslin, 215-988-8844 or send email to: mmaslin@pennhort.org .

23rd Annual Middle Creek Wildlife Art Show Set For August 1-3

The Game Commission's [Middle Creek Wildlife Management Area](#) visitor center will feature hundreds of original paintings and fine-art prints from some of the best-known wildlife artists in the state during its annual Wildlife Art Show from August 1-3.

The show is free, and the hours are: Friday, 1-6 p.m.; Saturday, 9 a.m.-6 p.m.; and Sunday, 10 a.m.-5 p.m.

In addition to the artists' sales, the show will offer tickets for \$2 each or three for \$5 to win a selection of artwork in a drawing that will be held at 4 p.m. on August 3. Proceeds from the drawing will benefit The Wildlands Preservation Fund land acquisition program.

"Buying chances in the drawing provides you with a chance to win something really special for your home or business, and you don't have to be present to win," said Carl G. Roe, Game Commission executive director. "Just as important is that contribution you'll be making to help buy important wildlife habitat through the Wildlands Preservation Fund. It's a great opportunity for any wildlife enthusiast who appreciates art."

The Game Commission's Middle Creek Wildlife Management Area Visitor Center is along Hopeland Road, two miles south of Kleinfeltersville, Lebanon County.

The Middle Creek Wildlife Management Area is a special tract owned and set aside by the Game Commission for the protection, propagation, management, preservation and controlled harvest of wildlife. This area of more than 5,000 acres provides habitat for waterfowl, forest wildlife and farmland wildlife and includes a 400-acre shallow water lake and a 70-acre impoundment.

Visitors to the wildlife area can see a variety of wildlife, including bald eagles, and from late February to late March can be fortunate to witness and photograph the flocks of beautiful snow geese and tundra swans that stop in Pennsylvania during migration.

Contact the Middle Creek Visitor's Center at 717-733-1512 for more information.



Fifth Avenue Place Encourages Pittsburghers to Get Outdoors July 17-18

On July 17 and 18, Pittsburghers can learn how to enjoy Pittsburgh's great, big backyard during the Get Outdoors event in the lobby of [Fifth Avenue Place](#).

From 11 a.m. to 2 p.m., leading outdoor and environmental groups will be gathered in Fifth Avenue Place to showcase ways that Pittsburghers can play outdoors this summer. [Kayak Pittsburgh](#), the [Rachel Carson Homestead Association](#), [Venture Outdoors](#), [Walls Are Bad](#) and other organizations will be on hand to educate Pittsburghers about a variety of activities such as urban bike tours, riverfront walks, kayaking, community gardening and lunchtime fishing.

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The Get Outdoors event is part of Fifth Avenue Place's reTHINK/refocus /reSOLVE environmental leadership campaign to encourage individuals to rethink their practices, refocus on their environment and resolve to lessen their impact.

In April, Fifth Avenue Place hosted an Earth Day to Arbor Day event collecting more than 900 recyclable or reusable items. Fifth Avenue Place is also planning a health and beauty products event in September, as well as the second annual Environmental Leadership Days in December.

Fifth Avenue Place is committed to sustainable, eco-friendly and green principles, which include the use of compact fluorescent light bulbs; a recycling program for bottles, cans and paper; and the use of environmentally-friendly, Green Seal certified cleaning and paper products.

For more information, go to the [Fifth Avenue Place website](#).

Ashley Walter to Lead Invasive Species Efforts in Pennsylvania

Ashley Walter, a Purdue University graduate and national standout in invasive species management, has been named Pennsylvania's new invasive species coordinator, said Agriculture Secretary Dennis Wolff this week.

Walter will work closely with the [Pennsylvania Invasive Species Council](#) and local, state and federal agencies to develop and implement an effective land and water invasive species management program for the Commonwealth.

"Invasive species are a major threat to Pennsylvania's biodiversity and economy, and Ashley Walter is uniquely prepared to address invasive species issues across the commonwealth," said Secretary Wolff. "With her extensive experience battling invasive species through public outreach and field work, Ashley will be a strong leader in helping to control the movement of invasive species throughout the nation, protecting natural resources, public health and the economy."

