

# -PA ————— Environment Digest

*An Update on  
Environmental  
Issues in  
Pennsylvania*

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Edited By David E. Hess, Crisci Associates

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[PA Environment Digest Video Blog](#)

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## Game Commission Invites Residents to 7 Open Houses on Deer Management

In an effort to explain the state's [Deer Management Program](#) and meet interested residents closer to home, the Game Commission is hitting the road in coming weeks to hold seven open houses across the state.

"Open houses provide a means for the agency to reach out and interact with hunters and other Pennsylvanians whose lives are influenced by deer," said Carl G. Roe, Game Commission executive director. "They have been used by the agency in the past and have been warmly received by residents who attend them.

"With deer seasons just around the corner, the timing is right to hold these open houses to provide the general public a convenient way to review our deer management program, which will be updated this year, and to gather public input on additional goals we're considering."

The open houses will feature a number of "information stations" in a large room where Game Commission staff will answer questions on specific topics related to its deer management program, like each of the program measures – deer herd health, forest habitat health and more. It is designed to provide the public with more "one-on-one" time with individuals to help answer their questions. In addition, there will be a PowerPoint presentation available for viewing that provides an overview of the whole program.

There are no set times for presentations or for hearing comments.

In the 2003-07 Deer Management Plan, three goals, all identified and supported by Pennsylvanians, were established to guide the program. They were to: improve deer health, improve forest health and reduce deer-human conflicts.

Now, the agency is considering two additional goals, and is seeking public input on them at the upcoming open houses. Those additional goals are to manage deer to provide recreational opportunities; and to improve the public's knowledge and understanding of deer and the deer management program.

Roe noted that the open houses will be held in seven different locations, with six of the open houses set for a Sunday and Monday format to maximize the opportunity for those interested in attending.

The scheduled days and hours for six of the open houses are Sundays from 11 a.m. to 7 p.m., and Mondays from 3 p.m. to 8 p.m. The seventh open house, which is slated for the State Capitol, will be for one day only, from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.

The schedule for the open houses is as follows:



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- **Southeast Region: September 9 and 10**, at Berrier Hall at Lehigh Carbon Community College, Schnecksville, Lehigh County. Directions: From Route 22 in Allentown, travel north on Route 309 for 5.3 miles. At traffic light past the main entrance of LCCC, turn left onto Orchard Road and Berrier Hall is on the right about one-half mile.
- **Northeast Region: September 16 and 17**, at Lehman Volunteer Fire Company Hall, Dallas, Luzerne County. Directions: From Interstate 81, take Exit 170 to Route 309 North to Dallas. At Dallas Shopping Center, stay straight onto Route 415 North and travel about 3.5 miles to the intersection of Route 118. Turn left onto Route 118 West; travel 2.5 miles and turn right onto Lehman Outlet Road. Go 50 yards to the stop sign, and turn right again onto Firehouse Road. The Lehman Volunteer Fire Hall building is the second building on the right.
- **State Capitol:** This event is set for **September 18**, and will be held from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. in the East Wing Rotunda, just off Commonwealth Avenue, between North and Walnut streets, Harrisburg, Dauphin County.
- **Southwest Region: September 30 and October 1**, at the Youngwood Volunteer Hose Co. #1 Building, Youngwood, which is along U.S. Route 119 between Greensburg and New Stanton, in Westmoreland County. Directions: The facility is at the intersection of Chestnut and Second streets in Youngwood.
- **Southcentral Region: October 14 and 15**, at the Blair County Convention Center in Altoona. Directions: The facility is at 1 Convention Center Drive, Altoona, PA 16602. Take I-99 North to Altoona, and get off at the Plank Road Exit. Turn south onto Plank Road, and proceed for about one-half mile and turn left onto Convention Center Boulevard. At the first stoplight, make a left onto Convention Center Drive.
- **Northwest Region: October 21 and 22**, at the Rocky Grove Fire Hall, 29 Wood Street, Franklin, Venango County. Directions: Take Route 417 North from Franklin, make right at blinking light; fire hall is on the left.
- **Northcentral Region: October 28 and 29**, at the Little League Recreation Room at Little League Headquarters, South Williamsport, Lycoming County. Directions: The facility is along U.S. Route 15, just 18 miles north of I-80. Traveling on Route 220 at the Market Street Bridge in Williamsport, take U.S. 15 South into South Williamsport, travel about two miles, and the recreation room is on the left.

The open houses and the outreach information they will provide to the public were developed by a Deer Communications Working Group that was proposed by the Deer Management Section and created by Roe in late April.

"This group has worked hard to identify Pennsylvania's and the Game Commission's deer management educational and outreach needs, and develop the displays, brochures, workshops and website information, that will help deliver that important message to the public and fellow employees," Roe said. "We encourage Pennsylvanians to take time to visit one of these open houses."

The Game Commission recognizes that the public's comprehension of deer management and changes to the agency's deer program is essential to manage deer progressively and effectively. While this outreach/educational effort targets all Pennsylvanians, there is considerable focus on hunting, primarily because hunters have helped the agency manage Pennsylvania's deer population for more than 100 years.

"Hunters have partnered with the Game Commission to manage wildlife since the agency's inception," Roe said. "Their financial contributions help support Pennsylvania's wildlife management programs and their efforts afield have helped to keep our deer

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populations in check. Hunters matter a great deal to the Game Commission and Pennsylvania."

For more information, visit the agency's [Deer Management Program webpage](#).

**NewsClip:** [Public Airs Deer Woes](#)

**Video Blog:** [Too Many Deer Damaging Forest Ecosystems, Agriculture](#)

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### Session Schedule

The Senate and House return to session on September 17. The House is in non-voting

session September 10 and 11.

