

-PA ——— Environment Digest

*An Update on
Environmental
Issues in
Pennsylvania*

Edited By David E. Hess, Crisci Associates

August 27, 2007

[PA Environment Digest Video Blog](#)

Three Students Receive Ralph W. Abele Conservation Scholarships



The [Ralph W. Abele Scholarship Fund](#) this week announced it has awarded three students a total of \$4,000 in scholarships to support their work in conservation and environmental studies programs.

The scholarship winners were: Darren M. Wood, Millerstown (Perry County) - \$2,000; David P. Heath, Carlisle (Cumberland County) - \$1,000; and Cory Burns, Warren (Warren County) - \$1,000.

“We are very pleased to award these scholarships to three very deserving students pursuing careers in conservation,” said Frank Felbaum, President of the Ralph W. Abele Scholarship Fund board. “The mission of the board is to promote the development of Pennsylvania’s next generation of environmental leaders and providing scholarships is a great way to encourage young people to consider conservation as a field of study.”

Here is more background on each of the winners:

- Darren M. Wood is a graduate of Greenwood High School, Perry County, and will attend Mansfield University as a Biology-Fisheries Major. He served as a state vice-president in the Pennsylvanian Future Farmers of America and has had internships with the Department of Agriculture and the Pennsylvania Farm Bureau.
- David P. Heath is a graduate of Carlisle High School, Cumberland County, and will attend Pennsylvania State University as a Civil and Environmental Systems Engineering Major. He is a graduate of the American Wilderness Leadership School in Wyoming and worked to develop an ornithology trail in a conservation area as an Eagle Scout project.
- Cory Burns, Warren, Pa, will be returning to Westminster College as a senior majoring in Biology. As a senior research project, Cory chose to study the impact the hemlock woolly adelgid is having on stream and forest ecology, in particular riparian ecology.

The Abele Scholarship Fund was formed in 1991 as a living memorial to [Ralph W. Abele](#) who provided extraordinary leadership to the Fish and Boat Commission and to Pennsylvania’s conservation movement from 1969 through 1987.

“Ralph Abele was a tremendous advocate for protecting and restoring Pennsylvania’s streams and rivers and worked tirelessly to pass state and federal clean water laws and the environmental rights amendment to the state constitution,” said Felbaum. “Ralph has been missed, but we have the next generation of environmentalists waiting in the wings to do their part.”

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Abele scholarships are awarded annually and considered for students giving a priority to seniors or graduates of the Greenwood Area School District in Perry County, second preference to residents of Perry County and children of employees of the Fish and Boat Commission and then other residents of Pennsylvania.

For more information, write the Ralph W. Abele Scholarship Fund, c/o Pennsylvania Fish & Boat Commission, P.O. Box 67000, Harrisburg, PA 17106-7000, send email to Joe Greene, Treasurer, at: jgreene@paonline.com or visit the Commission's website at www.fish.state.pa.us and do a search for "scholarship."

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Session Schedule

The Senate and House will return to voting session September 17.

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Opinion

- Volunteer to Support State Parks and Forests, *By Marci Mowery, President, Pennsylvania Parks and Forests Foundation*

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On the Hill

On the Senate/House Agenda

The House has scheduled the following Committee meetings and hearings for the coming week—

House: the Intergovernmental Affairs Committee holds a hearing on [House Bill 1304](#) (Fairchild-R-Union) establishing a PA Geospatial Coordinating Council; the Environmental Resources and Energy Committee will hold a public hearing on [House Bill 1735](#) (Yewcic-D-Cambria) related to the rights of surface property rights owners related to drilling for coal bed methane in Johnstown; the Veterans Affairs and Emergency Preparedness Committee has a meeting on Delaware River Basin Flooding; the House Republican Policy Committee has two meetings planned, one a hearing on the Low-Income Energy Assistance Program in Pittsburgh and the second an informational meeting on electric energy issues, alternative energy sources and energy efficiency in Blue Bell.

Other News

Tom Kerr To Receive L.L. Bean Outdoor Hero Award



Tom Kerr, past president of the [Wildlands Conservancy](#), will be recognized by [L.L.Bean, Inc.](#) on August 27 as a recipient of one of the company's six Outdoor Hero Awards this year.

“Tom Kerr deserves the Outdoor Hero Award for his sheltering of 45,000 acres of open space; his teaching hundreds of thousands of students and adults about the environment, and his substantial work to encourage the protection of our irreplaceable natural resources,” said Christopher Kocher, current President of the Wildlands Conservancy. “His legacy will be felt for many generations, as his work has protected the local environment and added to the quality of life in eastern Pennsylvania.”

The award comes with a \$500 gift certificate for Tom Kerr and a \$5,000 gift, for the nominating organization, Wildlands Conservancy. It will be presented at the organization's headquarters by Tim Loftus, the L.L. Bean Center Valley Outdoor Discovery School Supervisor.

L.L.Bean established the award to honor individuals who have contributed to creating, maintaining, teaching about, or encouraging the use of outdoor spaces for all of to enjoy.

Video Blog: [A Conversation with Tom Kerr on Conservation Challenges](#)

PEC Climate Change Policy in PA, Around the Nation Program September 6

As part of its 38th annual membership meeting, the Pennsylvania Environmental Council is sponsoring a symposium entitled, "[Climate Change Policy in Pennsylvania and Around the Nation](#)," on September 6 at the Harrisburg Hilton.

The featured speakers include:

- **Brian J. Hill**, PEC President & CEO, "Setting the Stage: Pennsylvania's Greenhouse Gas Emissions Today and in 2015;"
- **Dr. Lewis Ziska**, Plant Physiologist, US Department of Agriculture, "The Impact of Rising Temperatures on Pennsylvania Agriculture;"
- **Dr. Thomas Peterson**, Executive Director, Center for Climate Strategies, "How Other States are Responding to Climate Change;"
- **Robert McKinstry, Esq.**, Environmental Attorney and Past Goddard Chair at Penn State University, "The US Supreme Court's Decision in Massachusetts et al v US Environmental Protection Agency et al: Import for Future Federal Action;" and
- **Honorable Michael DiBerardinis**, Secretary, Pennsylvania Department of Conservation and Natural Resources, "Pennsylvania Leadership through the Carbon Management Advisory Group."



For more information, [download the online invitation](#), or contact Cyndee O'Malley, PEC, 717-230-8044 x. 21 or send email to: comalley@pecpa.org .

Link: [PEC Unveils Stakeholder-Drive Climate Change Roadmap](#)

DCNR Hosts Statewide Meetings on State Forest Management

A [series of nine meetings](#) will be held by the Department of Conservation and Natural Resources to seek public input on changes to its master management plan charting the course of Pennsylvania's state forests for future generations.

The meeting dates and locations are:

- September 12, Ramada Inn, State College;
- September 18, Renovo Elementary School, Renovo;
- September 19, Brady Township Community Center, Luthersburg (near Dubois);
- September 20, Potato City Inn, Coudersport;
- September 25, Antiochian Village, Ligonier;
- September 27, The Inn at Reading, French Creek;
- October 1, Genetti Hotel, Williamsport;
- October 2, Holiday Inn/Dunmore, Scranton; and
- October 4, Hotel Carlisle and Embers Convention Center, Carlisle.