Walter graduated from Purdue University with Bachelor and Master of Science degrees in entomology. While a student, Walter was an invited speaker at the U.S. Agriculture Department Interagency Research Forum on Invasive Species and Entomological Society of America meeting. Walter also participated in numerous public outreach events to provide hands-on experience with entomology to youth and promote awareness about invasive species like Emerald Ash Borer, an invasive beetle that destroys ash trees.

The Pennsylvania Invasive Species Council was formed in 2004 by Gov. Rendell to minimize the harmful ecological, economic and human health impacts of invasive species through the prevention and management of their introduction, expansion and dispersal into, within and from Pennsylvania.

Secretary Wolff chairs the Council, which includes leaders from the Departments of Conservation of Natural Resources, Environmental Protection and Transportation. Other members include the Fish and Boat and Game Commissions, the Department of Health, agriculture and natural resource organizations and educational institutions conducting invasive species research and outreach.

For more information, visit the [Pennsylvania Invasive Species Council webpage](#).

Help Wanted: LandStudies Seeking Environmental Scientist

[LandStudies Inc.](#) is seeking an entry level Environmental Scientist in its Lititz, Pa office to assist in multidisciplinary work focusing on stream and wetlands restoration, water quality improvement, environmental planning, municipal water resource management, environmental credits assessment, stormwater management, and landscape design and installation.

Field work may include environmental monitoring, surveying, environmental restoration construction, and landscape planting. Office work may include data management, data analysis, and report writing.

A Bachelor's degree is required in Biology, Environmental Science/Biology, Environmental or Urban Planning, Ecology, Natural Resources Management, or Environmental Engineering. Computer skills required include MS Word, Excel, and PowerPoint. CADD or GIS experience a plus. Ability to work on multiple projects and in multiple disciplines a requirement. Field work as well as office work is required.

Send applications to LandStudies, Inc., Attn: Tia Shaeffer, 315 North Street, Lititz, PA 17543 or by email to: tia@landstudies.com.

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**—[NFWF Delaware Estuary Watershed Grants Program](#)
- **August 1**—[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](#)
- **August 29**—**NEW.** [EPA Water Efficiency Leaders Awards](#)
- **First Come, First Served--** [DEP \\$500 Hybrid Electric Vehicle Rebate](#)
- **September 9**— [EPA Water Quality Trading Funding Proposals](#)
- **September 12**—**NEW.** [Green Building Alliance Product Innovation Grants](#)
- **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

[Interns Work at Todd Nature Reserve in Buffalo Twp.](#)
[Lyme Disease Again on the Rise in Area](#)
[Fox Chapel Residents to Vote on Proposal to Lower Deer Population](#)
[Op-Ed: Mid-Atlantic Natural Gas Offers Threat, Promise](#)
[Energy Companies Leasing Land for Natural Gas](#)
[Suits Against Gas Drilling Get Ally](#)
[Volunteers Sought for Bird Watching](#)
[Game Commission Targets Birding Enthusiasts](#)
[Canoe Creek State Park Is For The Bats](#)
[Elk Populations is Thriving in PA](#)
[For Appalachian Trail Hikers, Free 3-Day Buffet Is Trail Magic](#)
[Editorial: Pittsburgh's Urban Forest Deserves Best Care](#)
[PA Firefighters Tackle California Blaze](#)
[Philadelphia Region Braces for Energy Rate Hikes](#)
[LIHEAP Program Catching Flack for Unused Cash](#)
[Editorial: Government Action to Cut Gas Prices Are Limited](#)
[PA Passes Climate Change Bill - PEC](#)
[Editorial: Carbon Sequestration Challenges](#)
[Vitali, Erickson Push Through Climate Bill](#)
[Groups Unite to Fight Natural Gas Drilling](#)
[Can't Beat Corn Costs, Grow Your Own](#)
[Biofuels Sweet Smell of Success](#)
[Editorial: Rather Than Coal, Best Energy Bet is Solar](#)
[Op-Ed: Taxpayers Shouldn't Have to Back N-Power](#)
[PWIA Sponsors Green Energy Contest](#)
[Recycling in the City Just Got Easier](#)
[Philadelphia Recycling Is All Single Stream](#)
[Philadelphia Exploring New Trash Fee System](#)
[Solar-Powered Trash Units Get Trial Run in Philadelphia](#)
[Editorial: Pay As You Throw?](#)
[State College and Centre County Get Green Education Grants](#)
[Easton Revitalization Project Will Have Ecological Angle](#)
[Seeing Green in the Future](#)
[Easton Environmental Panel Gets Down to Work](#)
[Schuylkill Conservancy Safeguards Nature](#)
[Southwest Pollution Forecasts to be Split](#)