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

## On the Hill

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### On the Senate/House Agenda

The House has scheduled the following Committee meetings and hearings for the coming week and the House Calendar was published for September 10—

### Committees

**House:** Consumer Affairs Committee hearing on electricity procurement, rate caps and electric price mitigation strategies; House Republican Policy Committee has scheduled two hearings, one on energy workforce development, environmentally friendly fossil fuels and energy efficiency in Pittsburgh and a second on alternative energy sources, energy efficiency and conservation in Meadville.

### Calendars

**House:** [House Bill 1201](#) (George-D-Clearfield) making changes to Title 66 (Utility Code) consistent with Gov. Rendell’s Energy Independence Proposal, including the proposed system benefit charge; [House Bill 1649](#) (Barrar-R-Chester) requiring the fluoridation of public water supplies; [House Resolution 112](#) (Mann-D-Lehigh) directing DEP to implement policies that encourage electronic waste recycling; [House Resolution 268](#) (Rohrer-R-Berks) directing the Legislative Budget and Finance Committee to study Game Commission forestry and mineral development policies; [House Resolution 180](#) (Freeman-D-Lehigh) establishing a commission to study the Commonwealth’s fragmented system of local government.

### House Committee Hears Support for Geospatial Coordinating Council

The House Intergovernmental Affairs Committee this week heard testimony supporting the need for legislation to create a Pennsylvania Geospatial Coordinating Council to more efficiently and effectively develop and share GIS information among different levels of government and private industry.

The legislation is [House Bill 1304](#) (Fairchild-R-Union).

The [first panel to testify](#) included Brady Stroh, Director of the Center for Geospatial Information Services at Penn State Harrisburg, Todd Bacastow, Professor for Geospatial Intelligence at Penn State, Tehodore Adler, Professor of Agricultural Economics and Rural Sociology at Penn State and Ashis Pal, President of the Pennsylvania Chapter of MAPPS, a national association comprised of private firms in spatial data.

[The second panel](#) included testimony from county and municipal governments, including Ed Troxell, PA State Association of boroughs, Percy Dougherty, County Commissioners Association of PA and Commissioner Erick Collidge, Tioga County, Barry Hutchins, Lycoming County.

[A third panel](#) included written comments from David Terrell, PA Liaison, U.S. Geologic Survey and Kristen Miller, Governor’s Office of Administration.

The Committee is chaired by Rep. Curtis Thomas (D-Philadelphia) who concluded from all the supporting comments the Council should be established, but questions remained about how to fund it.

### **House Republicans Hear Energy Experts at Montgomery County Hearing**

The House Republican Energy Task Force this week held a hearing co-chaired by Rep. Bob Mensch (R-Montgomery) at Montgomery County Community College on energy policy ahead of the special Energy Session set to start September 17.

“Pennsylvania faces a potential energy crisis,” Rep. Mensch said. “Rates are going through the roof, and it’s becoming more and more difficult for people to pay their utility bills. This is an important issue that has an impact on everyone.”

The House Republican Energy Task Force, an arm of the [House Republican Policy Committee](#), is working to develop a tax-free energy policy to lower energy prices and meet the Commonwealth’s energy needs, now and in the future.

The roundtable discussion was split into two segments. The first segment focused on electric energy issues. The second focused on alternative energy, bio-based fuels and energy efficiency issues.

House Republicans are working to develop an energy plan that they say would not raise taxes or incur new state debt. The House Republican Energy Task Force plans to announce its alternative proposal before the start of a special session.

“We must have input and cooperation from many diverse interests, and this hearing provided that,” Rep. Mensch said. “Today we were given valuable information that hopefully will put us on the right track toward producing an economically and environmentally responsible energy policy.”

The testifiers agreed that Pennsylvania energy customers are likely to experience “price shock” as electricity rate caps expire over the next few years. The task force is focusing on ways to increase homegrown energy production to push energy prices down, create local jobs and reduce dependence on foreign energy sources.

“Given the growth in demand for electricity over the next 20 years, we will need to either increase generation capacity and/or reduce demand by an equivalent of 50 percent over that time frame,” said Jan Freeman, vice president of public affairs for Exelon Generation.

The task force will continue to hold roundtable discussions throughout the state on this issue. For more information, please go to the [House Republican Policy Committee webpage](#).

## **Other News**

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### **DEP Schedules Two More Public Meetings on Use of Abandoned Mine Funding**

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The Department of Environmental Protection, in cooperation with the DEP Citizen's Advisory Council, has scheduled [two additional public town hall meetings](#) to gather public input regarding how to best utilize increased federal abandoned mine reclamation funding.

The hearings will be held:

- September 12 – Lock Haven Univ. of Pennsylvania, Founders Hall, Clearfield
- September 13 – IUP at Northpointe, Room 131, Freeport

As a result of the changes to the federal legislation known as the Surface Mining Control and Reclamation Act, Pennsylvania is now poised to receive about \$1.4 billion to reclaim abandoned coal mines over the next 15 years. Amended by Congress in December 2006, SMCRA will give Pennsylvania more flexibility to fix its abandoned coal mine hazards.

Eight similar meetings were already held throughout Pennsylvania's coal regions. These additional meetings will provide concerned Pennsylvanians with even more opportunity to weigh in on how those funds should be used.

Pennsylvania has more abandoned coal mine problems than anywhere else in the country, with approximately 250,000 acres of mine-scarred land and nearly 5,000 miles of stream affected by over 100 years of unregulated coal mining practices. Highwalls (man-made cliffs), underground mine fires, subsidence, and abandoned mining structures are among the problems that litter the landscape. Acid mine drainage remains Pennsylvania's number one water pollution problem.

Among the issues to be discussed will be new opportunities to direct more money toward fixing acid mine drainage problems. Under the new law, the state now has the option to set aside an even greater amount of their annual grants to address water quality problems stemming from abandoned coal mines.

