

— PA — Environment Digest

*An Update on
Environmental
Issues in
Pennsylvania*

Edited By David E. Hess, Holston & Crisci

August 21, 2006

Rep. Stern, Sen. Wenger: Conservation Assistance for Farmers Needed

Being "green" means more than fighting sprawl, said Rep. Stern (R-Blair) and Sen. Wenger (R-Lancaster) as they introduced innovative legislation to provide tax credits for farmers who invest in proven conservation practices.

"Farmers across Pennsylvania are continually faced with changes in law and other regulatory revisions forcing them to upgrade equipment and actually change the way they do business," Rep. Stern said. "Our legislation will provide farmers with the type of financial assistance as is currently being used to promote the growth and progress of other industries."

The Pennsylvania Resource Enhancement and Protection (REAP) Tax Credit Program will provide tax credits for private investment in the implementations of a variety of proven and cost-effective best management practices, including improvements to barnyards, pastures and riparian corridors, development and implementation of nutrient management plans, remediation of legacy sediments and other approved practices.

REAP will ultimately help farmers use best management practices to manage nutrients appropriately and reduce nutrient and sediment loss from the land.

Rep. Stern said credits will be available for personal and corporate income tax, the Capital Stock and Franchise Tax and Sales and Use Tax. Qualified applicants will receive a tax credit of 25 percent to 75 percent of the project cost, depending on the practice implemented.

Other elements of the program provide that tax credits may be sold to other entities and for business or individual sponsorship of a project installed by a landowner. Tax credits may be carried over for maximum of 15 years.

"This legislature has worked diligently to balance the needs of our farmers with the responsibility we have to protect our environment," Sen. Wenger said. "The REAP Program will also have a far-reaching impact by helping Pennsylvania meet its obligations under the 2000 Chesapeake Bay Agreement."

The Agreement requires Pennsylvania and other states in the Chesapeake Bay watershed area to reduce nutrient and sediment pollution going to the Chesapeake Bay by more than 38 million pounds a year by 2010, which will help move the Bay off the U.S. Clean Water Act's list of impaired waters.

"Farmers have long recognized the need to be good stewards of the land, but to be good stewards farmers need the right tools and the funding to improve their operations," said the Chesapeake Bay Foundation's Pennsylvania Executive Director Matt Ehrhart.

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"This unique program would be the first of its kind in the country to provide farmers transferable tax credits for installing best management practices to reduce pollution and sediments coming from farms."

"The creation of the REAP program will not only benefit our agricultural producers and our environment, but will also ultimately benefit every citizen in the Commonwealth and the Chesapeake Bay watershed," Sen. Wenger added.

"The decline of interest in farming is becoming more apparent each year," said Rep. Stern. "The profession is simply becoming too cost-prohibitive for most people. The REAP program is just one example of the types of new and innovative financial assistance programs we can implement to give those in the farming community the help they need."

"This legislation provides farmers with new resources to improve the environment – a clear win for everyone – and we want to congratulate all the Senate and House sponsors for introducing this legislation," said Ehrhart.

Rep. Stern and Sen. Wenger introduced [House Bill 2878](#) (Stern R-Blair, Hershey-R-Chester, Daley D-Washington) and [Senate Bill 1286](#) (Wenger R-Lancaster, Waugh R-York, O’Pake D-Berks), the Pennsylvania Resource Enhancement and Protection (REAP) Tax Credit Program, and are planning to take part in discussion of and generate support for this initiative throughout the summer so prompt action may be taken this fall.

Link: [Bay Foundation Promotes Tax Credits to help Farmers Protect Water Quality](#)

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Session Schedule

The Senate returns to session September 19 and the House on September 25.

On the Hill

- Senate Agriculture Committee Meeting Set on Conservation Tax Credit Bill
- House Democratic Policy Committee Hearing on Local Climate Change Action Plans

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- Coldwater Heritage Partnership Invites Grant Applications
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- New Goodwill Industries Computer Recycling Program Available in Southwest
- Newspaper Recycling Program Nets \$7,418 for Scholarships at Penn State
- 2006 Keep Pennsylvania Beautiful Summit Set for September 20-21
- National Children and Nature Conference Set for September 7-10
- EPA Offers Sustainability Grants to Teams of College Students
- Regional Environmental Compliance Conferences Set for October, November
- DEP Citizens Advisory Council Publishes Summer 2006 Advisory Newsletter
- Attention Deer Hunters: Game Commission, DCNR Post DMAP Information
- Jill Gaito Named Acting Deputy for Community Revitalization at DEP

See & Hear

- Meet the Seeley Family, Bringing Sustainable Practices to Dairy Farming

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

On the Hill

Senate Agriculture Committee Sets Meeting on Conservation Tax Credit Bill

Sen. Waugh (R-York), chairman of the Senate Agriculture and Rural Affairs Committee, announced the Committee will hold an informational meeting on conservation districts and [Senate Bill 1286](#) (Wenger R-Lancaster, Waugh R-York, O’Pake D-Berks), the conservation tax credit legislation.

The hearing will be held August 30 starting at 10:00 a.m. at the Manchester Township Building in York.

