

—PA — Environment Digest

*An Update on
Environmental
Issues in
Pennsylvania*

Edited By David E. Hess, Crisci Associates

August 18, 2008

[PA Environment Digest Video Blog](#)

CBF: Demand for REAP Farm Conservation Tax Credits “Tremendous”



With the exhaustion of the \$10 million in REAP farm conservation tax credits within hours last week, the Chesapeake Bay Foundation this week called on Gov. Rendell and the General Assembly to increase the allocation for the program enabling more farmers to improve water quality statewide.

“This tremendous response demonstrates that farmers want to participate in REAP,” said Matthew Ehrhart, Executive Director of CBF’s Pennsylvania office. “They’re willing to do their part to better protect water quality, but can’t shoulder the burden alone.”

Agriculture contributes a significant amount of nitrogen and phosphorus pollution to the Susquehanna River, and ultimately to the Chesapeake Bay. With increasing pressure on Pennsylvania to meet water quality regulations, farmers need options to help them decrease pollution and soil erosion. REAP is designed to fulfill that need – but clearly additional funds are necessary in order to meet the demand.

“We’re delighted at the response,” said Mary Bender, REAP Director for the State Conservation Commission. “In the FY 07-08 application round, we received \$10 million in tax credit applications in the first week for this new program; this time it took only one day. REAP is obviously playing a part in farmers’ decisions to invest in conservation practices on their farms.”

Since the application opening began on August 4, the SCC has received 448 applications with requests for FY 08-09 REAP tax credits totaling over \$14 million. Due to the overwhelming response the SCC will stop accepting applications on August 15. As of that date, the application period will be closed.

“REAP is already making significant contributions to our statewide water quality improvement efforts and to local economies,” said Ehrhart. “Farmers are investing by matching the REAP tax credits nearly dollar for dollar. We hope the Governor and General Assembly will recognize the demand for and benefits of the program and increase the credit allotment next year.”

An increase in REAP Program funding is part of the [Fair Share for Clean Water Plan](#) promoted by a coalition of over 40 groups supporting creative implementation strategies for complying with Chesapeake Bay and other watershed-based clean water mandates.

A portion of the PA Fair Share Plan that provides [funding to upgrade](#) wastewater treatment plants was adopted as part of the budget in July, however, funding needed for

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farmers to meet the mandates and create tradable nutrient credits was not adopted. In fact, some Department of Agriculture programs were cut. Those elements include:

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

The House Agriculture and Rural Affairs Committee has [scheduled a hearing](#) on Fair Share agriculture conservation funding needs for August 20 at the Ag Progress Days farm show near State College.

The Senate Environmental Resources and Energy Committee [will hold a hearing](#) September 17 on nutrient credit trading legislation.

For more information, visit the [REAP Program webpage](#) or contact program administrator Mary Bender at 717-787-8821 or by sending email to: mabender@state.pa.us.

Link: [First Come, First Serve REAP Farm Conservation Tax Credit Applications](#)
[Fair Share Coalition Fight for Clean Water Funding](#)

Online Video Feature

Hands-On Environmental Education by Wildlands Conservancy

Kids of all ages can participate in environmental education programs in the Lehigh Valley sponsored by the [Wildlands Conservancy](#).

This story aired on the [WLVT Tempo Program](#) and profiles the environmental education, preservation, restoration and conservation activities of the Conservancy.

Video Blog: [Environmental Stewardship In The Lehigh Valley](#)



On the Hill

On the Senate/House Agenda/Session Schedule

The Senate and House committee meeting schedules and floor Calendars are listed here--

Session Schedule

The Senate took one day off of its already short Fall voting schedule—

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House

September 15, 16, 17, 22, 23, and 24

October 6, 7, and 8

November 12, 13, 17, 18, 19, 24, and 25

Senate

September 16, 17, (18 – CANCELLED), 22, 23, 24

October 1, 2, 6, 7

The Senate will not be in session after the November election.

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

Calendars/Committees

The Senate and House committee meeting schedules 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 farm conservation Fair Share funding.

Hunters, Game Commission Support Increasing Hunting License Fees

On August 12, the Senate Game and Fisheries Committee heard testimony from the hunting community and the Game Commission in Erie on [Senate Bill 1527](#) (McIlhinney-R-Bucks) that would increase fees on hunting licenses issued by the Game Commission.

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"It has been almost 10 years since the Commission received its last license increase and our record over this time demonstrates the extent to which the Commission has worked tirelessly to fulfill our mission of managing wildlife and providing opportunities for hunting and trapping," said Game Commission Executive Director Carl Roe.

"Senate Bill 1527 is vital to ensure that we can continue to provide the services for our hunters and trappers and the general public. I believe that the Game Commission and sportsmen of this state have come too far over the past 110 years to compromise our outstanding wildlife conservation programs over the need for revenue enhancement."

Roe went on to list the accomplishments of his agency since the last license increase and outlined the fiscal problems that have limited the effectiveness of the Commission's conservation efforts. ([*The full text of his testimony is available online.*](#))

Rocco Ali, President of the PA Federation of Sportsmens Clubs, told the Committee his group supports the fee increase.

"I don't think anyone can question the fact that operating expenses have greatly increased over the past ten years, and the Game Commission's funding levels have not, thus putting the agency in dire need of additional revenues simply to maintain existing programs, let alone to reinstate programs cut recently or expand and implement new programs," said Ali.

"The Game Commission has had to cut back on purchasing much-needed equipment, reduce program and project budgets, been forced to allow vacant positions to go unfilled and, in some cases, eliminated services altogether," explained Ali. "Simple conveniences, such as toll-free numbers for those seeking to contact regional offices and free subscriptions to Game News magazine to landowners enrolled in public access programs and to schools and libraries have been suspended.

"The financial stability of our resource agencies is an issue that should concern all of us, and all of you. If you enjoy hunting; if you simply enjoy being outdoors; or you enjoy acres of open space – open to the public – then you should be extremely concerned about the lost opportunities that will occur should we fail to provide adequate funding to the guardian of our wildlife resources in the Commonwealth... especially when many of us are ready and willing to provide that additional financing, if the legislature would just do their job and provide us the mechanism to do so," said Ali. ([*The full text of his testimony is available online.*](#))

The Committee expects to schedule a second hearing on the legislation in the Southeast in the near future.

Sen. Charles McIlhinney serves as Majority Chair of the Committee and Sen. Wayne Fontana (D-Allegheny) serves as Minority Chair.

NewsClip: [Game Commission Supports Increase in Hunting License Fees](#)

Link: [Groups Support Broadening Funding Base for Game, Fish & Boat Commissions](#)
[Game Commission Urges Support for License Fee Increase](#)

House Committee Hearing on Agriculture Conservation Funding Needs August 20

The House Agriculture and Rural Affairs Committee will hold a hearing on August 20 on Fair Share agriculture conservation funding at the [Ag Progress Days](#) farm show in Rock Springs near State College.

Scheduled to provide testimony are:

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- Dr. Robert Steele, Dean, Penn State College of Agricultural Sciences;
- Secretary Dennis Wolff, Department of Agriculture;
- Joel Rotz, PA Farm Bureau;
- Matthew Ehrhart, Chesapeake Bay Foundation;
- Brenda Shambaugh, PA Association of Conservation Districts;
- Grant Gulibon, PA Builders Association; and
- John Brosious, PA Municipal Authorities Association

A portion of the PA Fair Share Plan that provides [funding to upgrade](#) wastewater treatment plants was adopted as part of the budget in July, however, funding needed for farmers to meet the mandates and create tradable nutrient credits was not adopted. In fact, some Department of Agriculture programs were cut. Those elements include:

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The Senate Environmental Resources and Energy Committee [will hold a hearing](#) September 17 on nutrient credit trading legislation.

Rep. Mike Hanna (D-Clinton) serves as Majority Chair and Rep. Art Hershey (R-Chester) serves as Minority Chair.

NewsClip: [DEP Clean Energy Display Featured At Ag Progress Days](#)

Nutrient Credit Trading Subject of Upcoming Senate Committee Hearing

The [Senate Environmental Resources and Energy Committee](#) will hold a hearing on September 17 on the issue of nutrient credit trading that will help reduce the cost of complying with clean water mandates.

The Committee is asking for comments on [Senate Bill 1493](#) (Vance-R-Cumberland) which would create a Nutrient Credit Trading Bank and provides enhancements to the state’s Nutrient Credit Trading program. (A companion bill was also introduced in [House Bill 2654](#) (Hanna-D-Clinton).)

The Nutrient Credit Trading Bank is part of the [Fair Share for Clean Water Plan](#) promoted by a coalition of over 40 groups supporting creative implementation strategies for complying with Chesapeake Bay and other watershed-based clean water cleanup mandates.

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The House Agriculture and Rural Affairs Committee has [scheduled a hearing](#) on agriculture conservation funding needs for August 20 at the Ag Progress Days farm show near State College.

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

Senate Committee Sets Briefing on DCNR Carbon Sequestration Plan September 24

The [Senate Environmental Resources and Energy Committee](#) will hold an informational briefing on the issue of carbon management and sequestration on September 24.

The hearing will feature comments by Department of Conservation and Natural Resources Secretary Michael DiBerardinis on his agency’s [carbon sequestration management plan](#).

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

Links: [PA Environmental Council Climate Change Roadmap](#)

Other News

Ohio River Watershed Celebration On September 25 Doubles The Fun Of Last Year!

The Committee planning the September 25 [Ohio River Watershed Celebration](#) wants to double your fun and the value of its annual cruise around Pittsburgh by offering not just one, but two boats this year.

Video Blog: [2007 Ohio River Celebration](#)

The “Networker Cruise” will be on the Majestic paddle wheel boat and the “Imagination Cruise” is on the Empress provided by Gateway Clippers.