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“Implementation of our state forest resource management plan in 2003 gave us a solid foundation from which to manage Pennsylvania’s 2.1 million acres of state woodlands, but four years brings new threats, challenges and potential,” said Department of Conservation and Natural Resources Secretary Michael DiBerardinis. “Hearing from the public gives us insight into their needs and concerns related to the forest, which allows us to adapt our management strategies.”

The meetings will be held during September and early October throughout the state and will include a presentation on issues facing state forest managers followed by a facilitated public discussion.

“Ecosystem management and sustainability remain the mission of the bureau and the backbone of its management philosophy, but there will be increased focus on recreation planning and programming, as well as considering emerging policy issues around wind power, carbon sequestration and other energy-related activities,” Secretary DiBerardinis said.

Highlights of proposed changes to the state forest resource management plan include:

- The lifting of a moratorium on shallow-gas drilling; operation would be considered on a limited, case-by-case basis;
- Increased attention to invasive species, both insects and plants;
- Pursuit of opportunities for land acquisition; and
- Designation of more than 13,000 acres as wild and natural areas, which was first proposed in 2003.

Pointing to the recent discovery of the emerald ash borer in western Pennsylvania, the spread of the woolly adelgid and emergence of other serious insect and invasive plant threats, Secretary DiBerardinis said forest pest management and ecological efforts will be topics for discussion.

“There is uncertainty about how to monitor and manage these forest health threats, and we will continue our work to educate the public about them as well as to pursue research and long-term solutions to these problems,” said Secretary DiBerardinis.

The Secretary noted that while the first resource management plan almost 50 years ago focused on timber management, the new plan and its recent revisions take an ecosystem approach, with a goal of forest sustainability in order to provide an array of resources, uses, and values for current and future generations. A key component of the plan remains expansion of the state’s wild and natural areas by more than 13,000 acres.

“Some things remain unchanged as we update this management plan,” said Secretary DiBerardinis. “Annual timber harvest goals remain the same, as our production goals remain on target, and the bureau remains committed to providing a state forest that is a more diverse mix of young and old growth to provide a wider range of habitat to benefit wildlife.”

The secretary said there are encouraging signs indicating the balance between forest habitat and whitetail deer populations is improving, and in some areas the need for deer fencing to protect young forests is declining.

“The white-tailed deer remains a valuable recreational, economic, cultural and ecological resource that provides quality hunting opportunities on DCNR land,” Secretary DiBerardinis said.

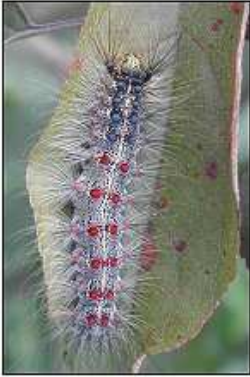
Written comments will be accepted until October 31. Interested parties may submit comments online, at one of the public meetings, or through the U.S. mail to: DCNR –

Bureau of Forestry, State Forest Resource Management Plan Update, P.O. Box 8552, Harrisburg, PA 17105-8552.

Comments will be summarized, reported and incorporated into the plan in 2008.

For more information, visit DCNR's [2007 State Forest Management Plan webpage](#).

Gypsy Moth Damage, Cost of Spraying Assessed By DCNR



Department of Conservation and Natural Resources Secretary Michael DiBerardinis said this week counties enrolled in the state's [gypsy moth](#) suppression program in 2008 can expect to pay about \$17 an acre for aerial spraying to combat the woodland insect pest population.

"We know there were reports of severe defoliation in some areas of the state, and increased requests from counties for DCNR spraying next spring reflect the scope of these gypsy moth infestations," Secretary DiBerardinis said. "This spring, 11 counties participated in the control program, while at least 30 counties are requesting spraying of private land in 2008."

Gypsy moth infestation has been high in some areas the past two years and state and local observations point to similar insect levels next spring. Though aerial and ground survey findings are incomplete, statewide defoliation is expected to increase from 700,000 acres in 2006 to about 900,000 acres in 2007.

"The amount of acreage likely to be enrolled in the 2008 spray program, as well as associated costs and available resources all are being closely reviewed," said Secretary DiBerardinis. "This analysis points to a \$17-an-acre spraying cost to counties."

With an eye toward next spring, DCNR foresters have been reviewing aerial defoliation figures, conducting annual insect egg-mass counts and working closely with county officials to pinpoint spraying needs and estimate costs of control measures for local governments.

As targeted spray areas increase next year, county contributions again will help cover costs of what has been a longstanding, cooperative effort among the Bureau of Forestry, U.S. Department of Agriculture Forest Service's Forest Health Protection Unit and county and municipal governments.

"Gov. Rendell's recently approved 2008 budget earmarks an additional \$3 million in state funding for the 2008 spraying effort but, as with this year's program, there is considerable uncertainty surrounding the amount of federal funds for next year," Secretary DiBerardinis said. "We expect some funds but we can't predict how much at this time." Besides fiscal constraints, aircraft availability also could limit the scope of the 2008 spray program. Contracted services provided by helicopters — usually deployed in private land spraying — would facilitate coverage of about 150,000 acres. Fixed-wing aircraft, better suited for state land coverage, can spray about 200,000 acres.

"If county requests exceed our ability to provide spraying, we will follow a priority system that ranks acreage according to land use, severity of infestation, prior defoliation and other factors," DiBerardinis said.

Earlier this summer, interested landowners were asked to contact their county gypsy moth coordinator to begin the process for determining proposed treatment areas for

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2008. A list of county coordinators' telephone numbers are on DCNR's Bureau of Forestry Web site at www.dcnr.state.pa.us.

DCNR opted not to conduct aerial spraying in 2003, 2004 and 2005 because of sharply declining gypsy moth populations, during which a naturally occurring gypsy moth fungus proved deadly to the insect that defoliates oaks and certain hardwoods and conifers. In spring 2006, DCNR's Bureau of Forestry targeted 81,690 acres in 8 counties.

This spring, about 65,000 acres were sprayed in 19 counties. Included were 11 counties that enrolled 35,919 acres of private land in Blair, Bedford, Cumberland, Dauphin, Franklin, Fulton, Lackawanna, Lebanon, Monroe, Pike and Wayne counties. In addition, state lands were sprayed in Centre, Clinton, Huntingdon, Juniata, Luzerne, Mifflin, Somerset and Union counties.

"Spraying helps contain the widespread gypsy moth damage we have seen in the past, but the major controlling factor is, and will continue to be, the prevalence of a gypsy moth fungus in our woodlands," said Dr. Donald A Eggen, forest health manager with the Bureau of Forestry. "Thanks largely to the gypsy moth's natural enemy — *Entomophaga maimaiga* — gypsy moth numbers had been way down for several years in most areas of the state."

Gypsy moth defoliation dropped sharply from a peak of 837,594 acres in 2000 to a low of only 1,404 acres in 2003.

Forestry bureau experts identify the gypsy moth as one of the most destructive forest pests in Pennsylvania. Introduced to North America in 1869 at Medford, Mass., where it was used in a silk-production experiment, the insect first reached Pennsylvania in Luzerne County in 1932 and has infested every county since.

For more information on insect pests, visit DCNR's [Forest Pest Management webpage](#).

\$154 Million Investment in 415 Growing Greener II Projects

The Department of Environmental Protection this week announced \$154 million in grants to preserve open space and farmland, protect watersheds, reclaim abandoned mines and remediate acid mine drainage.