The Pennsylvania Resource Enhancement and Protection Tax Credit Program will provide tax credits for private investment in the implementations of a variety of proven and cost-effective best management practices, including improvements to barnyards, pastures and riparian corridors, development and implementation of nutrient management plans, remediation of legacy sediments and other approved practices.

A companion bill has been introduced in the House as [House Bill 2878](#) (Stern R-Blair, Hershey-R-Chester, Daley D-Washington).

House Democratic Policy Committee Hearing on Local Climate Change Action Plans

The House Democratic Policy Committee held a hearing this week on [House Bill 2744](#) (Vitali-D-Delaware) that would provide state grants for the development and implementation of local climate change action plans in the state.

The Committee heard testimony from Lou Thieblemont, Mayor of Camp Hill; Jim Yienger, director of the International Council for Local Environmental Initiatives USA

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Policy Institute; and John Dernbach, a Widener University law professor and former Director of the Office of Policy at the Department of Environmental Protection.

“My bill would encourage municipalities across the Commonwealth to do even more in reducing greenhouse gas emissions,” said Rep. Vitali. “As a result, we can ensure that Pennsylvania maintains its healthy environment for future generations. I thank all of our testifiers for their valuable testimony.”

Mayor Thieblemont reviewed the steps the Borough of Camp Hill, Cumberland County, has taken to improve energy efficiency in municipal operations and expressed support for the legislation.

Yienger noted that 170 municipalities across the country have saved \$500 million as a result of their efforts to reduce greenhouse gas emissions saying just a small intervention provides a lot of return.

Dernbach explained to the Committee that efforts to affect climate change are not stand-alone issues, they can also affect the economy, create jobs and reduce dependence on foreign oil. He also highlighted the importance of energy efficiency in not only reducing greenhouse gas emissions, but creating jobs and saving money.

House Bill 2744 would provide state grants of up to \$20,000 annually to municipalities that create and implement municipal greenhouse gas inventories and municipal climate change action plans. Municipalities that create plans cooperatively would be eligible for grants of up to \$20,000 times the number of municipalities participating.

A climate change action plan, according to the legislation, would establish greenhouse gas emission trends and a baseline against which to measure the success of reduction efforts, determine cost-effective strategies for reducing greenhouse gas emissions in the municipality from both public and private sources, and establish specific reduction targets.

The greenhouse gas inventory would identify all the greenhouse gasses emitted from all sources in a municipality, including transportation, industrial, residential and energy production.

Link: [DCNR to Develop Carbon Management Plan, Update Greenhouse Gas Inventory](#)

In Other News

PEC Sponsors Special Program on Investing in Clean Technologies

The Pennsylvania Environmental Council will host a special panel discussion on clean technologies investment strategies September 13 in Harrisburg. The program will feature a keynote address by Winston Hickox, head of environmental initiatives for the California Public Employees Retirement System.

Underwriters of the event include Commerce Bank.

The program will run from 11:30 to 2:00 at the Crowne Plaza Hotel in Harrisburg. For members of PEC, the cost for the event is \$35, for non-members \$50.

For more information, contact PEC at 717-230-8044.

Coldwater Heritage Partnership Invites Grant Applications

The [Coldwater Heritage Partnership](#) announced it is now accepting applications for the next round of Coldwater Conservation Grants Program to protect and conserve the health of Pennsylvania's coldwater ecosystems.

Applications are due December 15.

The partnership will award grants of up to \$5,000 to organizations to outline strategies that best conserve and protect our coldwater fisheries.

The grants are designed to help develop conservation plans that identify the values and threats to the health of coldwater ecosystems that have naturally reproducing trout. The information can then be used as a catalyst for more comprehensive planning or for development of watershed improvements projects.

The Coldwater Heritage Partnership urges watershed groups, conservation districts, municipalities and local chapters of Trout Unlimited to apply.

The CHP is a cooperative effort of Pennsylvania Council of Trout Unlimited, the Department of Conservation and Natural Resources, the Fish and Boat Commission, and the Western PA Watershed Program.

The Partnership was formed to provide technical assistance and funding support for the evaluation, conservation and protection of Pennsylvania's coldwater streams.

Besides offering grants, CHP works to: foster greater public understanding of watershed characteristics and how they affect coldwater ecosystems; identify special areas of concern, such as areas with exceptional water quality and high potential for impacts; and provide technical assistance and financial opportunities to organizations dedicated to protecting our coldwater ecosystems.

For more information, contact PATU Coldwater Resource Specialist Deborah Nardone at 814-359-5233, or visit the [Coldwater Heritage Partnership website](#).

EPA Invites States to Apply for Targeted Watershed Grants



The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency this week invited states to submit applications for [http://www.epa.gov/owow/watershed/initiative/ Targeted Watershed Grants](http://www.epa.gov/owow/watershed/initiative/TargetedWatershedGrants) totaling \$16 million. Grant applications are due November 13.

The Targeted Watershed Grants Program seeks to encourage innovative solutions to achieving measurable water quality improvements in the areas of: habitat protection and restoration, fisheries restoration, market-based approaches and low impact development and other techniques to control polluted runoff.

Pennsylvania has received Targeted Watershed Grants in previous years for these areas: [Dunkard Creek](#), [Susquehanna Headwaters](#), the [Christina River](#) and the [Schuylkill River](#). Each of these watersheds were featured in EPA's new [2005 annual report on the Program](#).