“The Networker Cruise” is for adults 18 and older who are interested in networking with other professionals including Watershed Groups, Government Agency Personnel, Business and Industry Leaders, Educators, and Interested Citizens.

This cruise will depart Station Square at 1:00 PM on the Gateway Clipper Fleet’s Majestic sailing down the Ohio River through the Emsworth Lock and Dam and back to the Point during the three-hour cruise.

The theme for this year’s event is “Innovative Energy for a Green World.”



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Innovative energy topics will be presented throughout the cruise. Many points of interest, current and historical, will be highlighted with a very informative narration provided by Celebration Committee members.

The history of Neville Island, water wells, and river ecology are a few of the topics that will be addressed. Over 50 watershed related displays will on the Majestic providing you the opportunity to meet and discuss with organization representatives. The ORWC schedule offers opportunities for every one to learn about and celebrate the recovery of our rivers and watersheds in a very relaxing and fun event!

“The Imagination Cruise” is specifically designed for children grades K-12, parents and teachers. Allow your imagination to set sail during this fascinating and fun voyage upon the Ohio River.

Sixteen regional organizations dedicated to providing quality outdoor experiences will facilitate over 25 interactive activity stations aboard the Gateway Clipper’s “Empress” boat. These stations, organized into four thematic “areas”, will reveal the history, diversity and conservation of the Ohio River Watershed.

Investigate water quality by sampling Ohio River water, go birding from the “top deck”, interact with people portraying populations living in the region 250 years ago, touch critters that call the watershed home and create memories designed to connect you to our watershed.

This cruise is a hands-on exploration of the Ohio River Watershed for school age students, their parents and teachers. Students will receive a certificate of participation upon completing a percentage of available activities along with a wealth of free materials, information and fuel for their imagination.

We look forward to seeing you again this year but please remember Each Individual Attending the Cruise Must Register Separately and there must be a minimum of one adult chaperone for every four students you register.

Under the Education section select event registration and choose a cruise in the drop down menu. All required fields must be completed in order for the registration to be approved. You will receive an email approval of your registration. Additional information and a cruise schedule will be included in the email.

[Online registration is available](#) or for questions, please call 724-776-0150

RiverQuest Delivers Eco-Friendly Flagship to Pittsburgh – Video Blog

[RiverQuest's](#) new hybrid education vessel Explorer arrived in Pittsburgh this week, a first-of-its-kind model for river environmental education and green marine technologies.

"She operates like a dream," said RiverQuest's head captain, Kimberly Porr, one of the few commercially licensed female river captains on the 1,000+ miles of navigable waterways in the Ohio River Watershed. "It has been a long journey, but she sure is an efficient boat."

Video Blog: [RiverQuest Adds Explorer to Fleet](#)

Explorer, a newly-constructed 90-foot, 150-passenger hybrid boat left Bayou La Batre, Alabama on August 3 and arrived into the Pittsburgh Pool of the Ohio River after a 1,600 mile journey through nine states.



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Explorer is a state-of-the-art education and research vessel designed to serve students and the public in the Pittsburgh region and beyond with transformative onboard programs.

RiverQuest docked Explorer at their homeport next to Carnegie Science Center by early afternoon. Ann Metzger, Interim Co-Director of the Science Center, joined in the welcome.

"We all have been eagerly awaiting the arrival of Explorer and her important contributions to environmental education in the region," said Metzger. "RiverQuest has been a good neighbor and is a great partner to Carnegie Science Center in delivering education programming to Pittsburgh youth and families."

The ship's arrival marks the beginning of a month of intensive preparation for RiverQuest crew and staff to be ready to take their first passengers on board in the coming months, after official inspections are completed.

RiverQuest hopes to be able to deliver its first school program on board Explorer on September 19 with Shadyside Academy middle school students on board. Local U.S. Coast Guard certification approval is first required and cannot be rushed, as safety and proper crew training are of the utmost importance.

RiverQuest's staff, Board of Directors, staff family members and special friends welcomed Explorer and her crew of seven from the decks of RiverQuest's retired U.S. Navy vessel Discovery and a small fleet of private boats as they emerged from the Emsworth Lock into the Pittsburgh Pool.

Concluding the voyage at Emsworth Lock and Dam was a tribute and a fitting end to a trip that included passing through 49 locks that are built, maintained and operated by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to lift the boat and crew, through a series of steps, to the river level of 710 feet above sea level in downtown Pittsburgh - not an easy thing to do with a boat that weighs over 80 tons.

"It is one of the proudest moments of my career," said Karl Thomas, RiverQuest Executive Director. "This has been a very challenging and rewarding project, but I know my family is happy have me home after I have been living on Explorer for the past ten days. 1,600 miles at 8 mph is a wonderful way to see America's inland waterways."

RiverQuest is proud to deliver Explorer to the Pittsburgh, a city known internationally for its own environmental transformation, for her special mission. Explorer was designed and built by RiverQuest to serve the Pittsburgh community for decades to come.

The project was and funded, sponsored and financed by local partners, most notably The Heinz Endowments, the Department of Conservation and Natural Resources and a large number of local foundations, corporations, other government agencies and individuals.

For more details about Explorer and RiverQuest, including a list of all development partners, technologies and boat facts, visit the [RiverQuest website](#).

NewsClips: [RiverQuest's Environment Friendly Floating Classroom Arrives](#)
[RiverQuest's Newest Ship Arrives In Port](#)

Wildlands Conservancy Seeks 2008 Ark Award Nominations

The [Wildlands Conservancy](#) is looking to recognize one of the Lehigh Valley's pre-eminent businesses that combines exceptional business practices with resourceful

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approaches, resulting in significant protection of the environment with this year's Ark Award.

Nominations are due September 12.

The Ark Award derives its name from the watercraft – the ark – that first carried coal to market on the Lehigh River in 1820. Arks floated down the river on the surge of water created by an innovative “bear-trap” locking system that significantly contributed to the start of the Lehigh Valley's own Industrial Revolution 190 years ago.

This accolade is sponsored by Air Products and will be awarded at the annual Greater Lehigh Valley Chamber of Commerce membership luncheon on November 4.

Nominations may be submitted by a one-page summary of the nominee's accomplishments and justification for receiving the award. Contact information of the nominee and the group or individual making the nomination should be included.

Send nominations to Ark Award Nomination Committee, c/o Wildlands Conservancy, 3701 Orchid Place, Emmaus, PA 18049.

Six Watershed Projects Receive Grants From PA American Water

Pennsylvania American Water this week announced six watershed initiatives across the state will receive funding through the company's [2008 Environmental Grant Program](#).

The 2008 grantees are:

- **River Alert and Information Network (RAIN)** - The organization is a collaboration of 33 southwestern Pennsylvania water systems that, along with its partners, has developed an education program aimed at young people about the importance of watershed protection. The initiative includes the production of video, displays and other communications media that promote source water protection to encourage school-age children to take greater interest in where their families get drinking water. In addition, boat excursions for teachers and students are planned along the Monongahela River to learn about source water protection. The project is part of RAIN's long-range plan to establish an early warning and detection network along the Allegheny, Monongahela and Youghiogheny rivers.
- **Abrahams Creek Watershed Association** - In collaboration with West Wyoming and Wyoming boroughs, the association is preparing to introduce best management practices for residents within the watershed. To overcome poor watershed management practices that have existed for years, the project is aimed at changing attitudes and actions through educational initiatives. This outreach includes workshops and demonstrations for residents and local officials on a range of topics, including storm water management, streamside buffer restoration and invasive plant removal. In addition the grant will enable ACWA to undertake streamside buffer restoration by removing invasive plants and allow native vegetation to return.
- **[Brandywine Valley Association](#)** - The organization has created a unique program called "Red Streams Blue" to improve the quality of impaired streams in the Brandywine Valley and to protect other waterways from pollution. The grant will help BVA develop a restoration plan for Little Buck Run to correct impairments to the watershed, plus ongoing water quality monitoring will be conducted to document changing patterns. All data collected will be used to promote awareness among residents, township officials, developers and policy makers about the actions and tools

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needed to improve the watershed. In addition, the group will develop a model to be used in other watersheds where impaired streams exist.

- **Lawrence County Board of Commissioners** - As part of its Greenways Plan, the county is creating a water trail along the Beaver River in the Beaver Watershed. The grant will make it possible for the county to clean up two watershed sites - Hickory Run and Bevington Boat Launch, which are instrumental to the establishment of the water trail. Grant funds will be used to provide tools and supplies needed for the clean-up, as well as for the disposal of debris and tires collected.
- **Moshannon Creek Watershed Coalition** - The organization plans to develop a conceptual design report for a treatment system to address acid mine drainage in the headwaters of the Moshannon Creek. The grant will be used to prepare an abatement study to quantify and document the environmental pollution from the MC FORE acid mine discharge, which has been caused by extensive coal and clay mining from years past. This study will help the organization obtain state and federal funding to permit and construct the treatment solution for the acid mine discharge. Furthermore, the project represents a new initiative to begin water quality restoration and protection activities for Moshannon Creek.
- **South Park Township** - The municipality plans to expand its stream clean-up program that began four years ago. The grant will provide the tools needed for this year's clean-up and provide for the disposal of the trash and tires collected along Piney Fork Creek and Peters Creek. The stream clean-up brings a number of organizations together to participate, including Girls Scouts, Tri-Community Anglers, Montour Trail Group and South Park High School's Environmental Club. In addition to improving the watershed, the initiative helps provide natural recreational facilities for local residents.

The recipients will receive a share of grant funds totaling approximately \$26,000, which the company has earmarked for community projects that improve, restore or protect watersheds.

"Again this year, we've been impressed with the quality of the environmental initiatives that local organizations have developed and proposed," said Kathy Pape, president, Pennsylvania American Water. "The Environmental Grant Program enables us to help support communities that are taking the lead with innovative watershed projects, which will enhance the sustainability of our precious water resources."