"We are using the Internet as a valuable tool to showcase how state funding is being invested to create a better Pennsylvania for everyone," Gov. Rendell said. "I want people to easily be able to see that we are now funding projects that will preserve farmland, plug leaking oil wells, reclaim abandoned mines, and improve state parks. The project list may also provide new ideas for potential applicants."

Growing Greener II projects are funded through the departments of Environmental Protection, Conservation and Natural Resources, Agriculture, and Community and Economic Development; as well as the Fish and Boat and Game commissions.

Statewide, \$80 million will be used to purchase agricultural conservation easements through Pennsylvania's nation-leading farmland preservation program. The funds will permanently protect 38,000 acres of productive farmland. To date, \$39.4 million has been spent to preserve more than 14,800 acres on 142 farms.

Included in the hundreds of projects financed by this initiative is a \$1.35 million grant to eliminate dangerous cliffs and spoil piles at the former Kelley Estate mine in West Keating Township, Clinton County. The 130-acre project also will restore habitat for elk

and other wildlife, transforming a portion of the “Pennsylvania Wilds” into a vast mountain meadow.

On the local level, the funds have been used to help community parks, like the Eco-Innovation Park in Allegheny County, which will use \$250,000 of Growing Greener II money, in cooperation with the Phipps Conservatory and Botanical Gardens, to fund things like new trails, ADA access, a rain garden and a green roof demonstration area, which will show how buildings can be heated or cooled without using large amounts of energy.

Other projects that are scheduled to receive money include new or innovative drinking water/wastewater treatment systems, dam improvements, open space acquisitions, repairs and upgrades to fish hatcheries, wildlife habitat development, acid mine drainage abatement, brown fields remediation, industrial site revitalization, community parks and recreation centers and watershed protection.

“The huge scope of these projects shows that the Growing Greener II funds are truly being used to sustain Pennsylvania’s environment in a broad range of ways, like giving citizens a safe place for outdoor recreation and allowing us to support Pennsylvania’s farming heritage by preserving farmlands,” the Governor said.

Growing Greener II is a voter-approved plan that invests \$625 million in six years to clean up rivers and streams; protect natural areas, open spaces and working farms; and shore up key programs to improve the quality of life and revitalize communities across the commonwealth. Growing Greener II allocates \$90 million for counties to use to designate eligible environmental projects, as well. The law creating Growing Greener II also calls for an annual update of all the projects funded as part of the project.

DEP said a list of new projects funded will be posted on the [Growing Greener II website](#).

NewsClip: [\\$2.6 Million in Sewage Enforcement Grants Announced](#)

Over \$250,000 in Exelon Grants to Improve Schuylkill River Watershed

The [Schuylkill River Heritage Area](#) has awarded three grants totaling \$250,134 from the [Exelon Schuylkill River Watershed Restoration Program](#).

The program, which was created by Exelon Nuclear last year, supports projects that enhance the quality of water in the Schuylkill River and its tributaries. The Schuylkill River Heritage Area oversees the fund, distributing money annually to non-profit organizations and government agencies.

This year three projects were selected that focus on agricultural improvements, stream bank restoration, and abandoned mine drainage remediation.

“All these projects benefit the entire watershed because they reduce the amount of run-off and pollution that enters creeks, and ultimately, the river, which is a source of drinking water for over one million people,” said Kurt Zwikl, executive director of the Schuylkill River Heritage Area.

Projects selected were:

- **Berks County Conservancy**--\$98,500 for agricultural improvements on two farm properties located on tributaries of the Schuylkill River in Berks County;
- **Delaware Riverkeeper Network**--\$90,634 for stream bank stabilization and installation of a riparian buffer on a farm located along Mill Creek in Tilden Township, Berks County, to reduce nutrient loads that pollute the Schuylkill River; and

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- **Schuylkill Headwaters Association**--\$61,141 for the upgrade of three abandoned mine drainage remediation systems to improve the quality of water that drains to the headwaters of the Schuylkill River, in Schuylkill County.

Recipients were chosen by a committee of representatives from Exelon, Delaware River Basin Commission, Philadelphia Water Department, Environmental Protection Agency, Department of Environmental Protection and the Schuylkill River Heritage Area.

The annual fund is part of a demonstration project for the water diversion program at Exelon Nuclear's Limerick Generating Station and is under the purview of the Delaware River Basin Commission. This year, Exelon contributed a total of \$271,148 to the fund—an increase of \$110,000 over last year, when \$158,000 was donated.

Chris Mudrick, Site Vice President of the Limerick Generating Station, said, "We are excited to be able to contribute at an even higher level this year to the Schuylkill River Restoration Fund. Our partnership with SRHA in establishing and managing this fund has resulted in many improvements to the Schuylkill River basin. As a producer of safe, clean, and reliable energy, it is only fitting that we continue to strengthen our stewardship of the environment we rely upon for continued operation."

The bulk of this year's funding, along with \$6,100 rolled over from last year, went toward the three projects. Remaining funds were used to cover costs of administering the grants.

Exelon was able to contribute more money this year because weather conditions impact how the program is funded.

Here's how the water supply program works:

Exelon pulls water from the Schuylkill River to support Limerick Generating Station's cooling water needs. However, current DRBC regulations allow Exelon to withdraw water only when natural flows are adequate, greater than 560 cubic feet per second and the temperature is below 59 degrees. In the past, Delaware River water was pumped 40 miles to the Limerick plant, generally from May 1 to November 1, due to these restrictions.

During 2006 Exelon completed its fourth year demonstrating to the DRBC that Exelon can use various water sources to augment the Schuylkill River flow, and eliminate the temperature restriction. This reduces Limerick's dependence on the Delaware River. Since this is more cost effective, a portion of the money saved is redirected into the Schuylkill River Watershed Restoration Fund. Exelon's yearly contribution is based on the amount of water not required to be pumped from the Delaware River or other sources.

This year, favorable weather conditions enabled Exelon to pull water from the Schuylkill River more regularly, thus increasing the amount of money it contributed to the fund.

EPA Approves PennVEST Water Quality Trading Financing Program

The Pennsylvania Infrastructure Investment Authority received U.S. Environmental Protection Agency approval to use [an innovative financing approach](#) using Clean Water State Revolving Fund money to buy, sell, and create water quality trading credits.

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Trading programs reduce the costs of improving and maintaining water quality while accelerating the pace and success of cleaning up impaired rivers, streams, and lakes.

PennVEST's water quality trading plan is the first in the country to use CWSRF funds to invest in the purchase and sale of pollution trading credits and in building best management practices that will generate these credits.

For more information, visit the [PennVEST Q/A on Trading](#) and DEP's [Water Quality Trading webpage](#).

2007 Crawford County Clean Water Festival September 15-16

The 2007 Clean Water Festival is almost here! The event, to be held September 15 and 16 in Linesville, PA, promises to be full of fun and excitement this year!

“Plans are set in motion for our best event ever!” said Brian Pilarcik of the [Crawford County Conservation District](#). “The Clean Water Festival Committee has been working hard to put together an interactive area with educational displays, programs and presentations to grab everyone’s attention. Test your skills at one of the many interactive stations, or listen to one of the many presentations. There will be plenty to do for all ages. And best of all it is free.”

The Clean Water Festival, which annually pulls in 3,000 to 5,000 participants, will include demonstrations by local experts on topics such as fly tying and casting demos, forestry and tree ID tours, duck banding demonstrations, water safety dog demos, stream critters, as well as much more!