These grants can only be received if the Department of Environmental Protection submits applications.

Watershed Organization Capacity Building Grant Applications Due

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency is soliciting proposals for [watershed organization capacity building grants](#) from groups with expertise in training and capacity building. Proposals are due October 16.

EPA will award \$3.2 million in grants to up to seven leading training organizations to help local watershed groups develop critical skills necessary to improve watershed health.

For more information, visit the [watershed organization capacity building grants webpage](#).

Apply Now for Club-Fostered L.L. Bean Stewardship Grants

Thanks to the generous support of L.L. Bean, the American Canoe Association is offering grants to local paddling clubs for volunteer-driven stewardship projects through its [Club-Fostered Stewardship Program](#).

ACA and L.L. Bean have created this program to encourage and empower clubs and their members to undertake projects that address the stewardship needs of local waterways. Examples of eligible projects include cleaning up local waterways, establishing water trails, maintaining access areas, installing signage, and providing sanitary facilities.

Grants of up to \$1,000 are available. Clubs and other groups that offer paddling programs may apply by submitting a simple, two-page application.

While ACA began to award grants this spring, additional funding is still available. Submit your application as soon as possible for best consideration.

For additional information, contact Paul Sanford, ACA Director of Stewardship and Public Policy, by phone at 703-451-0141, or send email to: psanford@americancanoe.org.

BASF Invasive Vegetation Management Grant Program Proposals Due Now

The [BASF Invasive Vegetation Management Matching Grant Program](#) is now accepting proposals for grants of up to \$200,000 as non-federal matching funds for on-the-ground programs that include herbicide use for control of terrestrial and aquatic invasive plants.

Proposals are due August 25.

The goal of the program is to aid organizations in meeting matching funding requirements for federal or foundation grants, specifically to support the use of herbicides in an integrated vegetation management program.

BASF funding is to be utilized as part of the non-federal match for federal or foundation grants such as the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation's [Pulling Together Initiative Program](#).

The applicant must successfully acquire a federal or foundation matching grant by June 30, 2007. Project related herbicide application must be completed by December 1, 2007, unless otherwise noted in the proposal to meet best management practices.

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BASF will notify those organizations receiving matching funds by September 15 to allow inclusion in federal and foundation grant proposal submissions.

Proposals should be submitted to james.bean@basf.com . For more information, visit the [BASF Invasive Vegetation Management Matching Grant Program webpage](#).

PUC Adopts Revised Policy on Water/Wastewater Acquisition Incentives

The Public Utility Commission this week adopted a [policy statement on water and wastewater system acquisition incentives](#) which enhances the Commission's goals to promote water system viability and regionalization.

The Commission voted unanimously to approve the policy statement that provides additional guidance for companies acquiring small, chronically compliance-challenged or otherwise troubled water systems, while ensuring fair treatment of customers.

The policy statement provides guidance on when and how utilities interested in making an acquisition should prepare and submit original cost documentation that determines the appropriate value of the assets of an acquired system.

In addition, it provides the opportunity for acquiring utilities to earn an acquisition premium for the purchases of companies that may not be as severely troubled, but the purchase will still improve the overall long-term viability of the water and wastewater industry.

Many small water systems have varying degrees of operational constraints that impact their viability. The Commission has a policy of encouraging well-operated water and wastewater utilities to regionalize or consolidate the smaller systems. The limited resources – managerial, financial or technical -- of these smaller systems can result in less than reliable service for ratepayers.

The policy statement supports the Commission's regionalization efforts, which in recent years has allowed ratepayers from of the smaller, more troubled systems to experience improved service after being acquired by a larger more viable water system.

The policy statement will become effective upon publication in the *Pennsylvania Bulletin*.

2006 “The Future of Water in PA” Water Resources Symposium October 11

The Pennsylvania Council of Professional Geologists will hold its [2006 Water Resources Symposium](#) on October 11 at the Radisson Penn Harris Hotel in Camp Hill, across the river from Harrisburg.

The keynote speaker will be Dr. Robert Hirsch, Associate Director for Water, U.S. Geological Survey.

The symposium is intended to provide a forum for geologists, scientists, engineers, water professionals, attorneys, regulators and watershed groups to present their recent advances, ideas and experiences in water related topics.

Several tracks will be offered symposium participants: water quality, water availability, site investigations, water management, water treatment and water resource modeling.

Poster sessions, partner exhibits, sponsor exhibits and networking sessions will also be part of the program.

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A feature panel presentation on Water, Policy and Practice, will include Drew Hadley, Global Environmental Manager The Procter & Gamble Company, Brian Hill, President & CEO Pennsylvania Environmental Council and John Hines, Director of DEP's Water Planning Office.

For more information, visit the [2006 Water Resources Symposium webpage](#).

Philadelphia Park Fest 2006 Celebrates Pennsylvania's Southeast Coastline

In keeping with the City of Philadelphia's "World-class Events" initiative, three recreational events have partnered to form a creative new venture: [Park Fest 2006](#) on September 16 at the [Fairmount Water Works Interpretive Center](#).

Visitors will be able to kick off a relaxing day by participating in the Philadelphia Water Department's Philly Fun Fishing Fest from 7 to 11 a.m. Or they can get some exercise at Fairmount Park's annual Run/Walk for the Park, which leaves the starting line at 9 a.m.