As a prelude to the public input portion of the town hall meetings, Western PA Coalition for Abandoned Mine Reclamation will present a video aimed toward the general public explaining Pennsylvania's abandoned mine problems and SMCRA Title IV funding.

[The video is available on WPCAMR's website.](#)

The meetings will also provide an opportunity for public review of Pennsylvania's Abandoned Mine Land inventory and maps during a poster session.

From the levels of public participation in the meetings to date, there is obviously significant public interest in abandoned mine reclamation throughout the coal regions of the Commonwealth. Pennsylvania is commendably the only state to ask for public comment in formulating how best to use the increased funding from SMCRA.

*(Reprinted from [Abandoned Mine Posts](#) and written by Andy McAllister, Watershed Coordinator)*

### **Wildlands Conservancy Seeks Nominations for 2007 Ark Awards**

The [Wildland Conservancy](#) is seeking nominations for its annual Ark Award to recognize outstanding businesses working in the Lehigh River Valley that have combined exceptional business practices with resourceful approaches, techniques and knowledge resulting in significant protection of the environment, particularly land and water resources.

The deadline for nominations is September 28.

"Environmental protection and economic vitality are directly linked," says Christopher Kocher, Wildlands president. "It is vital to recognize those firms that are



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committed to a mission that includes environmentally friendly business practices in addition to profitability.”

This year’s awards will be presented on November 6 at the Greater Lehigh Valley Chamber of Commerce Fifth Annual Membership Luncheon.

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

Collaborating with public and private partners throughout the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania is critical for Wildlands to fulfill its mission. Air Products, Inc. has sponsored the Ark Award program for Wildlands Conservancy for the past six years. As a legacy partner with Wildlands, the company has generously supported the Conservancy over the years.

Last year’s Ark award winner was Alvin H. Butz, Inc. Other corporate winners were Agere Systems (now LSI Corporation), Coca-Cola Bottling Company of the Lehigh Valley, Just Born, Inc., PPL Corporation and Lafarge North America.

In order to nominate an organization, prepare a one-page summary of the nominee’s accomplishments and justification for receiving the award, along with the contact information of the nominee and the group or individual making the nomination.

Send nominations to: 2007 Ark Award Nomination Committee, c/o Wildlands Conservancy, 3701 Orchid Place, Emmaus, PA 18049.

## PA Lake Management Society Annual Conference October 10-11

The Pennsylvania Lake Management Society will hold its [annual conference](#) in State College on October 10-11.

The conference will feature the “latest and greatest” topics of interest for those interested in managing lakes as well as a variety of networking opportunities.

Two of the guest speakers include Dr. Ken Wagner, Dartmouth College, who will focus his remarks on controlling phosphorous loading in lakes and Amy Smagula, a Limnologist with the New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services, talking about exotic species.

All session fees include conference materials and a one-year membership to the Pennsylvania Lake Management Society, breakfast, break refreshments, lunch, and networking mixer (excluding cash bar).

For questions concerning registration, please contact Kerilynn Frey at 570-864-3847 or send email to: [kmfishfrey@hotmail.com](mailto:kmfishfrey@hotmail.com) . For questions about conference content, please contact Jason Smith at 610-691-5644 ext. 220 or send email to: [jesmith@hanovereng.com](mailto:jesmith@hanovereng.com) or Joseph Gallagher at 570-788-1721 or send email to: [ecos@ptd.net](mailto:ecos@ptd.net).

For more information, visit the [PALMS conference webpage](#).

## Photographers! Enter the 2007 PA Lake Management Society Photo Contest

Photographers are invited to submit your photos of ponds and lakes in Pennsylvania to the 2007 Photo Contest sponsored by the PA Lake Management Society.

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Entries are due by October 9 or they can be hand-delivered at the PALMS Annual Conference on October 10 in State College.

The winning photo will be featured on the cover of next year's PALMS Annual Conference brochure and the second place winner will be featured on the PALMS website. Photos become the property of PALMS.

To submit entries, print your name, affiliation, location and title of the photo on the reverse, submit an 8 x 10 or 12 x 17 color or black and white print and mail to: Jason Smith - PALMS, c/o Hanover Engineering Associates, Inc., 252 Broadhead Rd., Suite 100, Bethlehem, PA 18017-8944.

For more information, visit the [PALMS conference webpage](#).

### Southwestern Pennsylvania Tillage Conference Set for January 23

The benefits and practical considerations of reducing the amount of plowing done to a field before planting will be featured at Southwestern PA Tillage Conference on January 23 at Giannilli's II, Route 30 in Greensburg.

The event is sponsored by the [Westmoreland County Conservation District](#).

Dr. Ron Hammond, field crop entomology extension specialist at Ohio State University, will present the keynote address on "Slugs and Other Insect Control Measures" that are needed for no-till crops. Jim Hoorman, extension educator at Ohio State University, will speak about "Cover Crops and Manure."

The conference also features other speakers, a panel discussion with area farmers, breakout group discussions, and a vendor show. The \$25 registration fee includes lunch.

Space is limited and registration is required. Contact Bobbi at 724-853-5555, ext. 116 or send email to: [bobbi.bailey@pa.usda.gov](mailto:bobbi.bailey@pa.usda.gov) by January 16.

### Three Tree-Planting Training Workshops Offered in Southeast PA

Take part in the "growing" [TreeVitalize](#) movement, a program designed by Pennsylvania's Department of Conservation and Natural Resources to increase Southeast Pennsylvania's tree cover and the benefits that trees offer by attending [Tree Tenders Training Workshops](#).

Join the staff from the PA Horticultural Society and the Penn State School of Forestry for nine hours of hands-on training that will cover tree biology, identification, planting, proper care and working within your community.

The training is based on PHS's Tree Tenders project which, since 1993, has trained over 1600 community volunteers from 100 Philadelphia neighborhoods.