A panel of judges selected the winners from nearly 30 grant applications, which were evaluated on such criteria as environmental need, innovation, community engagement and sustainability.

For more information, visit the Pennsylvania American Water [2008 Environmental Grant Program webpage](#)..

NewsClip: [Water Utility Program Boosts Brandywine Valley Assn.](#)

DEP Outlines Use of Federal Funds to Reclaim Land at Reclamation Conference

A top Department of Environmental Protection official this week outlined the details of a plan for Pennsylvania to fully capitalize on an opportunity to reclaim abandoned mines and improve water quality through the Federal Abandoned Mines Reclamation Fund at the [10th annual Pennsylvania Abandoned Mine Reclamation Conference](#).



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Speaking before more than 200 representatives of the mining industry, environmental groups and the federal government DEP Deputy Secretary for Mineral Resources Management J. Scott Roberts laid out the [details of a position paper](#) issued last month that said the state plans to support the construction and long-term operation and maintenance of abandoned mine drainage treatment facilities.

The Commonwealth expects to receive \$1.4 billion over the next 15 years as part of the federal Abandoned Mine Lands fund, which was [reauthorized in 2006](#). As part of the reauthorization, Congress allowed states to use up to 30 percent of its annual AML appropriation to treat abandoned mine drainage.

"The unregulated mining practices of the past have left us with thousands of acres of abandoned mine lands that endanger our residents and pollute three of the largest river basins in the United States," said Roberts. "We cannot, however, allow these legacy issues and consequences of that past to impede the growth and detract from the quality of life in our former mining communities.

"Over the next 15 years, we expect to reshape more than just our landscape. We plan to restore many of Pennsylvania's impaired waterways so that nearby residents and visitors can enjoy them and we're going to turn these scarred lands into opportunities for economic development."

Roberts said \$2 million was set aside in an account last year to address mine drainage issues throughout the state and DEP plans to contribute another \$2 million this year.

"We have been given an historic opportunity to develop long-term plans to prioritize and reclaim the most dangerous abandoned sites and treat acid mine discharges that pollute and degrade more than 4,600 miles of rivers and streams in Pennsylvania," said Roberts.

Pennsylvania has the nation's largest abandoned mine problem with approximately 180,000 acres of unmarked mine openings, unstable cliffs, water-filled pits and abandoned equipment and buildings left over from when mining was largely unregulated prior to 1977.

The Abandoned Mine Lands fund was created by Congress in 1977 and is funded by a fee on the amount of coal produced by the mining industry.

Abandoned mines have created thousands of acidic discharges and seeps that are formed from a chemical reaction between air, water and coal.

More than 250 passive treatment systems have been constructed with public funds to treat an estimated 36 billion gallons of acid mine drainage each year. Ongoing operation, maintenance and replacement costs vary depending on the volume of water and the severity of the chemical composition of each discharge.

Also speaking at the conference was Steve L. Smith, head of land reclamation for the Welsh government in the United Kingdom. Smith presented "The Industrial Legacy of Wales -- From Blight to Asset," which outlined how public sector investment exceeding \$900 million has helped to reclaim and restore approximately 27,000 acres of despoiled and hazardous land at more than 1,000 sites in Wales.

During his remarks, Smith said the challenges faced in Wales mirrored those in Pennsylvania and that the two governments could mutually benefit from their experiences.

"We have lengthy experience reclaiming our former mine lands in Wales and we are pleased to support Pennsylvania with the benefits of what we've learned over the past 40 years," said Smith. "Similarly, I am meeting people here with a broad range of expertise

and experience and I hope to apply what we learn here to the abandoned mine challenges we still face in Wales. I am impressed with Pennsylvania's commitment to working with your stakeholders to reclaim your former mine lands."

The 10th Annual Abandoned Mine Reclamation Conference draws state and federal regulators, entrepreneurs and environmental organizations from Pennsylvania and neighboring states.

For more information, visit the [AML Roundtable webpage](#).

Susquehanna Basin Commission To Require Prior Approval Of Drilling Plans

The [Susquehanna River Basin Commission](#) this week notified natural gas operators that as of October 15 any amount of water withdrawn or consumptively used to develop wells in the Marcellus, Utica or other shale formations in the Susquehanna watershed will require prior approval from SRBC.

SRBC expects to [release the proposed rulemaking](#) for public comment at its quarterly public meeting, which will be held on September 11 at Bucknell University, Elaine Langone Center, at 1:00 p.m.

SRBC regulations – 18 CFR, Section 806.5 – allow its executive director to make a determination when water-use activities, regardless of the amount of water, have the potential to affect the water resources of the Susquehanna basin.

"While this regulatory provision is certainly not new, it is the first time in the Commission's 37-year history we are imposing it on a class of projects," said SRBC Executive Director Paul Swartz. "After careful consultation with the commissioners and my technical and legal staff, I decided it would be prudent to impose the more stringent provision on the natural gas industry to give us the ability to review and regulate the industry's individual and cumulative impacts on water resources."

In taking this action, Swartz determined the natural gas industry's water-use activities could have an adverse, cumulative adverse or interstate effect on the water resources of the Susquehanna River Basin. The factors SRBC considered, as required by the regulations, included:

- quantity and rate of water usage;
- location of water (ground and surface sources) for withdrawals and consumptive uses;
- the potential to alter the physical, biological, chemical or hydrological characteristics of the basin's water resources; and
- the potential to affect interstate water quality.

Swartz said, "We do recognize the significance of this week's actions not only on the natural gas industry, but on the Commission itself in terms of the additional numbers of projects it will have to review. For this reason, we intend to propose new rulemaking that will help us meet the purposes of the determination without impacting the legitimate development of the basin's water resources for economic development. Our intent is not to impede the proper development of the natural gas reserve in the Susquehanna basin, but rather to balance economic needs with sustainability of water resources for all uses."

SRBC will consider proposed rulemaking at its next business meeting that would provide a more streamlined administrative procedure for reviewing consumptive water uses by the natural gas industry.

This rulemaking would expand SRBC's approval by rule procedures adopted in December 2006. The expansion would allow gas companies to use that process to seek

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consumptive use approval, regardless of the water source. SRBC's current approval by rule process is available for use only if the source of water is a public water supply system.

Under the contemplated rule change, the approval by rule process would allow the use of wastewater and other sources. The proposal would not change the current process used to review groundwater or surface water withdrawals.

Swartz said, "In the Susquehanna basin, the natural gas companies are largely in the exploratory phase. Once the development phase kicks in, the impacts on the workload of the Commission as a regulatory review agency could be enormous. It is absolutely critical we put into motion now the provisions needed to level the regulatory playing field and to ensure we have the administrative procedures in place to adequately protect the basin's precious water resources for all current and future needs."

For more information, visit the [SRBC Marcellus Shale Drilling webpage](#).

DEP Awards \$478,000 In Environmental Education Grants

The Department of Environmental Protection this week announced the award of 78 environmental education grants totaling \$478,000 paid for with fines and penalties collected by the agency under the 1993 [Environmental Education Act](#).

"More and more, people are coming to understand that our actions have consequences for the natural world around us and they're wondering how they can reduce their impact on the planet," said Gov. Rendell. "Many of these grants will be used to give young students hands on lessons and conduct workshops for teachers on such critical issues as renewable energy, climate change, water conservation, air quality and acid mine drainage. Helping students and the public understand issues like these is the first step in finding solutions to our most pressing environmental challenges."

Seventy-eight schools, universities, county conservation districts and non-profit groups will use the grants to improve environmental awareness and promote stewardship across the commonwealth. The grants range from \$1,214 to \$19,901.

This year, the largest grant was awarded to the Allegheny County Conservation District to conduct 40 watershed awareness programs consisting of two-sessions that will reach more than 1,000 students during the 2008-09 school year.

Many of the grants also will help schools implement the Pennsylvania Academic [Standards for Environment and Ecology](#), which requires educators to provide students with instruction related to the state's environmental laws and regulations.

Including the grants announced this week, DEP has awarded more than \$6 million in support of environmental education since 1995.

Video Blog: [Kathleen Paul Talks About the PA Center for Environmental Education](#)

Links: [Office of Environment and Ecology Programs & Services](#)
[PA Center for Environmental Education](#)

The grants awarded this week include—

Adams County

- Gettysburg College -- \$14,987 to conduct workshops for 150 teachers to improve their understanding of environmental science concepts and their ability to incorporate the Pennsylvania Environment and Ecology Standards into the classroom.

Allegheny County

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- Pittsburgh Regional Center for Science Teachers -- \$7,500 for staff to expand the center's Environment and Health initiative, present professional development workshops through out the state, and enhance its Web site.
- Gateway School District -- \$3,000 to enhance the district's Greening Gateway outdoor classroom, develop a bird box trail, and comprehensive field guide.
- Pennsylvania Resources Council Inc. -- \$14,355 to conduct "Climate Change Challenge" teacher workshops and raise awareness about consumer options and everyday actions that contribute to climate change.
- Allegheny County Conservation District -- \$19,901 to conduct 40 two-session watershed awareness programs reaching more than 1,000 students in Allegheny County during the 2008-09 school year.

Bedford County

- Bedford Area School District -- \$3,000 for elementary staff and students to start a school-wide recycling program.

Blair County

- Professional Recyclers of Pennsylvania -- \$3,000 to conduct workshops for teachers on composting and recycling.

Bradford County

- Wyalusing Area School District -- \$3,000 for equipment for 7th and 9th grade students to conduct field water testing and studies.

Bucks County

- Bucks County Conservation District -- \$3,000 to conduct workshops for teachers on soils, best management practices and invasive species.
- Bucks County Renewables -- \$7,683 to conduct a week-long workshop for teachers on rebuilding an internal combustion engine vehicle into a battery electric vehicle.
- United Friends School -- \$3,000 to help students collect digital data on the health of a local stream, present the information to borough council, and develop a proposal to improve the quality of the stream.
- Bucks County Community College -- \$3,000 to conduct a series of workshops for teachers on Biophilia.