After these two events, everyone is welcome to attend Southeastern Pennsylvania Coast Day from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Coast Day will feature activities for the whole family, including numerous interactive exhibits, a Wonders of Water Challenge, prizes, music, food and more.

Sponsors for this year's event include: the Fairmount Park Commission, Partnership for the Delaware Estuary, Pennsylvania Coastal Zone Management Program, Department of Environmental Protection, Philadelphia Water Department, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, and more.

For more information, download the [Park Fest 2006 brochure](#).

Volunteers Needed for Conestoga River and Lancaster Cemetery Cleanups

Rep. Mike Sturla (D-Lancaster) this week invited community volunteers to help local organizations clean up the Conestoga River and Lancaster Cemetery from 8:30 a.m. to noon September 9, which is also the United Way Day of Caring.

"I encourage everyone to take part in the United Way Day of Caring by helping us clean the Conestoga River or the Lancaster Cemetery," Rep. Sturla said.

River cleanup volunteers will meet in Pavilion Three in the Lancaster County Central Park, off of Chesapeake and Strawberry streets. Volunteers will pick up trash along the stream banks and remove debris from the waterway. Helpers must bring their own work gloves. Sturla is co-sponsoring his traditional cleanup with the Lancaster County Solid Waste Management Authority.

The Lancaster Cemetery was established in 1845 and is located at the corner of Lemon and Lime streets. The remains of many distinguished Lancaster citizens are buried here, including statesmen, soldiers, educators, religious leaders, musicians and community benefactors.

Lancaster General Hospital will partner with Rep. Sturla by having its employees paint the iron fence that surrounds the cemetery and also by helping move headstones back that have been vandalized. Home Depot will supply the needed materials.

A thank you lunch for both cleanups will be provided by the United Way of Lancaster at the McCaskey East High School cafeteria.

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To sign up for either cleanup, contact Pat Collier in Sturla's district office at 717-295-3157 or pcollier@pahouse.net .

PA Organization for Watersheds and Rivers Open House October 10

The [Pennsylvania Organization for Watersheds and Rivers](#) invites friends and members to an open house at its office in Harrisburg on October 10.

The open house will be held at the POWR office, located at 610 North Third Street in Harrisburg, starting at 12:00 noon. The annual meeting (for members) will be held from 4:00 to 5:00 p.m.

During the annual meeting, members will elect new board members for the 2007-2009 term, and bid farewell to rotating directors Jan Jarrett, Tom Kerr, Mary Hirst and Susan Obleski will be going off the Board.

If you are not a POWR member, feel free to drop by the open house to tour POWR's office space and chat with the staff and board. Light refreshments will be provided.

Visit the [POWR website](#) to download a membership application and become eligible to learn of POWR's successes firsthand and have a say in the election of board members who will help steer POWR's course over the coming years.

For more information on POWR's annual meeting, or becoming a member of POWR, please contact John Coutts at jcoutts@pawatersheds.org or by phone at 717-234-7910.

USDA Agricultural Air Quality Task Force Holds Hearing in Harrisburg

The U.S. Department of Agriculture's [Agricultural Air Quality Task Force](#) will hold a meeting August 30-31 in Harrisburg to discuss current issues facing agriculture and the potential impacts to air quality from agricultural operations.

The meeting will be held at the Harrisburg Hilton Hotel, One North Second Street, Harrisburg. It is open to the public and USDA will allow each speaker up to five minutes for an oral presentation. Written comments also will be accepted.

The Agricultural Air Quality Task Force advises the Secretary of Agriculture on agricultural air quality issues. Its mandate is to strengthen and coordinate USDA's air quality research efforts and identify cost-effective ways to help the agriculture industry to improve air quality and meet federal and local air quality emissions requirements.

Producers, academics, industry representatives and other experts in agriculture and air quality comprise the task force. Representatives from various USDA agencies-Natural Resources Conservation Service, Forest Service, Economic Research Service, Agricultural Research Service and Cooperative State Research, Education, and Extension Service-also participate on the task force.

For more information visit the [Agricultural Air Quality Task Force webpage](#) or contact Diane Gelburd, NRCS Designated Federal Officer at 202-720-2587 or send e-mail to: diane.gelburd@wdc.usda.gov .

PUC Adopts Rule to Connect Solar, Wind, Renewables to Distribution System

The Public Utility Commission this week adopted the rules for how custom-generators – who use technologies such as solar panels or fuel cells – connect to the electric distribution system.

“The regulations are designed to remove the barriers that may have prevented small alternative electric generators from establishing an interconnection to the electric distribution system,” said Commission Chairman Wendell F. Holland. “By finalizing a package of standards that govern the custom-generators, the Commission moves closer to the completion of a significant portion of the Alternative Energy Portfolio Standards Act. We continue to work toward full implementation of this Act in order to create a better environment and economy in Pennsylvania.”

The Commission voted unanimously to set the standards for customer-generators who desire to establish interconnection with the electric distribution system. The interconnection procedures are designed to streamline the regulatory process and encourage custom-generators to enter the market.

Customer-generators must apply to the electric distribution company (EDC) in order to be connected to the system. The interconnection standards establish review procedures for the EDCs, policies for dispute resolution and technical standards. The standards also allow for a single point of interconnection for a location with multiple energy production devices.