The workshops are being offered on weekday evenings at three different locations this fall, and are designed for lay people and experts alike. The course is free but registration is required. The next trainings will be held:

- Tuesdays, September 11, 18, 25; 6-9 p.m., Delaware County: Lansdowne Twentieth Century Club, 84 S. Lansdowne Ave, Lansdowne;
- Thursdays, October 11, 18, 25; 6-9 p.m., Chester County: Coatesville Area Public Library, 501 E. Lincoln Highway, Coatesville; and
- Saturdays, January 12, 19, 2008; 8:45 a.m.- 1:30 p.m., Philadelphia: Pennsylvania Horticultural Society, 100 N 20th St, 5th Floor, Philadelphia.



To register, visit the [Tree Tenders Training webpage](#). For more information contact Julianne Schieffer, 610-489-4315 or send e-mail to: [jxs51@psu.edu](mailto:jxs51@psu.edu) or Mindy Maslin, 215-988-8844, send e-mail to: [mmaslin@pennhort.org](mailto:mmaslin@pennhort.org) .

### **Exelon Announces Construction of Largest Solar Electric Facility in Eastern U.S.**

[Exelon Generation Company](#) this week announced the construction of a 3 megawatt solar electric generating facility in Falls Township, Bucks County. The \$20 million project will be the nation's fourth largest solar photovoltaic generation project, trailing only facilities in California and Arizona.

The facility, to be called the Exelon-Epuron Solar Energy Center, a SunTechnics Project, will generate electricity through approximately 16,500 solar panels.

“This major announcement shows that affordable, secure and alternative sources of power are available now and will result in a cleaner environment, competitive energy prices and the reduction of our dependence on foreign fuel,” said Gov. Rendell. “In the next few years, consumers and businesses across the state are expected to encounter dramatic energy cost increases. In order to avoid economic hardship on our families and businesses and we must act now.

“With the introduction of new, reliable alternative energy choices for Pennsylvania’s consumers, we will empower our citizens and businesses to take control of escalating utility bills by adjusting usage to take advantage of lower, off-peak rates; encourage energy efficiency; use new, clean electricity generation and invest in Pennsylvania’s home-grown energy,” the Governor said.

“EPURON is excited about this landmark photovoltaic project,” said Arndt E. Lutz, EPURON general manager. This project will launch utility-scale solar power plants in Pennsylvania and the entire Eastern U.S. The array will be one of the largest in the country and is the result of a successful partnership between Exelon Generation, Waste Management and the EPURON / SunTechnics team, and a major step toward energy independence and greenhouse gas reduction.”

“This agreement adds another element to Exelon’s renewable energy portfolio,” said John Rowe, Exelon Corporation’s chairman, president and CEO. “As the nation turns its attention toward cleaner energy sources, it’s essential that Exelon play a part. We believe there is a growing demand for renewables, and we want to help meet that demand.”

Exelon Generation Company has signed a 20-year power purchase agreement with Epuron LLC for the energy produced at a Morrisville, Pa., solar energy facility. Epuron is the U.S. subsidiary of one of the world's leading project development and structured finance companies in the renewable energy sector.

The project is situated adjacent to Waste Management's G.R.O.W.S. Landfill where Exelon Generation also has a landfill gas-based generation project. A pipeline transports landfill methane from the Waste Management facility to a gas turbine owned by Exelon Generation that produces 30 MW.

Exelon Generation will sell the physical electricity produced by the project to PJM Interconnection. The project is scheduled to be operational in the second quarter of 2008.

**NewsClip:** [Going Solar in a Big Way in Bucks](#)

[Taking a Shine to Solar Energy](#)

[Solar Power Project to be Built in Suburban Philadelphia](#)

## PUC Requests Comments on Changes to Low-Income Energy Assistance Programs

The [Public Utility Commission](#) this week asked for public comments on a proposed rulemaking and policy statement revisions that address Customer Assistance Programs under which low-income customers receive financial assistance in paying utility bills.

The Commission voted 5-0 to seek comments on the proposed rulemaking and revised policy statement as part of its comprehensive examination of universal service programs. In considering CAP design, funding and cost recovery simultaneously, the Commission's goal is to balance the interests of the low-income customers who participate in CAPs with interests of all residential ratepayers.

The state's electric and natural gas competition laws require that every electric utility and major natural gas utility establish a CAP, the funding levels and program design vary from company to company.

The proposed rulemaking establishes a unified process by which the level of funding for each electric and natural gas utility can be determined in conjunction with the Commission's triennial review of the utility's universal service and energy conservation plan.

The proposed rulemaking:

- Requires Commission approval before the utility can implement a CAP plan or a revision or modification to an existing plan. This also would apply to temporary modifications;
- Establishes rules for utilities to follow when dismissing customers from CAPs including: the failure to accept usage reduction services; the failure to verify eligibility requirements; the failure to apply for the Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program; the failure to report changes in income or household size; and the failure to accept free budget counseling offered by the utility;
- Requires the utility to propose a tariff rule dealing with the application of LIHEAP grants to CAP customer accounts; and
- Addresses cost recovery for the utilities as well as how timeliness of collection activities will be considered in evaluating costs claimed for recovery.

The CAP policy statement was designed to be a blueprint for CAP structure and operations, and has not been revised for several years. The proposed changes to the policy statement:

- Recognize that universal service including CAPs should be adequately funded to serve all eligible customers who request the service;
- Eliminate enrollments ceilings in favor of a case-by-case determination of whether a company's CAP is adequately funded;
- Tie minimum CAP payments to an index to reflect changes in energy prices;
- Adopt a mechanism to adjust maximum CAP credits to reflect changes in energy prices;
- Advise the utility to inform customers about exemptions such as illness or an increase in household size that may excuse a customer's violation of a CAP control feature. CAP control features include minimum payment terms and limits on consumption that help to control the overall costs of the program;
- Clarify eligibility criteria for CAP enrollment to include receipt of a LIHEAP crisis grant and automatic referral to CAP when facing termination of service; and

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- Forgive arrearages on a monthly basis when timely CAP payments are made.