Participants will also have the opportunity to make fish print t-shirts, paint with soils, play games, as well as participate in lots of other interactive demonstrations. There is something for the whole family!

During the same weekend Ducks Unlimited will be hosting the 26th annual [Pymatuning Waterfowl & Outdoor Expo](#) in Linesville.

The Clean Water Festival will be located at the Linesville State Fish Hatchery on Linesville/Hartstown Road just south of Linesville.

For more information on the Clean Water Festival educational area, contact Brian Pilarcik at 814-763-5269 or send e-mail to: festival@crawfordconservation.com.

RC&D Councils to Hold Mid-Atlantic Conference September 16-19

The PA Association of Resource Conservation and Development Councils invites all of their partners and supporters to the Mid-Atlantic RC&D Councils Conference in Grantville September 16-19.

The program will feature workshops on a variety of environmental and organizational topics, training sessions, project tours, good food and the announcement of the annual award winners.

For more information and a registration form, visit the [Capital RC&D webpage](#) or contact Susan Richards at 717-948-6633 or send email to: susan.richards@rcdnet.net.

Harvest Dinner Will Support PA Association for Sustainable Agriculture

The [Pennsylvania Association for Sustainable Agriculture](#) will hold its annual [Harvest Celebration Benefit Dinner](#) on September 14 at Hilton Harrisburg.

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The evening will include a reception at the adjoining Whitaker Center for Science and the Arts. It is truly going to be a night to remember and we'd like you to join us in supporting this event.

The Harvest Celebration is a delicious local foods feast with a menu to showcase the exceptional seasonal foods being grown right here in our own backyard. This special event is being organized to raise funds to support PASA programs and increase awareness of the significance of family farming in this region of Pennsylvania.

PASA is a nonprofit organization that promotes profitable farms that produce healthy food for all people while respecting the natural environment.

For more information on attending the event or being a sponsor, visit the [Harvest Celebration Benefit Dinner webpage](#).

DEP Closes Small Business Pollution Prevention, Energy Efficiency Grants Early

Due to an overwhelming response, the Department of Environmental Protection anticipates that the application window for the [Small Business Advantage Grant Program](#) will close the last week of August, or once the \$1 million in funding is committed to eligible projects, whichever comes first.

On August 13, the DEP Small Business Ombudsman's office opened the Advantage Grant program for FY 07-08. Applications arrived at a frenzied pace after the first day, averaging more than \$70,000 in requests per day.

At the current rate of incoming applications, the Advantage Grant program may experience the shortest application window in its history. To put it in perspective, last fiscal year's grant round was open for two-and-a-half months.

The Small Business Advantage Grant Program provides a 50 percent matching grant-up to \$7,500-to help defray the costs of purchasing new equipment or implementing new processes that reduce energy consumption and prevent pollution, while helping to increase profitability.

Listed below are examples of pollution prevention and energy efficiency projects that have received Advantage Grant funding in previous rounds: Anti-Idling Technologies for Long Haul Trucking, Alternate Fuels or Heat Exchanger/Recirculating Systems, Compressed Air System Upgrades, High Efficiency Lighting Systems, Dental Digital Radiography, Lumber Mill By-Product Utilization, Dry-Cleaning Equipment Upgrades, Process Chiller/Boiler Systems and Motor Controller Upgrades

To be eligible, an applicant must be a for-profit corporation, limited liability company, partnership, sole proprietorship or other legal entity with no more than 100 full-time employees. The entity must be a separate legal business at the time the application is submitted, and located within the commonwealth.

For more information, visit the [Small Business Advantage Grant Program webpage](#).

Pittsburgh Local Homeowner Benefits from Cost, Energy-Saving Renovations

[Rebuilding Together Pittsburgh](#), the local affiliate of the nation's largest volunteer home rehabilitation organization, and the Associated Petroleum Industries of Pennsylvania this

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week helped a woman living on an income of modest means reduce her energy use and save money as part of an energy-efficient rebuild of her home.

The rebuild is part of the Energy Efficient Homes Initiative, a national partnership between Rebuilding Together and America's oil and natural gas industry, which incorporates energy efficiency into home renovations for homeowners living on modest means nationwide, many of whom are elderly, disabled or have young children.

The Initiative is an additional component to the 19-year-old national Rebuilding Together program that will revitalize nearly 10,000 homes across the country this year. With the help of the Initiative, Rebuilding Together will provide low-income homeowners the ability to reduce their energy consumption by as much as 30 percent.

"This is a wonderful partnership. Together, we are making a positive difference in the lives of those most in need," said Cindy Gilch, executive director, Rebuilding Together Pittsburgh. "Providing homeowners living on modest means the tools to dramatically improve energy efficiency enables them to save money and use it for other immediate needs such as food and health care."

"America's oil and natural gas industry practices energy efficiency every day within its operations, so we know the significant value of such a commitment," said Rolf Hanson, executive director, Associated Petroleum Industries of Pennsylvania. "We are delighted to partner with Rebuilding Together Pittsburgh in this outstanding initiative. Our efforts will provide homeowners of modest means with the dual benefit of saving both energy and money."

Last year, the Initiative was highlighted in 18 rebuilds nationwide, saving low-income homeowners thousands of dollars thanks to a variety of energy-saving features incorporated into their homes. Rebuilding Together Pittsburgh is renovating more than 100 homes throughout the area this year, including one woman's home, which is more than 100 years old.

A cancer victim, currently undergoing treatment, the homeowner was physically and financially unable to make the necessary home improvements herself. As part of the Initiative, her home will receive new weather-stripping and insulation, light fixtures with compact fluorescent lights and energy-efficient windows. Other energy-efficient renovations to the house will include a new gas furnace and a new roof.

"I am so overwhelmed. It is like something out of a storybook," said the homeowner. "I have been blessed. These improvements will allow me to live more comfortably in my own home, while saving money."

In addition to making homes more energy-efficient, the Initiative also provides homeowners of modest means, volunteers and others with materials, and information to help them use energy wisely now and in the future.

Rebuilding Together is the nation's largest non-profit organization whose mission is to bring volunteers and communities together to improve the homes and lives of low-income homeowners assuring that they live in warmth, safety, and independence. Rebuilding Together operates through nearly 250 affiliates nationwide that serve 1,879 communities across the country. Each year, more than 270,000 volunteers help to refurbish and revitalize nearly 10,000 houses.

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

New Philadelphia Housing Authority Senior Development is Totally Green

The [Philadelphia Housing Authority](#), already a leader in building Energy Star affordable housing, is taking its commitment to energy efficiency and a clean environment to a new level, building its first totally "green building" in North Philadelphia.



Nellie Reynolds Gardens, now under construction, will be much more efficient in the use of energy, water, and materials, while reducing impacts on human health and the environment.

The new senior development, to be located at 25th and Glenwood, will have a 20,000 square foot "green roof" with natural vegetation three inches deep. The million-dollar roof will have between five and ten species of Sedum plants (rock garden plants) as cover.

PHA will also install Energy Star appliances and fixtures at Nellie Reynolds Garden, use recycled or "Green Label" carpet and environmentally friendly paints, primers, and caulking to help preserve air quality in the three-story building, which will have 64 units and cover over 85,000 square feet.