Butler County

- Butler Area School District -- \$7,285 for improvements to an outdoor learning area. Work will include restoring a riparian buffer along the Connoquenessing Creek, mapping it with GPS units, and developing new lessons.
- Slippery Rock University of Pennsylvania -- \$15,000 for the development of an online "Outdoor Learning Site" Resource Guide.

Centre County

- State College Area School District --\$15,000 to review and revise the curriculum and integrate it into the district's Schoolyard Program. The revisions will help teachers and students better utilize the outdoor classroom areas. The district also received a \$3,000 grant to implement a school composting and garden initiative
- Pennsylvania State University -- \$7,480 to support the Countywide Teacher In-Service Program: Using E&E Standards and Curriculum to Unite Children, Place and the Environment

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Chester County

- Stroud Water Research Center Inc. -- \$12,856 to conduct a five-day summer teacher workshop focusing on the following Environment and Ecology Standards: Agriculture and Society, Integrated Pest Management and Humans and the Environment.
- Bethany Christian School -- \$7,500 to create an outdoor environmental education area on the school's property. The area will include a wetland model, native plants, composting facilities and weather, soil and water testing equipment.
- Renaissance Academy-Edison Charter School -- \$3,000 to purchase materials and equipment for high school students to study wetlands.

Clearfield County

- Clearfield County Conservation District -- \$10,000 to develop a series of public education sessions about the area's abandoned mine drainage problems, remediation activities and economic benefits of remediation in the West Branch Susquehanna River watershed.

Columbia County

- Columbia County Conservation District -- \$10,000 to support environmental education programs for teachers and students in 6th through 8th grades, as well as local government officials.

Crawford County

- Conneaut School District -- \$2,994 to cover the costs for field trips to local waterways for water quality testing. The grant will also be used to purchase materials for lessons on sustainable energy.

Dauphin County

- St. Stephen's Episcopal School -- \$1,214 for 3rd and 4th grade students to attend watershed and air quality programs at Pine Grove Furnace State Park. The school also received a \$1,694 grant for 5th and 6th grade students to attend programming about watersheds and the night sky at Pine Grove Furnace State Park.
- Millersburg Area School District -- \$2,300 for several water-related field trips for science students. In addition, the grant will fund several visits by Gettysburg College's "Advancing Science" van.
- Lower Dauphin School District -- \$3,000 to purchase probeware for a water analysis station as part of existing field study. The district also received a \$3,000 grant to purchase kits for freshmen to test radon levels in their homes.
- Audubon Pennsylvania -- \$7,500 to conduct workshops for teachers on using birds to teach science standards. The grant also will fund live-bird visits to classrooms.

Delaware County

- Delaware County Conservation District -- \$10,000 to conduct workshops for homeowners on the benefits of using rain gardens and rain barrels to manage stormwater.
- Garnet Valley School District -- \$7,500 to complete the Bethel Springs Community Nature Trail. The trail will include activity stations, education information areas, trail markers and a stream-side deck for water studies.

Elk County

- Saint Marys Area School District -- \$3,000 for laboratory metering equipment and solar panels for the district's outdoor classroom. The panels will power a golf cart, power tools and area lighting.

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Erie County

- Eric City School District -- \$3,000 to continue an energy audit of the district's Collegiate school building. The grant also will fund field trips to a landfill, Presque Isle State Park, a water treatment plant and St. Vincent College.
- Gannon University -- \$13,066 to conduct a "Fuel for Schools" workshop for 15 to 20 high school science teachers focusing on the environmental benefits and production of biodiesel fuel.

Fayette County

- Fayette County Conservation District -- \$1,950 to implement a program called "Project Weed Whack," a hands-on field identification and control training series designed to educate the community about the negative impacts of invasive plants.
- Albert Gallatin Area School District -- \$7,500 to develop an outdoor learning area that includes a pavilion for seating, compost area, gardens and various habitats.

Greene County

- Carmichaels Area School District -- \$3,000 to purchase equipment for students to conduct local stream-quality monitoring and sampling at two watershed sites. The district also received a \$1,990 grant to purchase equipment to implement the "Trout in the Classroom" program.

Jefferson County

- Jefferson County Conservation District -- \$3,000 to purchase testing equipment to be used at the annual Watershed Education Days event at Cloe Lake, which draws 1,100 students and 30 teachers.

Lackawanna County

- Lackawanna Conservation District -- \$3,000 for high school students to visit several local acid mine discharge sites and learn about methods for treating acid mine drainage and reducing nonpoint source pollution.
- Marywood University -- \$9,800 to conduct a five-day watershed workshop for educators about watersheds. The training will include field studies.

Lancaster County

- Penn Manor School District -- \$3,000 to pay transportation and entrance costs for water-related field trips for 60 11th and 12th graders.
- Lancaster School District -- \$11,270 to create outdoor classroom and environmental lesson plans. The district also received a \$2,315 grant to fund field trips and equipment for hands-on watershed education lessons.

Lawrence County

- Lawrence County Conservation District -- \$3,000 to buy materials to mark storm drains and distribute educational materials to residents.

Lebanon County

- Lebanon County Conservation District -- \$11,600 to conduct a symposium and demonstration on the benefits of green roof systems and to develop an action plan to establish a local green roof industry in the county. The district also received \$11,000 to conduct workshops on the benefits of using rain barrels to conserve water and reduce nonpoint source pollution.

Lehigh County

- The Swain School -- \$3,000 to purchase resources and equipment for hands-on learning about biotechnology and engineering.

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- Wildlife Information Center Inc. -- \$7,500 to conduct five workshops for teachers about sustainable energy, watersheds, air quality and the Pennsylvania Academic Standards For Environment and Ecology.

Luzerne County

- Luzerne Conservation District -- \$9,960 for a series of workshops for contractors, municipal officials, home and land owners and educators about non-point source pollution prevention and stormwater management.
- Hazleton Area School District -- \$3,000 to purchase 12 GPS units for middle school students to map locations of acid mine drainage discharge tunnels and illegal dump sites.

Lycoming County

- Lycoming College -- \$11,967 to conduct two summer workshops for teachers about acid mine drainage, nonpoint source pollution, riparian buffers stormwater management, and water conservation.

Mercer County

- Jamestown Area School District -- \$15,000 to revise and write new science lesson plans and units for student in kindergarten through 12th grades.
- McKeever Environmental Learning Center -- \$6,000 to conduct workshops for teachers on how to incorporate sustainability into their curriculum.
- Mercer County Conservation District -- \$9,975 to develop a workshop for teachers at Munnell Run Farm. The workshops will focus on sustainable energy sources and programming for the farm and to offset schools' costs of attending field trips.

Montgomery County

- Institute of Earth Science Research and Education -- \$14,400 to develop workshops for teachers about solar energy.
- Pennsylvania Virtual Charter School -- \$2,000 to create new lessons and a lab to enhance an interactive high school virtual environmental science course.
- St. Mary's School -- \$3,000 to develop lesson plans and create an outdoor classroom.
- Riverbend Environmental Education Center -- \$3,000 to conduct workshops for 3rd and 4th grade teachers about the Academic Standards for Environment and Ecology.
- The Hill School -- \$1,948 develop a school garden and send three teachers to training.
- Spring-Ford Area School District -- \$7,500 to convert a six-acre wetland into an outdoor learning area at the Evans Elementary School. Teachers will be trained on the Wonders of Wetlands curriculum.

Philadelphia County

- Father Judge High School -- \$2,993 to upgrade the school's laboratory.
- Green Woods Charter School -- \$3,000 to purchase books and videos, and to conduct field trips to learn about agriculture issues and the Amish community. The school also received \$1,500 to purchase equipment to conduct habitat studies on school property.
- The Schuylkill Center for Environmental Education -- \$12,029 to conduct three workshops for educators about sustainable energy, solar energy, green roofs, green building design and biodiesel fuels.

Schuylkill County

- St. Ambrose School -- \$1,500 to conduct field trips for 3rd through 8th grade students to learn about watershed issues.

Snyder County

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- Snyder County Conservation District -- \$10,000 to develop workshops, displays and exhibits that address a broad range of conservation and environmental issues.

Somerset County

- Somerset County Conservation District -- \$10,000 to hire a full-time environmental educator and purchase materials and supplies to develop water resource education programs. The district also received \$9,000 to conduct “Outdoor Heritage 2009,” a multi-disciplinary environmental education event for students in kindergarten through 12th grade.

Susquehanna County

- Montrose Area School District -- \$1,111 for equipment for students to conduct water sampling and testing.
- Susquehanna County Conservation District -- \$3,000 for students to conduct water sampling and testing, focusing on energy use, resources, and the environmental and economic impact of each energy source.

Tioga County

- Mansfield University of Pennsylvania -- \$3,000 to work with the Tioga County Concerned Citizens Committee and high school teachers to design and implement abandoned mine drainage curriculum including pre-field trip preparatory lessons and field trips.

Warren County

- Warren County Conservation District -- \$1,047 to conduct a workshop for local residents on the benefits of rain barrels such as water conservation and reducing nonpoint source pollution.

Washington County

- Avella Area School District -- \$3,000 to enhance the district’s nature trail, including environmental stations with habitat descriptions, bird boxes and a greenhouse to contain compost and native plants.

Westmoreland County

- Westmoreland County Conservation District -- \$3,000 to research, script, film and produce a five-to-10 minute educational video on sustainable energy and nonpoint source pollution reduction features that have been incorporated into the district’s GreenForge building.
- Saint Vincent College -- \$2,500 to conduct a workshop for kindergarten through 6th grade teachers titled, “Bears, Bugs, and Birds Ecology.”