On October 19, 2006, the Commission concluded its investigation of CAPs and provided direction for the proposed rulemaking and amendment of the CAP policy statement to address funding mechanisms and program design.

The [2006 Universal Service Performance and Collections Report](#) issued earlier this month by the PUC found that in 2006, electric utilities spent \$117,050,577 to enroll 217,651 customers in CAPs where on average those customers pay 81 percent of their total bill. Natural gas utilities spent \$173,063,559 to enroll 182,034 customers in CAPs where on average those customers pay 86 percent of their total bill.

Comments are due 60 days after the publication of the Orders in the *Pennsylvania Bulletin*.

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

### **Carnegie Mellon University, Zipcar Partner to Bring Car Sharing to Campus**

[Carnegie Mellon University](#) and [Zipcar](#) this week announced a joint partnership to provide Zipcars on campus to university faculty, staff, and students as an environmentally friendly alternative to the costs and hassles of keeping a car on campus.

The partnership continues Carnegie Mellon's commitment to invest in sustainable solutions on campus and marks.

Beginning this week, two self-service Zipcars -- a Toyota Hybrid Prius and a Mazda 3 -- will be available for use 24 hours a day, seven days a week. The cars will be located in the University's East Campus Garage and be available to all staff and students aged 18+, with gas, maintenance, insurance and reserved parking included in low hourly and daily rates.

"The partnership with Zipcar provides us with a sustainable program to address campus parking and transportation needs while providing students with flexible alternate transportation," said Tim Michael, assistant vice president for campus services at Carnegie Mellon. "We look forward to working with Zipcar to develop the university's car sharing initiative and to help provide members of our campus community with a solution that best matches their needs."

The Zipcar relationship furthers Carnegie Mellon's reputation as an environmental leader. Home to the country's first "green dorm," the university has been recognized internationally for its leadership in environmental sustainability research and green practices, including its use of renewable resources on campus and its comprehensive recycling program.

Faculty, staff, and students will be able to join Zipcar for \$35 and will gain access to Carnegie Mellon Zipcars for \$7 per hour or \$55 per day. All members 21+ will also have access to Zipcar's network of more than 3,000 vehicles throughout the UK and North America.

For more information, visit the [CMU Zipcar webpage](#).

### **Workshops to Help Congregations Learn Ways to Save Energy in October**

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The Care for Creation Commission of the Episcopal Diocese of Central Pennsylvania, in collaboration with the Interfaith Coalition for the Environment, Religion and Society Center, and St. Stephen's Episcopal Cathedral, will hold workshops designed to help congregations conserve energy and reduce the monthly bills for their facilities.

The workshops, which are open to all faiths and denominations, will be held on October 6, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., and on October 7, from 1 p.m. to 5 p.m., at St. Stephen's Episcopal Cathedral, 221 North Front St., Harrisburg.

The workshop will feature practical advice by consultant Andy Rudin who will offer specific and concrete approaches for reducing energy bills, exhibits by local companies that offer energy-saving products and services, and a tour of St. Stephen's energy efficient, "green" school building.

There is a \$20 registration fee, and checks can be made payable to the Diocese of Central Pennsylvania. The workshops are limited to the first 100 registrants.

Those interested should RSVP by September 28 to Anne Yellott at [ajyellott@paonline.com](mailto:ajyellott@paonline.com) or the Dioceses of Central Pennsylvania, P.O. Box 11937, Harrisburg, PA 17108.

### **PennFuture Launches Contest to Help Fight Global Warming**

Citizens for Pennsylvania's Future launched a year-long statewide "[Win Clean Wind Energy for a Year](#)" contest this month to help educate, motivate and assist Pennsylvania residents to fight global warming.

PennFuture will pick 12 monthly winners who will each receive six compact fluorescent light bulbs, and a grand prize of a year's worth of clean wind energy.

"Participating in this contest is just one way that Pennsylvanians can help fight global warming," said John Hanger, PennFuture's president and CEO. "While the monthly and grand prize winners will receive tangible awards that will directly change how they use energy, everyone participating in the contest will get clear information about how they can make a difference. And with Pennsylvania responsible for more heat-trapping gases than all other states except Texas and California, we simply can't wait any longer to change our energy-wasting ways."

The contest is limited to those who pay for their own residential electricity, with one entry per person. PennFuture employees and their families and those with whom they live are excluded. All entrants will receive a list of Ten Quick Actions to Help Stop Global Warming.

This contest is part of PennFuture's Cool Pennsylvania Campaign to fight global warming at home. The grand prize will be paid directly to a wind energy provider, who will deliver as much wind-generated electricity to the grid as the winner has used at her or his residential electric account in the past year. This will make up for the pollution created by the winner's use of electricity for the year, offsetting as much pollution as planting over 950 trees or not driving 20,000 miles each year.

The grand prize winner will also receive a ceremonial plaque and recognition at PennFuture's Annual Green Power Awards.

For more information, visit the "[Win Clean Wind Energy for a Year](#)" webpage.



## Lackawanna College Environmental Institute Hosts Climate Change Seminar

Lackawanna College's Environmental Institute will host a seminar on global warming on September 25, at 7 p.m. in the college's Student Union, located at 500 Jefferson Avenue in Scranton.

The evening's speaker will be Lance Simmens, a representative for [The Climate Project](#), an organization founded by former Vice President Al Gore seeking to mobilize public action to address the global warming issue, and serves as a special assistant to Gov. Ed Rendell.