Besides saving energy and preserving the environment, PHA's commitment to a totally "green building" helped speed its application for a building permit and will also help the agency in obtaining financing for the \$23.4 million development.

PHA Executive Director Carl Greene says rising utility costs and a healthy environment have prompted the agency to make this extraordinary commitment.

"We know that every dollar we save on energy costs is a dollar we can invest in housing and neighborhoods. Saving money on energy is more important than ever, especially when federal funding for public housing has been cut severely. And a 'green building' such as this one protects the health of our residents, as well as the surrounding neighborhood."

The [Roofrug Green Roof](#) at Nellie Reynolds Gardens will provide substantial cooling in the summer and moderate the cold temperatures in winter. Charlie Miller, president of Roofscapes, Inc., the company that will install the roof, estimates that energy savings from the roof alone will run from 10 to 20 percent. This "thin grain roof" is specifically designed for buildings no more than three stories high with at least 10,000 square feet of roof. It is designed to insure long-term durability with minimal maintenance.

The vegetation will also keep 300,000 gallons of rainwater from running off into the city's sewer system. Miller says this will reduce pollution and the strain on the system, by soaking up rain that falls on the roof. He says the plants extend the service life of the roof, reduce landfill waste, and ultimately improve the value of the property.

Miller also says that the quality of any water running off the roof (during rainfall of more than two inches) would be higher because the plants will have filtered it.

The plants used for the "green roof" rely solely on natural rainfall. They have fleshy leaves and will flower at different times. Their foliage will vary in color.

Ted Dillon, home energy analyst for the Energy Coordinating Agency, says PHA will save on energy costs while reducing emissions 13 to 14 percent. He says those numbers are significant.

A "green roof" also offers PHA the opportunity of receiving LEED (Leadership in Energy & Environmental Design) green building certification, signifying that the agency is an ecologically responsible community partner, adding to the prestige of the building.

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PHA is the nation's fourth largest public housing authority, serving nearly 84,000 residents in Philadelphia. The agency is also a national leader in using innovative financing to develop the highest quality affordable housing that has led to the rebirth of several Philadelphia neighborhoods.

Link: [Penn State Center for Green Roof Research](#)

GreenFest Philly Set for September 9 Featuring Over 100 Exhibits, Food, Fun



Come explore the many ways that Philadelphia is Going Green—or could at [GreenFest Philly](#) on September 9. “Green Building” is the key theme for this year’s GreenFest.

This street festival features music, food, art and more than 100 exhibitors as well as demonstrations of new, exciting solutions for living in an environmentally sensitive and just way.

Last year, 6,000 people came to the one-block “South Street GreenFest”. This year, the GreenFest will be four times larger and has gone regional in a four block area.

The Delaware Valley Green Building Council will present “Your Green Home: A Speakers Symposium.” Leading experts on how to plan, design, build and maintain residences with sustainable values and materials. It’s free, useful and inspiring: noon to 4:00 p.m. at the Waters Church Community Center.

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

ACI Home Energy Forum: Saving Energy At Home September 5

Take an active role in Pennsylvania's energy future by participating in a one-day [ACI Home Energy Forum](#) forum hosted by Affordable Comfort, Inc. on September 5 in Harrisburg. The theme of the Forum is, “Why PA Needs Effective Policies Now.”

Explore opportunities for residential energy efficiency and conservation for Pennsylvania housing and the critical issues that will set a path for effective energy policy, rate structure, and consumer action. Speakers and events include:

- “Pennsylvania at the Crossroads: Win Big or Lose Big,” with luncheon Keynote, Rick Gerardi, Senior Manager, Residential Buildings Performance Programs, Lockheed Martin;
- “PA Residential Energy Opportunities from a National Perspective,” with Bill Prindle, Deputy Director, ACEEE and Stephen Cowell, CEO, Conservation Services Group;
- “Programs that Work,” with David Lee, Director, Residential Branch, ENERGY STAR New & Existing Homes Program, US Environmental Protection Agency; David Carroll, President, APPRISE, Inc.; and Steve Baden, Executive Director, RESNET;
- “PA Housing Stock,” with Mark Fortney, Director, PA Housing Research Center; and
- “What issues are on the Table, and What is Happening Today in Pennsylvania,” with speakers such as Rep. Chris Ross; Liz Robinson, Executive Director, Energy Coordinating Agency; Shane Rooney, of the Public Utility Commission; Joel Morrison, Program Administrator, West Penn Power Sustainable Energy Fund, and many others.

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Kathy Greely, Director of the Pennsylvania Environmental Council's [Commonwealth Community Energy Project](#), will be a speaker on current issues facing the Commonwealth.

Roundtable discussions will follow concerning topics such as Consumer Education, Demand Side Response Initiatives, ENERGY STAR and LEED programs, the Keystone HELP Program and Finance, the new PA Home Energy program, and more.

For more information and to register, visit the [ACI Home Energy Forum webpage](#).

Allegheny Community College, Operating Engineers Offer Green Building Training

In response to the growing demand for green buildings—and knowledgeable people to run them—[Community College of Allegheny County](#) is partnering with the [International Union of Operating Engineers Local 95](#) to provide training for stationary engineers who want to qualify for a Green Building Sustainability License.

A sustainable building is healthy and comfortable for its occupants, as well as economical to operate. It conserves resources, such as energy, water, raw materials and land. It is also designed to operate with minimal generation of toxic materials or waste.

The 30-hour training course will be held from 8 to 11 a.m. beginning September 20 at the Local 95 facility, 300 Saline St, Greenfield. It is geared to facility managers, contractors, maintenance engineers and others in the building industry.

Developed by Local 95 experts, the coursework will cover topics such as: sustainable materials, indoor air quality, renewable energy sources, effective energy and water management, and the recycling of lighting and building materials, etc.

In a related effort, the college and Local 95 will offer 30 hours of training in Solar Panel Installation, from 8 to 11 a.m. on Wednesdays, beginning October 17 at Local 95 headquarters.

Solar energy is a viable, renewable energy source, even in the Pittsburgh area where people have been known to complain about the cloudy weather. The course work will include information on site location, system sizing, mounting options, system components and configurations and mechanical and electrical integration.

According to William T. Cagney, business manager/financial secretary of Local 95, “this educational partnership will serve our members and our community and will help the county achieve economic stability through green building practices.”

“With Pittsburgh rated No. 3 in the nation in the number of LEED-certified buildings, this initiative is most relevant; we are pleased to be a part of this effort for the region,” said Peggy Williams-Betlyn, CCAC senior vice president for workforce development and CEO of North Campus.

The latest benchmarking analysis by the nonprofit Green Building Alliance ranks Pittsburgh, with its 21 buildings that qualify for Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design certification, just under Portland, Oregon (25) and Seattle, Washington (27).

For more details or to register for either of the training courses, contact Debbie Dellamalva, Local 95, at 412.422.4702.

Water, Wastewater Operators, Join the PaWARN System

PaWARN is a statewide [Water/Wastewater Agency Response Network](#) of “utilities helping utilities” to prepare for the next natural or human-caused emergency.

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Water and wastewater systems provide our communities with a life-sustaining resource that is of vital importance to maintaining public health, sanitation and safety. When water and wastewater services are interrupted for extended periods of time, a community's well-being quickly deteriorates, as evidenced by Hurricane Katrina. Without an adequate water supply, our communities are vulnerable to devastating fires.