The rules are now sent to the General Assembly, Independent Regulatory Review Commission, the Attorney General and the Governor’s Budget Office for review.

The interconnection standards work in conjunction with the net metering rules to simplify and regulate the manner in which customer-generators work with utilities. On June 22, 2006, the Commission adopted net metering standards which govern how custom-generators are compensated for generation they provide to the electric utility distribution system.

Both rulemaking procedures will result in additional options for consumers allowing them to take control of their energy requirements using alternative energy sources.

For more information, visit the [PUC’s Alternative Energy webpage](#).

Link: [PUC Adopts Net Metering Rule for Alternative Energy Portfolio Standards](#)

Reducing Electricity Use Stretched Power Supplies, Lowered Cost During Heat Wave

Conservation during heat waves not only stretched power supplies, but saved money during the recent heat wave, reports [PJM Interconnection](#), operator of the regional electric power grid.

Reductions in electricity use during the early August heat wave produced price reductions estimated to be equivalent to more than \$650 million in payments for energy for the week, according to PJM.

Customers in the 13-state PJM region set a new record for power consumption of 144,796 megawatts on August 2. On that day alone, voluntary reductions in electricity use, known as demand response, resulted in price reductions estimated to be equivalent to more than \$230 million in payments for energy.

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Demand response involves reducing the use of electricity (demand) to meet a power grid need rather than increasing generation (supply). Customers offer to reduce their usage of electricity in return for being paid the market value of the electricity saved. Demand response can lower the price of electricity by avoiding the use of the most expensive generators.

Customers who curtail their usage receive payments based on the price to generate an equal amount of electricity. PJM payments to demand response providers for the heat wave during the first week in August were about \$5 million.

The increase in peak electricity demand in PJM from the summer of 2005 to this summer was more than 10,000 megawatts, enough electricity to power a major city.

PJM Interconnection ensures the reliability of the high-voltage electric power system serving 51 million people in all or parts of Delaware, Illinois, Indiana, Kentucky, Maryland, Michigan, New Jersey, North Carolina, Ohio, Pennsylvania, Tennessee, Virginia, West Virginia and the District of Columbia.

PJM coordinates and directs the operation of the region's transmission grid, which includes 6,038 substations and 56,070 miles of transmission lines; administers the world's largest competitive wholesale electricity market; and plans regional transmission expansion improvements to maintain grid reliability and relieve congestion.

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

Hard to Recycle Collection Event in Pittsburgh September 16

Take advantage of the September 16 collection event for [hard to recycle materials](#) at [Construction Junction](#) in Pittsburgh from 10:00 to 2:00.

For the fifth consecutive year, the Pennsylvania Resources Council is hosting a series of collections for cell phones, tires, computer equipment, large appliances, and latex paint.

The collection events help teach the importance of recycling and waste reduction. All materials collected at these events will be recycled, refurbished, or disposed of responsibly.

PRC is offering a one-stop drop off for these items at a reduced cost for what individuals would normally pay for disposal of these materials. PRC is accepting cash only-no checks or credit cards, please. See the fees below.

- Tires: \$1 without rims. NEW THIS YEAR: \$2 with rims. Tires must be 18" or smaller;
- Latex Paint: \$1/can (up to a gallon) or \$1/gallon for cans over a gallon;
- Appliances: Air conditioners \$15; Other freon items \$10; Stoves, washers, dryers and other large appliances \$5 NOTE: Individuals may drop off only appliances at Appliance Warehouse, (523 Bingham Street - South Side) during the same timeframe for the same fees; and
- Electronics: CPUs, monitors, VCRs, DVD players, stereos \$5; Mice and keyboards \$1; Cell Phones are FREE, courtesy of Verizon Wireless; Complete computer system (including CPU, monitor, mouse, and keyboard) \$10; Printers - small \$10, large \$15; Televisions up to 19" in size \$15; 20" and up \$20.
- Participant fees are subject to change.
- Phone books, mixed paper, cardboard, plastic bottles (#s 1-5) and aluminum and metal cans will be accepted at no charge on collection day.

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For more information call 412-488-7490 x243 or visit the [PRC Hard to Recycle webpage](#).

NewsClip: [Collection Effort Targets Household Hazards](#) New Goodwill Industries Computer Recycling Program Available in Southwest

Goodwill Industries of Pittsburgh and Dell this week introduced [Reconnect Pittsburgh](#), a free drop-off program for recycling of unwanted computers by area residents.

The program helps protect the environment through the responsible recycling or reuse of computer equipment, and provides residents a convenient opportunity to support a local charity.

Reconnect Pittsburgh takes advantage of the existing donation and retail infrastructure of Goodwill and the recycling experience and resources of Dell to offer a proactive, community-based solution to environmentally responsible electronics disposal.

The goal of the program is to divert more than two million pounds of used computers and computer equipment from landfills over one year and to provide consumer education on the importance of proper computer disposal, while creating job opportunities for individuals with disabilities and other employment barriers throughout the Pittsburgh region.

Goodwill will accept donated computer equipment from residents at each of its retail stores and donation centers in the Pittsburgh area. Goodwill will consolidate and sort equipment for shipment to a Dell product recovery partner for reuse or recycling.