York County

- York Suburban School District -- \$3,000 for equipment and field trips to enable students to study watersheds and water pollution.
- Southern York County School District -- \$3,000 to fund visits by Gettysburg College’s Advancing Science Van to elementary schools. The grant also will fund guidance and equipment for teachers.

Westinghouse N-Vision Announces Brighter Future School Grant Program

Pittsburgh-based Westinghouse Electric Company’s [N-Vision Program](#) this week announced sponsorship of a grant for Middle and High Schools focusing on science, technology or mathematics through a proposed hands-on project with students.

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The deadline for applications is October 20.

Westinghouse's N-Vision Program encourages education of youth in science, technology and mathematics.

Administered through the company's speaker's bureau, N-Vision, the grant is designed to encourage both teachers and students to think of a creative project based on energy, math, science, or technology in the context of worldwide political, economic and environmental realities.

The contest is open to all U.S. middle and high schools in areas where Westinghouse has a presence. Five middle or high schools will be awarded \$1,000 each to carryout their proposed project. Projects need to involve students directly and incorporate community resources, interdisciplinary or team-teaching principles.

Specific guidelines, eligibility requirements and an application for the contest can be found on the [Westinghouse N-Vision Program webpage](#).

Westmoreland Conservation District Offers Bus Tour of Sewickley Creek Watershed

The [Westmoreland Conservation District](#) is offering a day-long bus tour of Westmoreland County's central watershed – the Sewickley Creek Watershed – on September 26.

The [Sewickley Creek Watershed](#) encompasses 168 square miles of Westmoreland County, including high forested ridges, gently rolling farmland, and one of the county's busiest commercial corridors.

The Conservation District's bus tour will follow a route water takes as it flows through the watershed, beginning on Chestnut Ridge...continuing southwest through active farmland and recreation areas...and then passing through the highly commercial and trafficked borough of New Station and areas of past and present natural-resource extraction before emptying into the Youghiogheny River, [Pennsylvania's 2008 River of the Year](#).

More specifically, the watershed includes: all of New Stanton, Youngwood, South Greensburg, Southwest Greensburg, Madison, Arona and Hunker boroughs; all of Sewickley Township; part of Hempfield, Unity, East Huntingdon, North Huntingdon, South Huntingdon, and Mount Pleasant townships; and part of the City of Greensburg.

The Department of Conservation and Natural Resources selected the Yough for this designation to "recognize the watershed's shift from a threatened past to a promising recreational future."

During the tour, the Conservation District staff will illustrate how past and present activities in the Sewickley Creek Watershed – timber-harvesting, farming, urban development, and natural-resource extraction – ultimately affect the quality of the Yough River, for better and worse.

Tour stops include: Saint Boniface Woods, Friendship Farms, Mammoth Park, New Stanton Borough, a private farm with a newly drilled natural-gas well, and the innovative Lowber abandoned-mine-drainage cleanup site.

The tour begins at the Westmoreland Conservation District, 218 Donohoe Road, Greensburg, at 8:30 a.m. and will return there by approximately 2:45 p.m.

Financial and other support for this project is provided by the Pennsylvania Association of Conservation Districts through its education grant from the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection under Section 319 of the Clean Water Act, administered by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.

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The \$20 fee includes lunch and bus tour transportation from and to the Westmoreland Conservation District.

Space is limited and registration is required. Contact Christie at 724-837-5271 ext. 210, or send email to: christie@wcdpa.com by September 17 to make reservations.

Rural Water Assn. Utility Leadership Conference to be Held in October

The [Pennsylvania Rural Water Association](#) will host its [2008 Utility Leadership Conference](#) October 21-22 at the Four Points Sheraton Hotel, Cranberry, Butler County, for water and wastewater system operators.

Attendees will learn about important issues like asset management, financial sustainability and improving customer service.

The cost to attend one day of the conference is \$90 for members and \$110 for non-members or for two days, the cost is \$150 for members and \$175 for non-members. A 50 percent discount off of the two-day price is available for the 2nd, 3rd, and 4th person from the same company.

For the complete list of courses or to register, call 800-653-PRWA or visit the [2008 Utility Leadership Conference webpage](#).

EPA Grant Helps Complete Great Rivers Mapping Project in PA

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency awarded the Department of Environmental Protection a more than \$200,000 grant to complete [the Great River EMAP](#)-- environmental monitoring and assessment program-- assessments on 64 Allegheny and Monongahela River sites in Pennsylvania.

The work will provide an in-depth baseline biological and water quality data assessment for the rivers, and benefit on-going projects including the Sand & Gravel EIS and Monongahela River Basin Mine Pool. The Region 3 EPA Freshwater Biology Team will help by performing a project audit and the EPA dive team by performing a freshwater mussel survey.

For more information, visit the [EPA's EMAP Program](#).

September 27 Zebra Mussel Workshop in the Delaware River Watershed

The [PA Zebra and Quagga Monitoring Network](#) and the Delaware Riverkeeper are sponsoring a zebra mussel and quagga mussel workshop on September 27 at Blue Marsh Lake in Leesport, Pa.

Zebra and quagga mussels are invasive species that are spreading into waterbodies nationwide. They grow so densely that they block pipelines, clog municipal water intakes, and cover the undersides of docks and boats.

These mussels are a nuisance to people and cause extreme harm to aquatic ecosystems, native clam and mussel populations, and the economy. Quagga mussels have spread to a diving quarry in the Bethlehem area, and zebra mussels are in the upper Susquehanna River in north central PA and in many waterways of New York.



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Attendees will learn how to spot invasive mussels and help train visitors and recreational boaters how to properly clean equipment and gear to prevent their spread.

The workshop is free, but you will need to register by September 15. Act 48 credits are available to teachers attending.

For more information contact Faith Zerbe, [Delaware Riverkeeper Network](http://DelawareRiverkeeperNetwork) by calling 215-369-1188 ext 110 or sending email to: faith@delawareriverkeeper.org

EPA Seeks Applications for Clean Air Excellence Awards

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and the federal Clean Air Act Advisory Committee are now accepting applications for the Ninth Annual [Clean Air Excellence Awards Program](#).

Nominations are due September 19.

Winners are honored for outstanding accomplishments in programs, projects or technologies that reduce air pollution emissions. Applicants are judged in five awards categories: clean air technology; community development/redevelopment; education and outreach; regulatory/policy innovations; and transportation efficiency innovations.

In addition, winners will be recognized in two special award categories: The Gregg Cooke Visionary Program Award is given to the air quality project or program that successfully blends two or more of the five existing awards categories; and The Thomas W. Zosel Outstanding Individual Achievement Award recognizes one individual for his or her outstanding achievement, leadership, and commitment to promote clean air and achieve better air quality.

The awards will be announced in spring 2009. The CAAAC is an independent policy committee that provides advice to EPA on air issues.

For more information, visit the [Clean Air Excellence Awards Program webpage](#).

Chesapeake Cellulosic Biofuels Summit September 4 in Harrisburg

The [Chesapeake Bay Commission](#) is holding a [Chesapeake Cellulosic Biofuels Summit](#) in Harrisburg on September 4 as a follow-up to its [Biofuels and the Bay](#) report issued last year.

The report concluded biofuels could lead to shifts in crop patterns and acreages that create an uncertain future for farmers and foresters and seriously worsen the overload of nutrients to rivers.

These activities in the Chesapeake Bay could bring about “the most profound changes to the region’s agricultural markets in the past hundred years.”

The report also concluded, “Handled correctly, biofuels have the potential to provide significant and permanent new income sources for farmers and foresters, while serving as a means to substantially reduce greenhouse gases and better manage agricultural nutrient loadings within the watershed.”

The Commission report makes a series of recommendations to mitigate the impacts of corn-based ethanol in the watershed, including: planting more riparian stream buffers, changing fertilization practices, promoting no-till farming, incorporating more organic wastes into the soil and establishing grassed waterways.

At this invitation-only Summit, a new set of recommendations will be released that are intended to guide future policy development throughout the watershed. They are the

product of an intensive eight-month research and policy development process lead by a select Biofuels Advisory Panel ([see Summit brochure](#))

The Summit will convene leaders from throughout the watershed to consider the recommendations, interact with experts and begin the stat-by-state work necessary to translate the recommendations into policy action.

There are discussions now underway to webcast some of the Summit sessions.

For more information, download the [Chesapeake Cellulosic Biofuels Summit brochure](#).

Hydrogen Cars on U.S. Tour Fill-It-Up at Air Products' Allentown Station



Air Products new [hydrogen fueling station](#) at its Allentown, Pa headquarters this week filled the hydrogen fuel cell vehicles of several automakers making their way across the country as [part of a tour](#) designed to demonstrate that hydrogen vehicle and fueling technologies are approaching commercial availability.

The nationwide tour, which will be supported along the way by multiple Air Products hydrogen fueling technologies and stations, will make 31 stops in 18 states, stretching from Maine to California.

"Air Products is honored to be a stop on this United States cross country tour that will demonstrate that hydrogen, the fuel of the future, is here today," said John McGlade, chairman, president and chief executive officer, to the assembled crowd of invited guests, media, and Air Products' employees. "Air Products has been involved with hydrogen fueling projects for 15 years. We have been a leader in developing new hydrogen fueling capabilities, and have worked cooperatively with car manufacturers and others on these exciting advancements. We commend all those who organized and are involved with this national tour, and are pleased to have them as visitors to Air Products."

Air Products has been involved with hydrogen fueling since 1993. Since that time, it has safely conducted over 66,000 fuelings of hydrogen powered vehicles at over 85 fueling stations located in 15 countries around the world.