By restoring water and wastewater service in the most efficient manner possible, PaWARN provides renewed hope for fast recovery from such disasters.

PaWARN provides water and wastewater utilities with:

- A Mutual Aid Agreement and process for sharing emergency resources among water and wastewater agencies statewide;
- A mutual assistance program consistent with other statewide mutual aid and assistance programs and the National Incident Management System;
- The resources to respond and recover more quickly from a natural or human caused disaster; and
- A forum for developing and maintaining emergency contacts and relationships.

Who is more likely to have that specialized pump or valve your system needs to get back on line in a hurry? That's right, another water or wastewater system. So join your peers in PaWARN and become part of the network dedicated to keeping our communities healthy, sanitary and safe.

When water and wastewater service is restored, people have a renewed sense of hope that recovery is forthcoming.

PaWARN is a service of the Department of Environmental Protection, water and wastewater associations, the Public Utility Commission and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.

For more information, visit the [PaWARN website](#) and download the Mutual Aid Agreement or contact Mike Snyder at 717-774-8870 ext. 102.

New EPA Land Revitalization Update Newsletter Now Online

The summer edition of U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's Land Revitalization Update newsletter is available online with current information on the cleanup and redevelopment of contaminated properties in the region.

The Summer edition includes articles on: Washington, D.C.'s Voluntary Program Transforms Defunct Land, Scranton's Renewal, Cambria Iron Works Forging Johnstown's Revival, York Revolution Baseball Stadium, Green Remediation Using Fern Technology and more.

This and previous editions of the [newsletter are available online](#).

Reminder: Keep Pennsylvania Beautiful Summit Set for September 12-13

[Keep Pennsylvania Beautiful](#) and its partners will hold its [2007 KPBS Summit](#) on September 12-13 in Camp Hill, across the river from Harrisburg.

This year's Summit theme is "Cleanup and Pretty Up" and will feature workshops on community art and greening, tools and resources, the COALS Program, PA Roadside Aesthetics and much more.

To register or for more information, visit the [2007 KPBS Summit webpage](#).

Renewable Energy From Organics Recycling Conference October 1-3

Emmaus-based BioCycle magazine is sponsoring its [7th Annual Renewable Energy From Organics Recycling Conference](#) in Indianapolis, Indiana from October 1-3.

The conference highlights renewable energy projects that cross a range of technologies and feedstock sources. Small and large-scale anaerobic digestion projects that incorporate animal manures, as well as food processing residuals, fats/oils/grease and other higher energy feedstocks are featured.

One session looks at gasification projects fueled by construction and demolition waste and poultry litter as well as reviews technology advances. Another gets into innovations with converting landfill gas into biofuels and combined heat and power systems.

Presentations on ethanol production developments evaluate transportation logistics of biomass to ethanol plants and how to generate ethanol from residuals streams.

For a detailed agenda and to register, visit the [7th Annual Renewable Energy From Organics Recycling Conference webpage](#).

Environmental Innovations Conference September 20 in Bethlehem

The [Lehigh Valley's First Annual Environmental Innovations Conference](#) will be held on September 20 from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. at the Best Western Lehigh Valley Hotel & Conference Center in Bethlehem, Pa.

The Lehigh Valley Environmental Innovations Conference is the largest, most comprehensive conference and tradeshow for pragmatic conservation solutions in Eastern Pennsylvania showcasing emerging strategies and technologies to improve environmental performance.

LVEIC's goal is to provide local businesses, agencies and other organizations with high-quality, low-cost environmental training, information, discussion and networking opportunities.

The conference will feature presentations by the Department of Environmental Protection, hands-on demonstrations and workshops in addition to relevant conference sessions and abundant networking opportunities.

Topics Include: Air Quality Improvements, Groundwater Protection, Waste Management Innovations, Land Redevelopment Strategies. Energy Conservation Strategies.

Whether you need a refresher in environmental regulations, or are looking for new ideas for improving environmental performance and energy efficiency, you will find it here!

The session agenda and registration forms can be found at the [Events webpage](#).

Help Wanted: Manager, Keep Pennsylvania Beautiful Intern Program

The [Pennsylvania Downtown Center](#) is seeking a project manager for the Keep Pennsylvania Beautiful [College Intern Program](#).

The deadline for applications is September 7.

The project manager is responsible for project promotion, setup and planning with Main Street, Elm Street and other communities. Projects involve reviewing and selecting interns for community beautification and anti-litter projects.

Send resumes to: PA Downtown Center, 130 Locust Street, Harrisburg, PA 17101, Attn: Eddy Kaplaniak

Spotlight

Earth Conservancy Wins Governor’s Environmental Award, You Can Too!

The Department of Environmental Protection recognized the [Earth Conservancy](#) for winning a 2007 [Governor’s Environmental Excellence Award](#) for their efforts to transform the Cleveland Landfill into open space that adds to the quality of life in the Wyoming Valley.

“More than 30 years ago, in the aftermath of Hurricane Agnes, this site was opened to people as an easy way of disposing flood-damaged materials,” said DEP Secretary Kathleen McGinty. “But that approach, as beneficial as it may have been at the time, has led to environmental challenges today but Earth Conservancy stepped up to offer a solution.

“We’re presenting this award today because Earth Conservancy saw an opportunity and took the necessary steps to make it a reality. That approach epitomizes the Governor’s Awards for Environmental Excellence—turning environmental challenges into opportunities for stronger economies and cleaner communities.”

Following the massive floods along the Susquehanna River that were associated with Hurricane Agnes in 1972, Cleveland Landfill—or the “Hanover 7a” site—was a designated site where residents could dump flood-damaged household items. At the time, the site was owned by the Blue Coal Company, but after the firm declared bankruptcy in the ‘70s the land remained dormant for the next 20 years.

The landfill stopped being used as a dump site in 1983, but it was never closed or properly capped.

In 1994, Earth Conservancy, a non-profit organization dedicated to reclaiming and re-using former coal company land in Luzerne County, purchased 16,300 acres from the Blue Coal Corporation estate, of which the 50-acre Cleveland Landfill was included. Thirty-eight acres at the site were used as a landfill and were filled to varying depths.

Reclamation work at the site included clearing and grubbing, capping the entire area with fly ash and constructing a 24-inch cap that consists of an 18-inch layer of mixed rock and soil. The entire site was then topped with a six-inch layer of topsoil.

The project used more than 250,000 cubic yards of fly ash and more than 65,000 cubic yards of topsoil. The reclamation project graded and re-contoured the site to minimize infiltration of surface water into the abandoned underground mine workings to reduce recharge to the mine pool and associated acid mine drainage.

Earth Conservancy currently has a developer for the site that is proposing a commercial development that will create new economic opportunities, enhance the adjacent business park and add to the quality of life in the region.

The Governor’s Award for Environmental Excellence honors Pennsylvania businesses and organizations that undertake projects that tackle environmental problems,

help build new businesses, enhance the bottom line and engage residents in a renewed commitment to investing in communities.

“From innovations in clean energy to educating our youth on environmental matters, each of this year’s winners is making an invaluable contribution that will protect public health and safety, stimulate economic growth and improve the health of Pennsylvania’s environment,” said Secretary McGinty.

Applications are now available for the [2008 Governor’s Award for Environmental Excellence](#). The award is open to any Pennsylvania business, government agency, educational institution, nonprofit organization, individual or farm that has created or helped to develop a project that promotes environmental stewardship and economic development in the state.