Equipment that meets minimum standards will be refurbished and resold and all proceeds will support its non-profit job training and community programs. Equipment that cannot be refurbished will be responsibly recycled.

Residents will be responsible for removing data from hard drives and other storage media before donating to Goodwill.

"We are thrilled to join Dell in the Reconnect project. This is an exciting and logical next step for Goodwill's electronic recycling initiatives. Many know Goodwill for having over 100 years of experience in recycling clothing and housewares. However, few know that Pittsburgh Goodwill has been recycling computers for 10 years," said Goodwill Industries of Pittsburgh's President and Chief Executive Officer Michael J. Smith. "Like Dell, we look forward to soaring to the next level of responsible e-recycling."

This program is part of Dell's efforts to provide consumers convenient, easy and free recycling. Dell recently announced a policy of recycling all Dell-branded products at no charge.

Pittsburgh area residents can visit the [Reconnect Partnership website](#) to locate the most convenient drop-off location at any of the 33 local Goodwill donation stations and retail stores.

NewsClip: [Goodwill Reboots Recycling Effort](#)

Newspaper Recycling Program Nets \$7,418 for Scholarships at Penn State

With ongoing recycling efforts related to the [Newspaper Readership Program](#) at University Park, \$7,418 this year has been raised for a recycling scholarship that is part of the Board of Trustees Matching Scholarship Program.

Since its inception, the Program has raised \$74,859 for scholarships.

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The program was established in 2002 to help students who demonstrate financial aid, provides 5 percent matching funds for private gifts at or above the \$50,000 endowment level.

2006 Keep Pennsylvania Beautiful Summit Set for September 20-21

Register now for the [2006 Keep Pennsylvania Beautiful Summit](#) in Harrisburg, which this year has the theme, “Enchanted Natural Wonder & Vibrant, Livable Communities!”

The Summit will feature two keynote speakers: Edwin Pinero, President Bush's Federal Environmental Executive and the former Deputy for Pollution Prevention and Compliance Assistance for the Department of Environmental Protection and DEP Secretary Kathleen McGinty.

Workshops will be held the first day on tools and resources available through the national Keep America Beautiful Network and Keep Pennsylvania Beautiful Alliance, brag and steal sessions about local anti-litter and beautification programs that work and learn about the 2007 KPB Litter Abatement Demonstration Project and how your community can participate.

The Summit will also feature a “State of the State” report by representatives of DEP, DCNR, DCED and PennDOT on how programs they offer can help communities with anti-litter and beautification projects.

More information is available in the [Summit brochure](#) and online registration is available through the [KPB website](#).

National Children and Nature Conference Set for September 7-10

The [National Children and Nature Conference](#) will be held in Shepherdstown, West Virginia September 7 to 10 with the theme, “Focusing the Relationship of the Built Environment to Children and Nature.”

One of the keynote addresses will be given by Richard Louv, author of “Last Child in the Woods: Saving Our Children from Nature Deficit-Disorder.” Other presenters will include John Flicker, President of the National Audubon Society, Charles Jordan, Chairman of The Conservation Fund, Dr. Patricia Zaradic, Stroud Research Center, Gina McCarthy, Commissioner Connecticut Department of Environmental Protection on “[No Child Left Inside Campaign](#),” and Sylvia Earle, Chair Deep Ocean Exploration and Research, Explorer in Residence, National Geographic Society.

For a complete agenda, registration information and more, visit the [National Children and Nature Conference webpage](#).

Links: [Out of Sight, Out of Mind? By Laura Lutz](#)
[NPR Story, Saving Kids from “Nature Deficit Disorder”](#)

EPA Offers Sustainability Grants to Teams of College Students



a student
design competition
for sustainability

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency plans to award up to \$1.25 million in grants to teams of college students under the agency's [People, Prosperity and the Plant competition](#).

Applications are due by December 21.

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EPA will award as many as 50 grants up to \$10,000 each to student teams to research, develop and design scientific and technical solutions to sustainability challenges that protect the environment while achieving continued economic prosperity.

The money will be used to research and develop sustainable solutions during the 2007-08 academic year.

In spring 2008, the teams will be invited to bring their designs to Washington, D.C. to compete for EPA's P3 Award, which includes an additional award worth up to \$75,000 to further develop and implement the project in the field.

The competition will be judged by the National Academy of Engineering for design innovation and technical merit along with relevant social, economic and environmental considerations that are the keys to sustainable designs.

The P3 competition is open to teams of students attending colleges, universities and other post-secondary educational institutions. Interdisciplinary teams are strongly encouraged, including representatives from multiple engineering departments and/or departments of chemistry, architecture, industrial design, economics, policy, social sciences, business, communication, etc.

Several previous winners have already taken their innovations to new levels – including starting successful businesses, winning additional awards, and improving the quality of life in the United States, other developed countries plus those that are developing.

For application procedures and other background information, visit the [People, Prosperity and the Plant competition webpage](#)

Metlab Potero Saves \$270,200 by Reducing Environmental Footprint

[Metlab Potero](#), a heat treatment company, in Montgomery County saved over \$270,000 and reduced their water use by 3.7 million gallons and saved 4.1 million cubic feet of natural gas by installing a new cooling water collection and recovery system at its facility in Wyndmoor.