"Today, while we were fueling cars in Allentown, we have also been fueling hydrogen powered buses to shuttle athletes and visitors at the Beijing Olympic Games where our fueling equipment is in operation. We were also fueling forklifts working 24/7 to move consumer products in and out of production lines and warehouses in the U.S. Additionally, somewhere around the world, deep under the sea, there may be a hydrogen powered submarine fueled with Air Products' hydrogen. Every day we are fueling cars, buses, vans, and other hydrogen powered items as part of important demonstration programs around the U.S. and the world," said McGlade. Air Products is now averaging approximately 2,000 hydrogen fuelings per month.

Air Products was joined at the event by U.S. Department of Transportation officials, U.S. Congressman Charlie Dent, and California Fuel Cell Partnership officials who made brief comments about hydrogen technology and the nationwide tour.

PA Environment Digest – Crisci Associates

Vehicles from Daimler, Honda, Hyundai-Kia, Nissan, Toyota, Volkswagen and BMW attended the Pennsylvania event, which included ride and drive opportunities for media and other attendees.

The overall tour participants include nine auto manufacturers, the U.S. Department of Energy, California Fuel Cell Partnership, National Hydrogen Association, and U.S. Department of Transportation, as well as hydrogen gas providers.

Air Products, the leading supplier of merchant hydrogen to the refinery industry to assist in the making of cleaner burning transportation fuels, has placed a majority of its hydrogen fueling station technology in 17 states within the United States.

On a global basis, Air Products' has hydrogen fueling technology in Brazil, Canada, China, France, Germany, Greece, India, Italy, Japan, the Netherlands, Singapore, South Korea, Taiwan, and the United Kingdom.

For more information, visit the [Air Products Hydrogen Fuel webpage](#) and download the [Hydrogen Road Tour '08 brochure](#).

PA Motorists Drive 241 Million Fewer Miles in June

Pennsylvania drivers logged 241 million fewer miles in June than they did in June 2007 (a drop of almost 2.5 percent), according to the U.S. Department of Transportation.

Between November and June, Americans drove 53.2 billion miles less than they did over the same period a year earlier – topping the 1970s' oil-shock decline of 49.3 billion miles, according to the U.S. Department of Transportation.

The price of gasoline reached a statewide record high of \$4.07 on July 16, AAA reports, and topped \$4.15 a gallon during June in Philadelphia. Diesel prices hit a state average record of \$4.96 per gallon on May 30.

While gasoline prices have eased in recent weeks, the Energy Information Agency expects prices to average above \$3.80 per gallon nationally through the end of the year.

Pennsylvania is also offering immediate help to commuters looking to make smart transportation decisions.

In June, PennDOT created the “[Dump the Pump](#)” webpage where residents can explore transit options, carpooling and park and ride locations across the state.

The Governor also directed the Office of Administration to develop an incentive program to encourage state employees to use public transit and related options.

NewsClip: [Average Household Saves \\$8,000+ Using Transit](#)

DEP Approves Plan to Convert Conestoga Landfill Gas to Energy

The Department of Environmental Protection announced this week it has approved a plan to allow landfill gas from the Conestoga Landfill in Berks County to be shipped via pipeline to Lancaster County where it can be converted to energy to help power local industry.

Granger Energy of Morgantown will construct a gas treatment plant in Lancaster County, which is expected to operate without air emissions by subjecting the gas to a three-stage treatment process, including dewatering, filtration and compression.

Granger will use multiple pieces of equipment to remove as much water as possible from the gas. The process will also remove other condensable items. The gas will pass through a filter designed to remove particulate equal to and less than 10 microns.

Any gas not treated and shipped will be returned to the landfill to be burned by the existing on-site flares.

New Morgan Landfill Company Inc., which operates the municipal solid waste landfill in New Morgan Borough, now controls the generated gas on the site with two enclosed ground flares.

The gas treatment plant will take the place of a proposed gas-to-energy facility at the landfill property. Plans for the gas-to-energy facility were approved in 2006, but were appealed by Berks County.

As part of the settlement agreement, Granger agreed to withdraw its plans to construct a treatment plant and pump station for the landfill gas.

For more information on the use of landfill gas as energy, visit DEP's [Landfill Methane Outreach Program webpage](#).

NewsClip: [Plans Modified for Landfill Gas-to-Energy](#)

PUC Releases Comparison Of Current Market Prices and Capped Electric Rates

The Public Utility Commission this week [released a comparison](#) of current market prices for electricity with capped rates paid by consumers now. The PUC said the data validates the importance of current and future steps to mitigate potentially significant electricity rate increases.

The charts released today show differences between capped rates and estimated market prices at three recent points in time: as of August 8, 2008, the end of July 2008 and the end of June 2008.

A majority of electricity customers currently pay rates under caps, which are set to expire over the next couple of years consistent with the implementation of the state's electric competition law. Customers in service territories where rate caps have already expired have had varying experiences, with some experiencing increases. The PUC will use the estimates released are part of ongoing efforts to educate customers.

"The Commission is releasing these calculations because they demonstrate wholesale market volatility which could significantly impact the prices Pennsylvania customers will pay once rate caps expire," said Vice Chairman James H. Cawley. "We also are releasing the below estimates because they underscore the importance of mitigation measures such as those undertaken by the Commission to approve electric utilities' rate-mitigation plans such as phase-in, or pre-payment, plans and to direct utilities to purchase power through a portfolio of resources. Gov. Rendell and legislators are working on additional measures to help Pennsylvania consumers through energy efficiency and demand side response."

"Make no mistake about it, electric prices are going to increase dramatically," said Commissioner Tyrone J. Christy. "It is vitally important that customers -- residential, commercial and industrial -- realize that rate caps are expiring. They need to know what is happening with wholesale electricity prices, which will affect the retail rates that they will have to pay. In my view, the Competition Act needs to be revisited and revised so as to reduce our reliance on the wholesale market that is producing these unnecessarily high prices."

The PUC also has promoted energy efficiency and demand side response; required electric utilities to educate their customers about rising energy prices and the resources to help them such as energy conservation, low-income programs and shopping for electricity

supply; increased its involvement at the federal level where wholesale energy prices are set; sought to remove barriers to competition; and proposed a statewide consumer-education campaign.

The Commission also developed default service regulations and policy statements that should help mitigate much of the volatility and increases in future market prices for electricity.

Wayne Williams, Ph.D., Director of the PUC Bureau of Conservation, Economics & Energy Planning, said the calculations released this week estimate the increases consumers would see, on average, if rate caps expired today and the state's five electric distribution companies (Metropolitan Edison Company, PECO Energy Co., Pennsylvania Electric Co., PPL Electric Utilities Corp. and West Penn Power Co.) still under caps immediately began charging prices based on current short-term market conditions.

The market price of electricity is very volatile and changes on a daily basis, and is subject to large swings based on the price of fuels in the wholesale energy markets, over which the PUC does not have jurisdiction.

Director Williams noted that these estimates identify current market prices in the short term, in comparison with capped rates, and do not in any way represent a Commission projection of future prices when the remaining rate caps expire.

The Commission anticipates that actual post-rate cap prices for each distribution utility will reflect a portfolio of resources, obtained over time, which will mitigate the effect of monthly and daily changes in the market rates for energy.

For more information, visit the [Electric Price Comparison webpage](#).

Appointments Announced to Climate Change Advisory Committee

Gov. Rendell and Senate Majority Leader Dominic Pileggi (R-Delaware) this week announced appointments to the new Climate Change Advisory Committee created by the [Pennsylvania Climate Change Act](#) signed into law in July 9.

The committee comprises six members appointed by the Governor, six by the Senate and six by the House of Representatives. The secretaries of the departments of Conservation and Natural Resources, and Community and Economic Development and the chair of the Public Utility Commission are ex officio voting members of the committee.

The advisory committee is charged with advising the Department of Environmental Protection on implementing the act and creating a report on potential climate change impacts and economic opportunities for the Commonwealth.

Gov. Rendell appointed:

- Daniel Desmond, Elizabethtown, former Deputy Secretary of DEP's Office of Energy and Technology Deployment;
- Sarah Hetznecker, Malvern, co-founder of a solar energy systems design and installation firm that was acquired by SunTechnics, a subsidiary of Conergy AG, the world's largest renewable energy systems integrator;
- Jan Jarrett, Mechanicsburg, vice president of Citizens for Pennsylvania's Future, a statewide public interest membership organization that advances policies to protect and improve the state's environment and economy;
- Vivian Loftness, FAIA, Pittsburgh, a professor at Carnegie Mellon University and a LEED-accredited professional whose major research projects have focused on climate change impacts and high-performance buildings;

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- Sister Patricia Lupo, Erie, director of programs for Lake Erie-Allegheny Earth Force, has been a leading influence in education, environment and conservation for more than 40 years; and
- Ronald L. Ramsey, Harrisburg, representing the Nature Conservancy of Pennsylvania, a leading conservation organization working to protect ecologically important lands and waters.

Sen. Pileggi's appointments include:

- H. Peter Alyanakian, vice president, Wolfington Companies, West Conshohocken;
- Robert Barkanic, Senior Director for Environmental Management, PPL Corp, and a board member of the Pennsylvania Environmental Council;
- Terry Bossert, an attorney with Post & Schell Environmental Regulation & Litigation Group, former Chief Counsel of the Department of Environmental Protection and a board member of the Pennsylvania Environmental Council;
- David Cannon, Vice President for Environmental Affairs, Allegheny Energy

The Climate Change Advisory Committee will meet for the first time from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m., September 5, in Room 105 of the Rachel Carson State Office Building, 400 Market St., Harrisburg.

Williamsport/Lycoming KIZ Holding Competition to Spur 'Green' Innovations

The Williamsport/Lycoming Keystone Innovation Zone is coordinating the first-ever [Central Pennsylvania Greenovation Competition](#).

Entries are due September 5.

The competition is open to local companies and inventors with an original idea for a "green" product. Finalists will present to a panel of judges at the Green Expo, to be held September 13 in the Pickelner Arena.