The deadline to submit nominations is October 15.

Spotlight

Blacklick Creek Watershed Assn. Posts Tour of Watershed on New Website

The [Blacklick Creek Watershed Association](#) recently upgraded and expanded their website to include lots of good information on the watershed. One highlight is a new photo tour of the watershed.

[The photo tour](#) is full of photos of treatment projects the Association and its partners completed as well as different scenes of the creek and watershed during all times of the year.

Stop in a see the “new and improved” [Blacklick Creek Watershed Association website](#).

Link: [Blacklick Creek Still Gong Strong, 13 Watershed Projects and Counting](#)

Spotlight

Duncannon Exploring Alternative Energy Plant Powered by Agricultural Wastes

A new alternative energy power plant may be coming to Perry County, bringing a small borough’s residents in this rural county into the energy debate of the 21st Century.

Duncannon Borough has retained [LandStudies Inc.](#) and [Five Winds International](#) to conduct the \$130,000 feasibility study to determine if a waste-to-energy plant could be economically feasible and environmentally beneficial to the residents of the Borough.

The study is being funded by the Chesapeake Bay Commission.

“We’re hoping to find out just how much energy we’d have to make at the plant to ensure this is a worthwhile project,” said Duane Hammaker, Borough Council member and Utilities Committee chairman. Duane has been the borough’s primary force in getting the project off the ground. “But obviously, any time you talk about making energy from alternative and renewable sources, it’s already an idea worth pursuing.”

The feasibility study will explore the following aspects:

- Identify the needs of the stakeholders, namely the borough and its residents;

- Perform a life cycle assessment to understand the environmental benefits and potential drawbacks of building such a plant. A life cycle assessment takes into account all inputs and outputs relating to mass and energy as well as the unintended discharges to air and water. This process will help to alleviate unforeseen consequences.
- Classify and quantify potential credits (carbon, greenhouse gas, and nutrient trading credits) which may provide additional economic return; and
- Preliminary evaluation of technology;
- Determine specific recommendations for funding of Phase III (implementation).

Today most of Duncannon's 1,800-plus residents work outside the borough, but the town and surrounding townships could reap significant benefit from the construction of a waste-to-energy plant.

Currently, the borough purchases its energy as part of a cohort of other municipalities from around Pennsylvania, and then sells that energy at a discounted rate to its customers in the borough. If a plant is constructed, Duncannon would be making the energy locally, employing local workers and utilizing primarily agricultural waste as the fuel to create the energy.

"Obviously, the goal is to control costs and keep taxes low. If we can do that by making energy from agricultural wastes, we're going to consider it," said Dan Rapp, Duncannon Borough Manager.

"This could potentially be a win-win-win-win," said Michael Fedor, Council member and Facilities Committee chairman. "This study will show us the potential environmental benefits of taking agricultural waste out of the watersheds, while creating jobs and investing in our local economy."

This fall, the General Assembly will debate an Energy Independence Strategy that could provide funding streams like the energy plant being studied for Duncannon. The plant would also generate alternative energy credits that the borough could also sell to energy companies that need to be a greater percentage of alternative energy to comprise their total energy portfolios in the coming years.

LandStudies plans to complete the feasibility study by the end of December. The Borough Council will then review the study and choose what action to take in 2008.

Opinion

Volunteer to Support State Parks and Forests

By Marci Mowery, President

Pennsylvania Parks and Forests Foundation

All Pennsylvanians are fortunate to have access to not only 117 state parks but also a rambling 2.1 million acres of state forest lands. These lands were developed through visionary leadership and volunteer efforts dating back to Joseph Rothrock, Gifford Pinchot and Maurice Goddard.

This leadership continues today with Michael DiBerardinis, secretary of the state Department of Conservation and Environmental Resources. Residents and visitors to Pennsylvania may all enjoy this natural resource legacy.

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The budget impasse closure of our parks and forests a few weeks ago reinforced the important role these lands play in the lives of our residents and visitors. We must continue to think of new and different ways to support their operation and protection.

While the idea of a modest admissions charge to use our state parks is one idea for the future, the Parks and Forests Foundation is an organization that is doing great work today for the sole purpose of helping these wonderful facilities.

PPFF formed in 1999 to engage people in becoming stewards of Pennsylvania's state parks and forests. Our mission is to connect people to their public lands via education, volunteerism, recreation and financial support. In our short tenure of existence we have accomplished a great deal. Last year alone, a few volunteer groups, called friends groups, contributed more than 50,000 volunteer hours and were given the ability to contribute directly to their favorite park or forest.

Today, we have 19 chapters and 11 independent friends groups currently operating throughout the forests and parks of Pennsylvania that are accomplishing a great deal organizing events, providing education programs, restoring historical gardens, maintaining trails, developing interpretive signs, and much more. PPFF stands ready to serve any individual or group that feels our state's natural resources are worth their time and effort.

You can support your parks and forests right now by visiting the Pennsylvania Parks and Forests Foundation Web site at www.PaParksAndForests.org and registering to receive our newsletter. You'll also receive action alerts, event schedules, and other information that empowers you to be a voice for our public lands. GET INVOLVED!

Consider joining one of the existing friends groups or contact PPFF to inquire about starting a new friends group at your favorite state park or forest. No time for that? You can make a donation to PPFF or designate funds to your favorite park or forest.

Donations can also be made to our matching grants program, a new means by which friends groups raise funds for specific projects. The advantage to supporting parks and forests through PPFF is that the tax-deductible donation goes specifically to park and forests projects.

Pennsylvanians are fortunate to have access to 117 state parks and 2.1 million acres of forest lands. You can help continue the legacy of forefathers and mothers while protecting these assets for future generations.

Marci Mowery is president of the [Pennsylvania Parks and Forests Foundation](http://www.PaParksAndForests.org).

Quick Clips

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

[Team Places No. 2 in International Envirothon](#)

[Teen Learns Leadership at Wildlife Field Camp](#)

[From Mean Streets to Clean, Green, Safe Fun](#)

[Editorial: Don't Get Hot Over Global Warming](#)

[State College Borough Climate Resolution](#)

[Annual Survey of Raptors on Hawk Mountain Underway](#)

[Swans, Wildfowl Show Lure Carver to Middle Creek](#)

[Annual Elk Expo Focuses More on Wildlife, Hunting](#)

[Lebanon Golf Course Set for Audubon Designation](#)

[National Aviary's Expansion Keeps Shifting Shape](#)
[Western PA Centers Help Animals Return to the Wild](#)
[Second Wildflower Season is Upon Us](#)
[Lyme Disease Strikes Canine Population](#)
[Putting Disease in the Lyme Light](#)
[Deer Falling Prey to Insect-borne Disease Again](#)
[State Windmill Plan Causing Quite a Flap](#)
[Governor Holds Signing Ceremony for Alternative Energy Bill](#)
[Slippery Rock's Three Projects to Harness Wind, Solar Power](#)
[Putting Their Energy Into It](#)
[Initiative Aims to Make Pittsburgh Greener](#)
[Montgomery County Getting Greener](#)
[Palmerton Area Agrees to Pay for Energy Saving Program](#)
[Planners Discuss Natural Resources](#)
[Editorial: Local Conservancy's Efforts Will Benefit River](#)
[Haverford, Natural Lands Trust Team Up](#)
[Family is Farming for the Future](#)
[Close to 20 Tons of Hazardous Waste Collected in Centre County](#)
[Mountain Council of Governments Eyes Geologic Info System](#)
[Regional Rescue Team Leader Talks About Dangers in Mines](#)
[PA Sees Tougher Laws on Mining](#)
[Editorial: Better Communication Systems Would Enhance Rescue Efforts](#)