The cooling water that was previously discharged after being used to cool their heat treat furnace components is now recirculated and reused in their heated rinse tanks on its surface treatment line.

The company projected a reduction in the amount wastewater discharge, energy used for heating the rinse water and a reduction in residual waste. The company projected a simple payback of approximately 1.5 years.

In the past four years, Metlab has reported saving more than 3.7 million gallons of water and 4.1 million cubic feet of natural gas as well as a reduction in its waste stream.

The company has also reported a reduction in waste disposal costs as well as an increase in production. The company has realized a savings of \$270,200 in the four years since implementing the project.

Metlab has also has a second project that involved the installation of a new high efficiency compressed air system.

The improvements made by Metlab were financed in part by [DEP's Pollution Prevention Assistance Account Loan Program](#).

Link: [Metlab Potero Industries of the Future](#)

Regional Environmental Compliance Conferences Set for October, November

The Pennsylvania Chamber of Business and Industry is sponsoring three regional [Environmental Compliance Issues Conferences](#) in Monroeville, October 19, Harrisburg October 25 and in Valley Forge November 8.

The Conferences will cover regulatory changes in five key issue areas: residual waste, water-stormwater, spill prevention, control and countermeasures plans, storage tanks and air pollution control.

For a conference agenda and online registration information, visit the [Conference webpage of the PA Chamber website](#).

DEP Citizens Advisory Council Publishes Summer 2006 Advisory Newsletter

DEP's Citizens Advisory Council published its Summer 2006 Advisory Newsletter this week highlighting the Council's regional meetings in Southwest Pennsylvania, federal abandoned mine fee legislation, a new PA Conservation Directory and much more.

For a copy, visit the [Summer 2006 Advisory newsletter webpage](#).

Attention Deer Hunters: Game Commission, DCNR Post DMAP Information

Hunters looking for new antlerless deer hunting opportunities are encouraged to review the list of [Deer Management Assistance Program](#) (DMAP) properties webpage.

Hunters can also check the [Department of Conservation and Natural Resources's website](#) to see where coupons still are available for various state forests and parks.

This year, 750 properties representing 1,871,387 acres were approved for enrollment in DMAP. A total of 36,626 coupons were approved for distribution by landowners.

Landowners are permitted to provide up to two DMAP coupons per property to a licensed hunter, who will then apply for the DMAP permits. This will enable hunters to possess up to two DMAP permits for a specific DMAP area. Landowners may not charge or accept any contribution from a hunter for a DMAP coupon.

Resident hunters must mail DMAP coupons in a regular envelope, along with a check for \$6 made payable to the Pennsylvania Game Commission, to the address listed on the coupon to receive their DMAP antlerless deer permit. Nonresidents must include a check for \$26.

The permit can be used to harvest one antlerless deer on the specific DMAP area. Maps for the properties are to be provided to hunters by the landowners.

For more information, visit the Game Commission's [Deer Management Assistance Program](#) (DMAP) properties webpage and the [Department of Conservation and Natural Resources's website](#).

Jill Gaito Named Acting Deputy for Community Revitalization at DEP

[Jill Gaito](#) was appointed acting DEP Deputy for Community Revitalization and Local Government Support this week.

Ms. Gaito previously served as a Brownfields Policy Specialist in the same office and was employed as a Senior Project Manager by Gannett Fleming, Inc. and served as a National Risk Assessment Leader for TerraSure Development, LLC.

See & Hear

Meet the Seeley Family, Bringing Sustainable Practices to Dairy Farming

Learn how the [Seeley family of Troy, Bradford County](#) are managing their dairy farm using sustainable farming practices that are less harmful to the land, water and the environment through this *Rough Terrain* feature of the GreenTreks Network.

In 1984 the Seeleys began the process of converting their farm to sustainable practices to improve the quality of their food products and their quality of life.

Kim Seeley, a graduate of Penn State, runs the Milky Way Dairy Farm with his father Lewis and is an active member of the [Pennsylvania Alliance for Sustainable Agriculture](#).

Tune in to [the Milky Way Dairy Farm](#) online.

Quick Clips

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

[SEDA Plans Center to Spur Green Technologies](#)
[Family Leads Drive to Preserve Wooded Venango Site](#)
[Being Outdoorsy Is as American As Apple Pie](#)
[Editorial: Fishing for Dollars](#)
[Editorial: Casting for Young Anglers](#)
[Fish & Boat Commission Announces Grants to Cooperative Nurseries](#)
[Black Bear Sightings Becoming More Frequent](#)
[Northern PA Mountaintop Haven for Star Watchers](#)
[Diary of an Elkaholic](#)
[Allegheny Valley Trail Paving Underway](#)
[Boating Death Toll Prompts Call for Life Jackets](#)
[Growth Solutions Offered for Livable Building](#)
[Developing Brownfields Called Best Approach](#)
[Environmental Advocates Eye New Life for Old Industrial Sites](#)
[Brownfields Expert Likes What he Sees in Ambridge](#)
[Silk Mill Site Going on Fast Track](#)
[Mine Office Saw Disaster in New Rules](#)
[Wind Farm Set for Schuylkill County](#)
[Op-Ed: Alternative Fuels Can Help Break Oil Reliance](#)
[Ag Progress Days Highlight Latest in Alternative Fuels](#)
[Clearfield County to be Site of First Ethanol Plant in State](#)
[Eco-Bus Stops In Lancaster](#)