Watershed NewsClips

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

[Survival of Native Brook Trout](#)
[Volunteers Work to Save Waterfowl](#)
[Mine Reclamation Project Called a Success \(Online Video\)](#)
[Kidder EAC Discusses Stormwater Management, Education Publication](#)
[Water Cleanup Could Drain Budgets](#)
[Budget Contains Funding for Sewer Plant Upgrades](#)
[State Funding for Sewer Upgrade Great News](#)
[State Budget Breakdown on Chesapeake Bay, Farm Funding](#)
[Editorial: Do Elected Leaders Feel Sewer Cost Crisis?](#)
[Some Say Pittsburgh Water Authority Soaking the Ratepayer](#)
[Editorial: Consider Removing Dam](#)
[Allegheny River Islands Remain Protected](#)
[Wabash Creek Dredging Likely to Cost \\$168,000](#)
[Green Roof Project in State College Gets State's Support](#)
[Pymatuning State Park Carp Soon Going Low-Carb](#)

Regulations

The Public Utility Commission published a [tentative order](#) on the Alternative Energy Portfolio Standards Interconnection applications.

[Pennsylvania Bulletin – July 12, 2008](#)

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

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

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

Technical Guidance & Permits

No new policies were published this week.

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

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

Calendar of Upcoming Events

Upcoming conferences, meetings, workshops, plus links to other online calendars. Meetings are in Harrisburg unless otherwise noted. **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.](#)

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- **July 15**—House Agriculture and Rural Affairs Committee hearing on the Clean and Green Program. G-50 Irvis Building. 1:00.
- **July 15**—**CANCELLED**. [Environmental Quality Board](#) meeting. Next scheduled meeting is August 19.
- **July 16**—**NEW**. [Delaware River Basin Commission meeting](#). West Trenton, NJ.
- **July 17**—[DCNR Snowmobile and ATV Advisory Committee](#) meeting. Room 105 Rachel Carson Building. 9:00.
- **July 22**—[Governor’s Sustainable Water Infrastructure Task Force](#) meeting. Room 105 Rachel Carson Building. 9:30.
- **July 22**—House Tourism and Recreational Development Committee hearing on lifeguards at State Parks. Room 140. 1:00.
- **July 22**—DEP [Water Resource Advisory Committee](#) meeting. Room 105 Rachel Carson Building. 1:00.
- **July 24**—[DEP Mining and Reclamation Advisory Board](#) meeting. DEP Pottsville Office, 5 West Laurel Blvd., Pottsville. 1:00.
- **July 24**—**CANCELLED**. [DEP Air Quality Technical Advisory Committee](#) meeting. Next scheduled meeting is September 18.
- **August 7**—[Governor’s Sustainable Water Infrastructure Task Force](#) meeting. Room 105 Rachel Carson Building. 9:30.
- **August 7**—**NEW**. DEP Solar Work Group meeting. Second Floor Auditorium, Rachel Carson Building, Harrisburg. 10:00. Contact: Libby Dodson, 717-772-8907 or send email to: ldodson@state.pa.us.
- **September 3**—[Governor’s Sustainable Water Infrastructure Task Force](#) meeting. Room 105 Rachel Carson Building. 9:30.
- **September 4**—**NEW**. DEP Solar Work Group meeting. Second Floor Auditorium, Rachel Carson Building, Harrisburg. 10:00. Contact: Libby Dodson, 717-772-8907 or send email to: ldodson@state.pa.us.
- **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.

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