Simmens will give an hour-long presentation adapted from the award-winning documentary film, "An Inconvenient Truth." The presentation is intended to appeal to the average citizen and is not political in nature. It is a call to action, focusing on practical solutions.

Simmens has spent the last three decades involved in a variety of public policy issues having served 22 years in Washington, DC, working in senior policy positions in two Administrations, six years on the U.S. Senate Budget Committee, and six years as Assistant Executive Director for the U.S. Conference of Mayors.

In his current position, Simmens functions as liaison to local governments and local elected officials and also plays an integral role in the development of wind energy policies for the state.

He helped establish the first Federal Office of Sustainable Development in the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration in 1993 and was honored by the U.S. Department of Commerce for his pioneering work in sustainable fisheries initiatives in New England and the Pacific Northwest.

The Environmental Institute is a research and teaching arm of Lackawanna College which offers environmental education programs to schools, municipalities, businesses, and to the general public.

For more information on the seminar, contact the Lackawanna College Environmental Institute at 570-842-1560, or send email to: email [hatalaj@lackawanna.edu](mailto:hatalaj@lackawanna.edu).



## Federal Renewable Fuels Mandate Begins Sept. 1, Refiners Ahead of Targets

The federal [Renewable Fuels Standard Program](#), which promotes the use of fuels largely produced from American-grown crops, begins on September 1, but gasoline refiners are already ahead of the goals established in the program.

The RFS program requires that at least 7.5 billion gallons of renewable fuel be blended into motor vehicle fuel sold in the United States by 2012. It also requires the obligated parties to use a minimum volume of renewable fuel each year between 2007 and 2012. That minimum volume is determined as a percentage of the total volume of fuel a company produces or imports. The minimum volume will increase every year through 2012.

Refiners sold over 5.4 billion gallons of renewable fuels in 2006, exceeding the goal for that year which was 4.5 billion gallons. The U.S. Energy Information Administration predicts that by the end of 2007, refiners will surpass the 2012 goal of 7.5 billion gallons.



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The RFS is also serving as one of the many pieces to help inform the greenhouse gas regulation that EPA and federal partners are developing under an Executive Order issued by President Bush in May. A proposal is expected by year's end.

For more information, visit the [RFS rule webpage](#).

**NewsClip:** [Commonwealth Renewable Ethanol Plans Delayed](#)

**Links:** [Increased Ethanol Production: Hurdles on the Road to Energy Independence](#)  
[Thirst for Ethanol Could Leave Chesapeake Bay With Hangover](#)  
[Ethanol-Driven Commodity Prices Drive Up Costs for PA Farmers](#)

### DEP Accepting Recycling Markets Infrastructure Grant Applications

The Department of Environmental Protection announced it is now accepting applications for 2007 Recycling Markets Infrastructure Development Grants.

The deadline for applications is November 1.

This grant provides reimbursement to established and start-up businesses and nonprofit organizations in this Commonwealth for the equipment costs associated with increasing the use of recycled content in products.

Eligible applicants must be located and operating in this Commonwealth or be operating in this Commonwealth as a result of a grant award under this program. For this grant round, the Department will not accept applications from previous grant recipients. This requirement will be reevaluated in subsequent grant rounds.

\$1 million dollars is available for this initiative. The Department will award grants of up to \$500,000 to any one project. Additional consideration will be given to applications that are developed in consultation with the [Pennsylvania Recycling Markets Center](#).

The success of recycling programs is directly related to demand for recyclable goods. Strong, profitable, recycling-based businesses are good for the environment and the economy in this Commonwealth.

This grant aims to build strong markets for recycled materials in this Commonwealth by assisting businesses and nonprofits organizations with increasing their use of recyclable materials in the production of finished products.

Applications for the 2007 program may be obtained by contacting Charles Scheidler, Bureau of Waste Management at 717-787-7382 or send email to: [cscheidler@state.pa.us](mailto:cscheidler@state.pa.us).

DEP also said applications will be available on the [Markets Development webpage](#).

### PA CleanWays, DEP Survey Identifies Illegal Dump Sites in 15 Counties



The Department of Environmental Protection, in partnership with the non-profit environmental group PA CleanWays, used [roadside surveys](#) to recently identify more than 1,700 illegal dumpsites containing an estimated 8,100 tons of trash in 15 counties.

“We’re working hard to stop illegal dumping, reverse the damage to our environment and revitalize our communities,” said Environmental Protection Secretary Kathleen A. McGinty. “The dumpsite surveys are an important step to understanding the magnitude of the problem and determining what resources are needed to



clean these sites and help our rural and urban communities create a better quality of life for our residents.”

DEP provides direction and financial support for PA CleanWays to conduct the roadside surveys and identify illegal dumpsites. These assessments will serve as an important tool for the department to prioritize sites for cleanup, document problem materials within each dumpsite, develop plans for proper disposal and provide benchmarks for cleanup progress.

Due to the success of the program to date, DEP has asked PA CleanWays to expand the survey to incorporate 11 more counties this fall (Bedford, Berks, Crawford, Fulton, Lackawanna, Lawrence, McKean, Montgomery, Schuylkill, Somerset and Venango). The effort is expected to cover the entire state within five years.

The program is funded through DEP’s [Clean Our American Lands and Streams](#), or COALS, program, the Richard King Mellon Foundation and other private sources.

With the dumpsites identified and mapped, COALS and its partners—which includes environmental groups, the coal and waste industries, businesses, community groups, schools and local, county and state governments—will meet with local residents, business leaders and environmental groups to prioritize sites for cleanups, gather local financial and volunteer support, and target anti-litter educational programs.

Since the program’s inception in 2005, 56 sites, 275 tons of municipal waste, 106 tons of tires and 220 pounds of hazardous waste have been cleaned or removed. DEP is aggressively expanding the study and, last year, granted \$50,000 to fund beautification efforts in partnership with [Keep Pennsylvania Beautiful](#).