[Power Line May Be on Fast Track](#)

[Editorial: Illegal Billboards](#)

[Annual Mine Rescue Contest Tests Abilities of Rescue Teams](#)

Watershed NewsClips

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

[Watershed Receives Generous Gift, Offer of Matching Funds](#)

[Nine Mile Run Back in Natural State](#)

[Delaware Committee Mulls Steps to Control Pollution, Flood Threats](#)

[No Quick Fixes for Flood Prevention Along the Delaware](#)

[Coopersburg Creek, Park Getting Natural Makeover](#)

[Walnut Creek Assessment Team Finishing Up Work](#)

[Frick Park Renewal Celebration](#)

[Fish Return to Stream After \\$7.7 Million Cleanup](#)

[100 Acre Waste Coal Site Due for Cleanup](#)

[Fish & Boat Commission Announces Grants to Cooperative Nurseries](#)

[Ground Broken for Shippensburg Biological Nutrient Removal System](#)

[Bradford Offers Growing Greener Grants to Stabilize Streams](#)

[Dam Demolition Begins in Lackawanna County](#)

[Railroad Cited for Spill that Devastated Stream](#)

[Work Resumes at Mather Coal Refuse Site](#)

Regulations

Mercury Rule Comments Due August 26, Meeting to Review Comments August 31

The comment period on the Department of Environmental Protection state-only rule to reduce mercury emissions from coal-fired power plants will end on August 26. DEP announced this week it will [convene key advisory groups](#) on August 31 to review the comments (3,000 so far) and draft concepts for a final rule.

The meeting will be held at 9 a.m. on August 31, in Room 105 of the Rachel Carson State Office Building, 400 Market Street, Harrisburg.

DEP officials will be meeting with members of the Air Quality Technical Advisory Committee, Citizens Advisory Council, and [Mercury Rule Work Group](#).

Issue Notebook: [PA Mercury Emissions Update](#)

The Department of Environmental Protection published [notice of a water quality standards review for Tannery Hollow Run](#), Cameron County.

[Pennsylvania Bulletin – August 19, 2006](#)

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

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

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

Technical Guidance & Permits

The Department of Environmental Protection published a notice of [availability for a Plan Approval/Operating Permit for landfill gas filed turbines.](#)

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

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

Calendar of Upcoming Events

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

- [Schedule of No-Cost Internet Training on Site Remediation](#)
- **August 22** – House Local Government Committee public hearing on [House Bill 2564](#) (Maitland-R-Franklin) amending the Municipalities Planning Code to provide for local impact fees. Chambersburg Administration Building. 10:00.
- **August 23** – **CANCELLED.** [DEP Agricultural Advisory Board meeting.](#) Next scheduled meeting is October 18.
- **August 29** – [State Board for Certification of Water and Wastewater Systems Operators conference call.](#)
- **August 29** – DEP [Small Systems Technical Assistance Center Advisory Board](#) work group meeting on emergency notification. 12th Floor Conference Room, Rachel Carson Building. 9:00.
- **August 29** – DEP [Stormwater Manual Oversight Committee.](#) Room 105 Rachel Carson Building. 10:00.
- **August 30** – Senate Agriculture and Rural Affairs Committee informational meeting on [Senate Bill 1286](#) (Wenger-R-Lancaster) Resource Enhancement Tax Credit Program and conservation districts. Manchester Twp. Building, 3200 Farmtrail Road, York. 10:00.
- **August 31** – [Joint DEP Citizens Advisory Council, Air Quality Technical Advisory Committee, Mercury Work Group meeting](#) to review preliminary summary of public comments, outline of final mercury rule. Room 105 Rachel Carson Building. Harrisburg. 9:00.
- **September 6** – DEP [Section 111\(d\) hearing on plan to control mercury emissions](#) from power plants in Pittsburgh, Harrisburg and Norristown.
- **September 13** – **CANCELLED.** [DEP Water Resources Advisory Committee](#) meeting. Room 105 Rachel Carson Building. 9:30.

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- **September 15** - DEP [Small Systems Technical Assistance Center Advisory Board](#) work group meeting on emergency notification. 10th Floor Conference Room, Rachel Carson Building. 9:00.
- **September 19-20** – [State Board for Certification of Water and Wastewater Systems Operators](#). 10th Floor Rachel Carson Building. 10:00 and 8:30 respectively.
- **October 13** - [DEP Water Resources Advisory Committee](#) meeting. Room 105 Rachel Carson Building. 9:30.
- **October 31-November 5** – [National Historic Preservation Conference](#). National Trust for Historic Preservation. Pittsburgh.
- **December 12** – **CANCELLED**. [Coal and Clay Mine Subsidence Insurance Board meeting](#).
- **December 14** – [Coal and Clay Mine Subsidence Insurance Board meeting](#). 14th Floor Conference Room, Rachel Carson Building, Harrisburg. 10:00.

[DEP Calendar of Events](#)

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

[Environmental Education Workshop/Training Calendar](#)

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

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

Helpful Web Links

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

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

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

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

Stories Invited

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

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

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