The winner will be announced live on the radio at the Green Expo and will receive a complete prize package, including:

- \$500 cash from Williamsport/Lycoming KIZ;
- Free patent review and free filing from ZALE Patent Law, Scranton;
- Six months of free workshop attendance from Lock Haven Small Business Development Center;
- Free one-year membership to the Manufacturers' Association of Central PA;
- Free design consultation and eight hours of product design or prototyping through the Keystone Innovation Grant program at Pennsylvania College of Technology; and
- Up to 8 hours of free consulting services for marketing assistance/product design from IMC, Inc.; and additional partner prizes may be added .

KIZ decided to launch this competition because "green" is a very important topic now, as is innovation. This is a way to spur "greenovation" in the region and also highlight the many partners who are available to help pursue such ideas.

To learn more, visit the [Central Pennsylvania Greenovation Competition webpage](#) to enter or contact the Williamsport/Lycoming KIZ at 570-329-3200 or send email to: info@wkiz.com .

RecycleBank Increases Philadelphia Recycling By 30 Percent – Video Blog

The Philadelphia Streets Department announced its “[All Together Now](#)” single stream recycling pilot program run by [RecycleBank](#) has increased the tonnage of recyclables collected by 30 percent since its introduction in 2006.



Video Blog: [What Is RecycleBank, How Does It Work?](#)

The Streets Department will be concluding its successful pilot program in the West Oak Lane and Chestnut Hill communities that tested both single stream recycling and incentive-based recycling using the RecycleBank program.

Although the pilot will end, the Streets Department will continue working with RecycleBank to evaluate incentive-based recycling in the City of Philadelphia.

“It has been an honor to service the residents of Chestnut Hill and West Oak Lane and we would like to thank the Streets Department for their partnership and helping us launch the first RecycleBank pilot program in 2005. We look forward to working with the Streets Department to evaluate deploying RecycleBank city wide,” says Ron Gonen, CEO and co-founder of RecycleBank. Today, RecycleBank is providing service in over 10 states and has over 1 million homes under contract.

“The Streets Department has enjoyed its partnership with Recyclebank”, says Clarena Tolson, Commissioner of Philadelphia’s Streets Department. “The pilot program did more than test an exciting, innovative incentive program - it brought much needed enthusiasm and attention to the importance of recycling in the City.”

The final week of the pilot program will be August 25. Chestnut Hill and West Oak Lane residents who currently receive service from RecycleBank can continue to access their account and redeem their rewards for the next six months.

The Streets Department and RecycleBank would like to thank the residents in the pilot for participating in the program, and look forward to continuing to work with all Philadelphia residents in their great efforts in recycling and maintaining a cleaner, greener sustainable city.

For more information, residents may contact the Streets Department’s Customer Affairs Unit at 215-686-5560 and [RecycleBank’s](#) Customer Care at 1-888-727-2978.

Federal Court Rules PA Counties Can Restrict Waste Removal to Local Facilities

A Federal Appeals Court last week ruled Lebanon County and its affiliated [Greater Lebanon Refuse Authority](#) did not act improperly when it required a private municipal trash hauler to use the county's landfill even though there were cheaper disposal alternatives outside the county.

James J. Kutz, Esq., a Partner in the Harrisburg Office of Philadelphia-based law firm [Post & Schell, P.C.](#), which defended the GLRA in the complaint brought against it by hauler Lebanon Farms Disposal, Inc., of Schaefferstown, Pa, said the ruling reverses the July 2006 U.S. District Court decision that found the county's comprehensive solid waste plan unconstitutional because it discriminated against interstate commerce.

"The Appeals Court decision constitutes a clear change in Third Circuit (Pennsylvania, Delaware and New Jersey) precedent," commented Kutz.

"Counties can now require that all waste generated within the county be disposed of at their municipal landfill. Previously, counties were prohibited from imposing such a restriction absent compelling circumstances." Kutz added, "The ruling gives the Commonwealth and its counties a new, reasonable option with which to finance, monitor, and enforce environmentally-sound waste disposal practices without running afoul of the federal Commerce Clause."

He noted that the Appeals Court remanded the matter to the lower court.

In 2003 Lebanon Farms was fined by the GLRA for violating Lebanon County's disposal regulations by transporting refuse to a landfill in Schuylkill County, Pa. The hauler argued that it was unlawful under the Commerce Clause for the county to require it to use the county-owned landfill in North Lebanon Township.

Kutz said the Appeals court relied heavily on the 2007 U.S. Supreme Court ruling in a New York case, *United Haulers Association Inc. v. Oneida-Herkimer Solid Waste Management Authority*, to support its opinion that the county and refuse authority acted properly and did not discriminate against the hauler.

In Pennsylvania, local governments are required under Act 101 (Management Waste Planning, Recycling and Waste Reduction Act), to develop and adopt solid waste flow plans and update them every 10 years.

Lebanon County's 10-year plan was last revised for the period 2001-2010 and it designated the county-owned facility as the exclusive site for municipal trash disposal in Lebanon County.

EPA Land Revitalization Update Now Available Online

Region 3 of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency just published its summer edition of its [Land Revitalization Update](#) and it is now available online.

The Update includes: Solar Energy Park planned for a Philadelphia brownfield site; using clean water and brownfields funds to cleanup the Bristol waterfront; measuring health impacts from multiple brownfield sites in the Kanawha Valley; abandoned quarries get a new lease on life; transforming Philadelphia's tire and scrap yards and much more.

The Region Update is emailed to more than 1,000 stakeholders interested in the cleanup and redevelopment of contaminated properties in the Mid-Atlantic Region.

To see the newsletter and previous editions, please visit EPA Region 3's [Land Revitalization Update webpage](#).

Spotlight

Eco-Friendly Advice for Healthy Lawns and GreenScapes

Lush beautiful lawns are a part of summer, but they require time and money. The average lawn requires up to 40 hours of work and costs about \$700 each year to maintain. But did you know that your yard and how you take care of it can help the environment?

A thick full lawn reduces soil erosion, filters contaminants from rainwater and absorbs airborne pollutants like dust and soot. Grass is also great at



converting carbon dioxide to oxygen. The following are tips suggested by the EPA to help homeowners have yards that are beautiful and environmentally friendly.

To keep your lawn looking its best set your mower height to 2.5 to 3.5 inches. Longer grass has more leaf surface which enables the grass to take in more sunlight and develop a deeper root system, making your lawn more drought and insect resistant. Longer grass also helps soil retain moisture and cuts down on the need to water. Mow often, but never cut more than a third of the length.

According to a 2004 survey by the National Gardening Association, 66 million U.S. households used chemical pesticides and/or fertilizers on their lawns and gardens. But leaving grass clippings on your yard can reduce the need for these products.

Grass clippings are about 90 percent water, will decompose quickly and provide nourishment back to the soil. They save landfill space too. Between 20 and 40 percent of landfill space is taken up by yard waste. Landfills produce methane gas which contributes to climate change.

Keeping your yard healthy requires good preventative care, starting with the soil. Lawns grow best in an intermediate soil that is a mix of clay, sand and silt. You can always improve the quality of any type of soil by fertilizing. Instead of chemicals, add organic matter like compost, manure or grass clippings to the soil for nourishment. If your soil is hard, compacted or has a heavy clay presence, you may want to loosen or aerate the soil to allow water and nutrients to reach the grass and plant root systems.

Consider reducing the size of your lawn by [GreenScaping](#).

GreenScaping makes use of native plant species as ground cover and provides a landscape that is more similar to natural habitats. Going natural can also reduce the need for chemicals, cut maintenance time and costs while still providing a beautiful yard and positive benefits for the environment.

Planning your GreenScape can be creative and fun. For example, consider planting a wildflower meadow or use native perennials to provide color and ground cover near trees, patios and fences. Consider allowing part of your lawn to revert to woods (occasional management to control invasive exotic plants might be necessary until the woodland matures).

Choose plants that are native to your region of the country. Your local nursery or County Agricultural Extension office can help you identify plants that will flourish in your area. Native plants require far less fertilization and are more resistant to insects, reducing the need for pesticides.

For more information, visit EPA's [GreenScaping webpage](#).

Video Blog: [Go Wild! By Landscaping With Native Plants](#)

Link: [Bay-Friendly Landscaping](#)

Feature

PA Recycling Officials: Recycling Funding Under Assault

On the [20th anniversary](#) of Pennsylvania's landmark recycling legislation and grant program, recycling funding in the state has been further threatened by a



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\$15 million withdrawal from the Recycling Fund. Movement of the money to the State's General Fund was authorized as part of the 2008-2009 State Budget.

The latest \$15 million withdrawal from the Recycling Fund (created by Act 101 in 1988), brings the cumulative diversion of money from the fund to nearly \$150 million.

According to John Frederick, Executive Director of the [Professional Recyclers of Pennsylvania](#), the state's recycling association, "While we are still uncertain of the specific impact this will have on recycling efforts, it is certain that the Department of Environmental Protection will have much less money available to develop economic infrastructure, to provide technical assistance, outreach and education funding and to provide grants. This latest transfer might just be the proverbial 'straw that broke the camel's back.' "

In recent years, demand for recycling has significantly outpaced available funding, as counties and municipalities continue their efforts to increase recycling rates, as required by Act 101. Even municipalities that are not mandated to recycle have recognized the importance of environmentally sound practices and have applied for funding for their programs. Without state funding, both mandated and non-mandated recycling programs are struggling to fund important capital expenditures.

These funds have been an important supplement to the significant investments made in recycling by both the public and private sectors. The returns on these investments have been extraordinary, creating an \$18.4 billion recycling industry in the state.