Watershed NewsClips

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

[State Drought Watch Still in Effect, Despite Rainy Weather](#)
[DRBC Looks for Flood Money](#)
[River Panel Looks for Flood Warning Funds](#)
[Counties Lax in Updating Flood Plans](#)
[Editorial: Cause for Flood of Cooperation](#)
[Alpine Rose Race Track Stormwater Plan Met With Dissent](#)
[Lawrence County Eyes Improvements for Popular Trout Stream](#)
[Breaking McCoy Dam](#)
[PA Dam Removal to Restore Fish Habitat](#)
[Region a Critical Water Planning Area](#)
[Editorial: Plan Now for Future Water Needs](#)
[Army Corps' Fees Can Delay, Cancel Projects](#)
[Extensive Storm Damage Prompts Counties to Update Stormwater Plans](#)
[Where the Rubber Meets the River in Cleanup](#)
[Volunteers Pull 200 Tires from Water](#)
[Manure Pile Causes a Stink](#)
[No Fast Track to River Dredging](#)
[Mine Land Near Freeland Reclaimed](#)
[Rep. George Named to Chesapeake Bay Advisory Panel](#)

Regulations

The Delaware River Basin Commission published [temporary rules](#) and the same [proposed rule changes](#) designating the Lower Delaware River as a Special Protection Water Area. The Fish and Boat Commission published proposed additions to the list of [Class A Wild Trout Waters](#).

[Pennsylvania Bulletin – August 25, 2007](#)

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 [published proposed changes](#) to blasting regulation and notice it has rescinded guidance on pollution prevention and energy efficiency.

Draft: DEP ID: 562-2112-503. Bituminous Coal Surface Mining Near Underground Utility Lines and Blasting Near Underground Utility Lines on All Mining and Construction Sites. This guidance document, formerly titled "Coal Surface Mining and Blasting Near Underground Utility Lines and Pipelines," establishes procedures mine operators should follow when conducting mining and blasting activities near underground utility lines.

Rescind Policy: DEP ID: 700-5600-001. Guidance for Pollution Prevention and Energy Efficiency Site Assessments. This guidance document was formerly issued by the Department to identify the policy and procedures for which it would conduct pollution prevention and energy efficiency site assessments.

[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](#)

- **August 28** – **NEW**. DEP Critical Water Planning Area Subcommittee, State Water Plan Statewide Committee meeting. 10th Floor Conference Room, Rachel Carson Building. 10:00.

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- **August 29** – House Intergovernmental Affairs Committee hearing on [House Bill 1304](#) (Fairchild-R-Union) establishing a PA Geospatial Coordinating Council. Room 140. 12:00.
- **August 29** – House Republican Policy Committee hearing on the Low-Income Energy Assistance Program. La Roche College, College Center, Pittsburgh. 11:00.
- **August 29** – DEP [Delaware Regional Water Resources Committee](#) meeting. Lake Wallenpaupack Environmental Learning Center, Route 6. (*Notice*)
- **August 30** – House Environmental Resources and Energy Committee public hearing on [House Bill 1735](#) (Yewcic-D-Cambria) related to the rights of surface property rights owners related to drilling for coal bed methane. Living-Learning Center, University of Pittsburgh, Johnstown. 1:00.
- **August 30** – House Republican Policy Committee informational meeting on electric energy issues, alternative energy sources and energy efficiency. Montgomery County Community College, Science Center, Blue Bell. 12:00.
- **August 30** – House Veterans Affairs and Emergency Preparedness Committee meeting on Delaware River Basin Flooding. Room 60, East Wing. 10:00.
- **September 5** – **NEW**. House Consumer Affairs Committee hearing on electricity procurement, rate caps and electric price mitigation strategies. Room G-50 Irvis Building. 9:30.
- **September 5** – DEP [Chesapeake Bay Advisory Committee](#) meeting. Room 105 Rachel Carson Building. 9:00.
- **September 6** – **NEW**. PA Environmental Council “[Climate Change Policy in PA and Around the Nation](#).” Harrisburg Hilton. 10:30. Contact: 717-230-8044 x21.
- **September 13** – **NEW**. DEP [Recycling Fund Advisory Committee](#) and [Solid Waste Advisory Committee special meeting](#). Room 105 Rachel Carson Building.
- **September 19** – Senate Environmental Resources and Energy Committee public hearing on proposed alternative fuels mandate included in [House Bill 1202](#) (Gerber-D-Montgomery) and [Senate Bill 789](#) (Dinniman-D-Chester). Hearing Room 1, Capitol North Office Building. 9:00 or 717-633-7959.
- **September 19** – **NEW**. Capital Region Water Board Planning Committee meeting. Susquehanna River Basin Commission, 1721 N. Front St., Harrisburg. 10:00. Contact: Cindy Rock at: cindy.l.rock@comcast.net or 717-633-7959.
- **September 19** – **NEW**. Capital Region Water Board meeting. Susquehanna River Basin Commission, 1721 N. Front St., Harrisburg. 1:00. Contact: Cindy Rock at: cindy.l.rock@comcast.net .
- **September 25** – Senate Environmental Resources and Energy Committee public hearing on proposed alternative fuels mandate included in [House Bill 1202](#) (Gerber-D-Montgomery) and [Senate Bill 789](#) (Dinniman-D-Chester). Room 8 E-B, Capitol East Wing. 9:30.
- **October 13** – Schuylkill River Festival. Pottstown. Contact: Carolyn Brunschwyler, Montgomery County Community College, 610-718-1847, or send email to: cbrunsch@mc3.edu
- **October 23** – DEP [Nonpoint Source Liaison Workshop](#) meeting. Room 105 Rachel Carson Building, Harrisburg. 10:00. Contact: Steven Lathrop, 717-772-5618 or send email to: slathrop@state.pa.us .

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- **October 10-11** – **NEW**. [DEP Citizens Advisory Council](#) meeting on on October 10 from 7-9 p.m. and October 11 from 9:30 to 12 p.m. at the Best Western Inn.
- **October 16** – **CANCELLED**. [DEP Citizens Advisory Council](#) meeting on October 16 was cancelled in favor of a regional meeting in Bedford on October 10 from 7-9 p.m. and October 11 from 9:30 to 12 p.m. at the Best Western Inn.
- **October 25** – **NEW LOCATION**. [DEP Mining and Reclamation Advisory Board](#) meeting. DEP Cambria District Mining Office, Ebensburg.
- **October 27** – [Global Warming: Rising to the Challenge by Acting Locally](#). Gwynedd Mercy College, Gwynedd Valley, Montgomery County. 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.
- **November 1** –DEP [Low-Level Waste Advisory Committee](#) meeting. Room 105 Rachel Carson Building. 10:00.
- **February 22-23** – 2008 [Keystone Coldwater Conference](#). State College.

[DEP Calendar of Events](#)

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

[Environmental Education Workshop/Training Calendar](#)

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

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

Helpful Web Links

[PA Environment Digest Video Blog](#)

[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@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.

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