The COALS public-private partnership is a new approach to cleaning up and preventing illegal dumpsites. The joint venture focuses on building community awareness, evaluating sites for clean up and encouraging recycling as an alternative to dumping.

Law enforcement and surveillance are also important tools for COALS. DEP has invested more than \$30,000 in high-tech surveillance equipment to monitor and collect evidence to prosecute illegal dumping. Over the last two years, COALS has issued more than 110 citations for illegal dumping.

PA CleanWays is a nonprofit organization that empowers people to eliminate illegal dumping and littering in Pennsylvania. Since 1990, PA CleanWays has removed and properly disposed of more than 9,000 tons of trash from Pennsylvania’s landscapes.

For more information on the surveys, visit the [Illegal Dump Surveys webpage](#).

### **Lake Erie Cleanup Effort Seeks Volunteers to Collect Trash September 15**

The Department of Environmental Protection, community leaders and organizations are inviting residents of northwest Pennsylvania to help clean up trash along the Lake Erie shoreline and watershed during the [International Coastal Cleanup](#) on September 15.

“We hope to see people from throughout the Lake Erie watershed gather to document and remove trash that is ending up in local waterways,” DEP Northwest Regional Director Kelly Burch said. “The more people who come to help, the greater the impact we’ll have in cleaning the lake’s shores and tributaries and gain a better understanding of what we can do to help prevent littering.”

This year, the local International Coastal Cleanup, the oldest and largest volunteer project of its kind, will include more than a dozen sites along the Lake Erie shoreline, from

## PA Environment Digest – Crisci Associates

Raccoon Creek in western Erie County to North East Marina and Freeport Beach on the eastern end of the county.

In the past four years, more than 2,000 volunteers from the Erie area documented and collected trash from Erie County shorelines that totaled nearly 57,000 pounds. The information collected in that timeframe indicates that the most prevalent forms of litter are cigarette butts, food wrappers and beverage containers.

“We welcome volunteers of all ages to participate: individuals, families, clubs, school and church groups are all invited,” Presque Isle State Park Environmental Educator Anne DeSarro said. “Clearing trash so the natural beauty of our surroundings can be seen is rewarding, makes our environment healthier, enhances our quality of life and protects birds and aquatic life. Besides, it’s fun and provides a chance to meet other people who care about the outdoors.”

The September 15 event is sponsored by DEP, the Department of Conservation and Natural Resources, Fish and Boat Commission, as well as many other local businesses, nonprofit groups and government agencies. The worldwide sponsor for the International Coastal Cleanup is the Ocean Conservancy.

To register as a cleanup volunteer, visit the [Pennsylvania-Lake Erie International Coastal Cleanup website](#), or call Don Benczkowski at 814-573-3565.

### **Hikers Recognized With Trail Challenge Award By DCNR**

With a total of 780 miles and 18 state forest hiking trails behind them, two Pennsylvania residents have earned recognition from a statewide hiking organization and the state Department of Conservation and Natural Resources’ Bureau of Forestry.

Jeffrey C. Brethauer of Lancaster and John C. Monn of Carlisle, Cumberland County, are the recipients of the State Forest Trails Award.

DCNR and the [Keystone Trails Association](#) unveiled the award, earned by hiking all 780 miles of the 18 state forest hiking trails, four years ago. The hikers will be honored at the association’s annual fall meeting, September 29, at Blue Knob Ski Resort, Claysburg, Blair County.

“DCNR teamed up with the trails association to recognize individual hiking achievements while, at the same time, drawing attention to the vast wealth of hiking opportunities offered in this state,” said DCNR Secretary Michael DiBerardinis. “These award-winners blazed paths that are sure to be followed by others.”

Brethauer and Monn will each receive a certificate, patch and ceremonial wooden walking stick at the KTA’s annual meeting.

Regardless of completion time, the award recognizes anyone hiking all of Pennsylvania’s 18 state forest hiking trails, totaling 780 miles. There is no requirement on sequence, direction, speed or length of time to complete the system.

“Whether completion takes several months or several years, the challenge and the accomplishment merit a strong salute from fellow hikers and DCNR,” said Secretary DiBerardinis. “Though some forest trails may be too challenging for some, sections of others can serve as portals to healthy days afield and new adventures outdoors.”

The 18 trails generally are longer and more rugged than other hiking opportunities offered in Pennsylvania’s state forests and parks. Most of the trails were formerly part of the local trail networks, logging roads, tram railways and carriage paths. Many sections are designated for hiking use only and each trail has its own map or guidebook.

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Most of the trails are maintained by volunteer hiking groups, such as the KTA and affiliated clubs, with support from DCNR's Bureau of Forestry. The 18 trails making up the state forest hiking trail system are:

- Baker Trail, one mile in Kittanning State Forest, Clarion County;
- Black Forest Trail, 42 miles in Tiadaghton State Forest, Lycoming County;
- Bucktail Path, 34 miles in Elk State Forest, Elk County;
- Chuck Keiper Trail, 50 miles in Sproul State Forest, Clinton County;
- Donut Hole Trail, 90 miles in Sproul State Forest, Clinton County;
- Golden Eagle Trail, nine miles in Tiadaghton State Forest, Lycoming County;
- John P. Saylor Memorial Trail, 18 miles in Gallitzin State Forest, Somerset County;
- Lost Turkey Trail, nine miles in Gallitzin State Forest, Somerset County;
- Loyalsock Trail, 48 miles in Tiadaghton and Loyalsock State Forests, Lycoming and Sullivan counties;
- Mid State Trail, 173 miles in Buchanan, Rothrock, Bald Eagle, Tiadaghton and Tioga state forests through central Pennsylvania;
- Old Loggers Path, 27 miles in Loyalsock State Forest, Lycoming County;
- Pinchot Trail, 23 miles in Lackawanna State Forest, Luzerne County;
- Quehanna Trail, 75 miles in Moshannon and Elk state forests in Cameron, Clearfield and Elk counties;
- Rocky Knob Trail, four miles in Michaux State Forest, Cumberland and Adams counties;
- Susquehannock Trail, 83 miles in Susquehannock State Forest, Potter County;
- Thunder Swamp Trail, 26 miles in Delaware State Forest, Pike County;
- Tuscarora Trail, 38 miles in Buchanan and Tuscarora state forests, Franklin, Fulton, Cumberland and Perry counties; and
- West Rim Trail, 30 miles in Tioga State Forest, Tioga County.