Many of the attendees at the 2008 PROP Conference held in Gettysburg July 30 – August 1, expressed concern about the future of their local programs. Frederick summed up members' opinion saying, "In light of the great demands for funding, it just does not make sense to take money from the Recycling Fund. Coupled with the effects of inflation over the course of 20 years, the most recent \$15 million transfer has made a very difficult situation even worse. "

Several points regarding the funding issue were emphasized at the PROP Conference:

- At a time when fuel is approaching record levels, uncertain funding for recycling creates another roadblock for recycling programs; and
- Recycling is becoming a major topic in the climate change debates. Corporate sustainability efforts have a solid foundation in the "Three R's – Reduce, Reuse, Recycle." Yet, the ability to fund Pennsylvania recycling programs and maintain infrastructure is a significant challenge.

The depletion of the Recycling Fund raises many concerns -

- Funding for counties and municipalities to continue or initiate waste programs like recycling, household hazardous waste collection and composting are threatened;
- Funding losses will affect public and private sector recyclers, equipment manufacturers, end users and especially the people of Pennsylvania;
- The pressure given from 20 years of inflation, growing demand for grant funding and the withdrawal of monies to the state General Fund have seriously undermined local governments' ability to support and expand their programs; and
- The loss of this Act 101 funding is magnified by two other funding challenges - the loss of county fees prompted by a court decision that ruled them illegal, and the sun-setting of the Recycling Fee in January 2012.

Members suggested the need for "frank discussion among stakeholders about a comprehensive overhaul of Act 101."

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“After 20 years, refinement of the legislation seems not just appropriate, but necessary. The world of recycling, composting and waste disposal has changed profoundly as Act 101 has remained fundamentally unchanged,” concluded Frederick.

The [Professional Recyclers of Pennsylvania](#) is the state’s official association representing recycling professionals and is dedicated to promoting and enhancing the interests of recycling, recycling programs, composting and composting programs in Pennsylvania through education, information exchange, technical support, applied research and coordination of recycling industry initiatives.

Links: [Recycling Mandates In PA Make Twenty Year Mark, Future Is Cloudy](#)
[Environmental Heritage – Curbside Recycling Celebrates 20th Anniversary](#)

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—

- **August 15**—**CLOSED**. [REAP Farm Conservation Tax Credit Applications](#)
- **August 29**—[DEP Local Government Greenhouse Gas Reduction Grants](#)
- **August 29**—**CLOSED**. [DEP Small Business Advantage Grant Program](#)
- **August 29**—[EPA Water Efficiency Leaders Awards](#)
- **August 29**—[PPL Territory Small Business Lighting Energy Efficiency Rebate](#)
- **August 31**—[PA CleanWays Community Cleaning Award](#)
- **September 5**—[WPC Canoe Access Development Grant](#)
- **September 5**—**NEW**. [Williamsport/Lycoming Greenovation Contest](#)
- **September 9**—[EPA Water Quality Trading Funding Proposals](#)
- **September 12**—**NEW**. [Wildlands Conservancy 2008 Ark Award Nominations](#)
- **September 12**—[Green Building Alliance Product Innovation Grants](#)
- **September 15**—[Vote for Rachel Carson Sense of Wonder Contest Winner](#)
- **September 19**—**NEW**. [EPA Clean Air Excellence Awards](#)
- **September 20**—[Fish & Boat Commission Boating Facilities Grants](#)
- **September 21**—[EPA Clean Diesel Emerging Technology Grant](#)
- **September 24**—[Coca-Cola, NRC Recycling Bin Grants](#)
- **September 30**—[DEP Recycling Performance Grants](#)
- **October 1**—[Eastern Brook Trout Habitat Grants](#)
- **October 3**—[NOAA Chesapeake Bay Watershed Education Grants](#)
- **October 15**—[PPL Project Earth Environmental Education Grants](#)
- **October 20**—**NEW**. [Westinghouse Brighter Future School Grant Program](#)
- **October 31**—[PA Resources Council Lens On Litter Photo Contest](#)
- **November 30**—[PPL Green Building Certification Grants](#)

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

Quick Clips

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

[Clinton County Urged to Form Task Force On Gas Leasing](#)
[School Getting \\$12.73 Million in Green Renovations](#)
[Contest Urges Inventors To Go Green](#)
[The Meaning of Green in York](#)
[Energy Audits Diagnose A Leaky House](#)
[PPL Hikes Difficult To Predict](#)
[Editorial: Prepayment Plan From PPL Offers Options to Deal With Rate Increases](#)
[Fuel Costs Are Eating Farmers' Profits](#)
[Home Oil Dealers Warn of Price Spike](#)
[Tire To Energy Plant Hot Issues In Erie](#)
[Truckers Back Higher Fuel Tax Over Turnpike Lease, I-80 Tolls](#)
[Drivers Downsize As Gas Prices Jump](#)
[Gas Wars In Carlisle](#)
[Op-Ed: Ethanol Delusion](#)
[Crayola May Use Solar Power At Eastern PA Plant](#)
[Bill Seeks Cuts In Energy Use](#)
[Westinghouse Sees Nuclear Power Growth](#)
[Editorial: New Energy Proposals In Coal Region Are An Energy Shift](#)
[Sustainable Styles Bring Message of Recycling to Cities' Runways](#)
[Editorial: Municipal Composting, It's a Win, Win](#)
[Editorial: Pittsburgh Gets Serious About Walking, Biking](#)
[Column: Self-Imposing A Hunting License Hike](#)
[Falcon Hatches Under I-95 Bridge](#)
[Agencies Demonstrate Disaster Preparations](#)
[Mine Rescue Contest Sharpens Skills](#)

Watershed NewsClips

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

[RiverQuest's Environment Friendly Floating Classroom Arrives](#) (Online Video)
[RiverQuest's Newest Ship Arrives In Port](#) (Online Video)
[Watershed Moment: Stonycreek Improving, Reassessment Finds](#)
[Water Worries Grow](#)
[At Least A Balm For Area's Mine Scars](#)
[Editorial: Give Mine Water Greater Priority](#)
[Editorial: As With Gasoline, We Must Conserve Water Too](#)
[Susquehanna River Basin Commission Presses Gas Driller](#)
[Water Getting Precious In NE PA](#)

Regulations

The Department of Environmental Protection published an update of transactions under the [Nutrient Credit Trading Program](#) and a revised list of individuals certified for radon-related activities (*Pa Bulletin page 4581*). The Game Commission pushed final changes to the [DMAP Deer Management Program](#).

[Pennsylvania Bulletin – August 16, 2008](#)

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

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

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

Technical Guidance & Permits

The Department of Environmental Protection published a proposed change in policy relating to [changing the boundaries](#) of surface mining activities for comment.

DEP ID: 563-2112-203 Boundary Changes to Mining Permits. This draft guidance substantially revises and renames technical guidance No. 563-2112-203: Insignificant Boundary Corrections for Surface Mining Activities (effective April 7, 1998).

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

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

Calendar of 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](#)

- **August 20**—House Agriculture and Rural Affairs Committee hearing on farm conservation fair share funding. Ag Progress Days, State College. 10:00.
- **August 20**—**CANCELLED**. DEP Upper/Middle Susquehanna Water Resources Regional Committee meeting. (*See Act 220 Participation webpage*).
- **August 22**—DEP [Statewide Water Resources Committee](#) meeting. Room 105 Rachel Carson Building. 9:30.
- **August 27**—**NEW**. [DCNR Conservation and Natural Resources Advisory Council](#) meeting. Rak Room, Holiday Inn, Monroeville. 9:00.
- **August 28**—DEP [Mine Families First Response and Communications Advisory Council](#) meeting. DEP Mine Rescue Station, 286 Industrial Park Rd, Ebensburg. 10:00.

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- **September 3**—[Governor’s Sustainable Water Infrastructure Task Force](#) meeting. Room 105 Rachel Carson Building. 9:30.
- **September 4**—[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 4**—**NEW**. [DEP Coal and Clay Mine Subsidence Insurance Board](#) meeting. 8th Floor Conference Room, Rachel Carson Building. 10:00.
- **September 5**—DEP Climate Change Advisory Committee meeting. Room 105 Rachel Carson Building. 10:00. Contact Steve Wilson, 717-783-8411 or send email to: stewilson@state.pa.us .
- **September 9-10**—[DEP Citizens Advisory Council](#) meeting. Best Western Grand Victorian Inn, Sayre.
- **September 11- Location Change**. [State Board for Certification of Water and Wastewater Systems Operators](#) will now meet on the 12th Floor Conference Room, Rachel Carson Building. 10:00.
- **September 17**—**NEW**. Joint Senate [Agriculture and Rural Affairs](#) and [Environmental Resources and Energy](#) Committee hearing on nutrient credit trading ([Senate Bill 1493](#) (Vance-R-Cumberland)). Hearing Room 1, North Office Building. 9:15.
- **September 18**—**CANCELLED**. Joint Conservation Committee Sewage Management and Treatment Task Force. Penn Stater Conference Center, State College. 10:00.
- **September 19**—**CANCELLED**. DEP Potomac Water Resources Regional Committee meeting. ([See Act 220 Participation webpage](#)).
- **September 23**—[Governor’s Sustainable Water Infrastructure Task Force](#) meeting. Room 105 Rachel Carson Building. 9:30.
- **September 24**—**NEW**. [Senate Environmental Resources and Energy Committee](#) informational meeting on carbon sequestration. Hearing Room 1, North Office Building. 9:15.
- **October 2**—**NEW**. [DEP Solar Work Group](#) meeting. Room 105, Rachel Carson Building, Harrisburg. 10:00. Contact: Libby Dodson, 717-772-8907 or send email to: ldodson@state.pa.us.
- **October 18**—[Joint Conservation Committee](#) Sewage Management and Treatment Task Force. Penn Stater Conference Center, State College. 10:00.
- **October 23**—[Joint Conservation Committee](#) Legislative Forestry Task Force. Penn Stater Conference Center, State College. 10:00.

[DEP Calendar of Events](#)

[Environmental Education Workshop/Training Calendar](#)

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

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

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

Stories Invited

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

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

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