DCNR has developed several hiking-related programs, including Pennsylvania Hiking Week, a 10-day collection of more than 100 organized hikes in cities, suburbs, forests and parks throughout the state.

For more information on recreation in state forest lands, hikers can visit the DCNR [State Forest Recreation webpage](#) or contact Matt Beaver at 717-783-7941.

### **Help Wanted: Energy Projects Coordinator, Wharton School**

The Wharton School of the University of Pennsylvania is seeking a motivated [Energy Projects Coordinator](#) to provide environmental consulting assistance to small businesses through the statewide Small Business Development Center [Environmental Management Assistance Program](#).

Duties include: act as energy projects coordinator for statewide team providing environmental management and energy efficiency assistance to start-up companies and existing small businesses through SBDC's network; provide technical support and training for regional specialists; develop energy efficiency consulting check lists and tools; prepare informational materials; provide one-on-one consulting; conduct site visits; coordinate and speak at energy efficiency workshops; interact with environmental and energy agencies at state and local level; develop relationships and partnerships to increase resources and capabilities to energy efficiency outreach and technical assistance.

The position is contingent upon grant funding.

For more information, visit the [Energy Projects Coordinator announcement page](#) and search for job reference number 070421990.

## Spotlight

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### Little Lehigh Creek Visual Stream Assessment to be Unveiled September 12



An exhaustive mouth-to-headwaters visual assessment of the [Little Lehigh Creek](#) will be unveiled at a public meeting on September 12 at the [Wildlands Conservancy Pool Wildlife Sanctuary](#) in Emmaus.

The Little Lehigh Creek serves as a drinking water source for the City of Allentown and is a tributary to the Lehigh River. The assessment was just been completed by the Wildlands Conservancy and [Lehigh County Conservation District](#) in conjunction with the Little Lehigh Trout Unlimited and Saucon Creek Watershed Association.

Volunteers walked along the creekside, strapped on waders and floated in kayaks to assess the entire mainstem of the Little Lehigh Creek for habitat quality.

The results demonstrate that while portions of the Little Lehigh Creek are in excellent condition and are being well managed by landowners, there are other areas that could clearly benefit from future restoration efforts.

Wildlands Conservancy and Little Lehigh Trout Unlimited received a grant from the Coldwater Heritage Partnership in 2006 to develop a Coldwater Heritage Conservation Plan for the Little Lehigh Creek.

To complete the Plan, Lehigh County Conservation District and Wildlands Conservancy staff, and volunteers from the Saucon Creek Watershed Association and the Little Lehigh Chapter of Trout Unlimited, collected a series of photographs and recorded scores and observations regarding various stream and stream corridor conditions, such as the degree of stream bank erosion occurring, the extent of vegetative buffers growing along the stream and the quality of existing habitat for aquatic organisms.

After assessing the creek, staff from the Lehigh County Conservation District compiled assessment score results and photographs using innovative GIS mapping software. This information, along with additional background information and historic biological data, will be used in combination with other existing watershed studies to identify site specific opportunities to preserve and protect the stream.

“The landowners that we met as we assessed the creek were very interested in this project,” explained Dani-Ella Betz, Rivers Conservationist with Wildlands Conservancy. “They see first-hand how powerful this stream can be and are concerned for the future. They have realized on their own the importance of allowing for the growth of native vegetation along the stream if they want to help reduce stream bank erosion,” she added.

The photos, observations and recommendations gathered will be unveiled during a meeting. The public is encouraged to attend to help ensure scenic character and safe

drinking water quality for future generations and to continue providing excellent recreational opportunities for anglers, kayakers, and canoeists.

During the meeting, the draft Plan will be presented and an opportunity will be given for attendees to ask questions and provide input for the final Plan.

The presentation will be held at 7:00 p.m. in Wildlands Conservancy's Environmental Enrichment Education Center at Pool Wildlife Sanctuary, 3701 Orchid Place Road in Emmaus.

To attend, please RSVP to Dani-Ella Betz by sending email to: [dbetz@wildlandspa.org](mailto:dbetz@wildlandspa.org) or calling 610-965-4397 x19 by September 10.

## Spotlight

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### Time to Think About Trips to Take Advantage of PA's Fall Foliage

The kids are back in school, there's a chill in the morning air and some leaves are starting to change. Time to think about PA Fall Foliage trips!

Pennsylvania has some wonderful tools to help you start planning, including the [www.FallinPA.com](http://www.FallinPA.com) website with updated foliage reports and webcams (beginning late September), highlights of special destinations and a fall activity/travel planner.

The Pennsylvania Grand Canyon, the Hawk Mountain and Waggoner's Gap birdwatching areas, the PA Wilds area and lots of other activities and desitations await you.

The Department of Conservation and Natural Resources is also making key personnel available to the media to serve as regional experts on fall foliage. The experts are available to discuss the chemistry of fall foliage color, as well as the projected outlook for fall foliage in various regions of Pennsylvania.

The experts include: Northeast Pennsylvania: Brad Elison, Scranton; Northwest Pennsylvania: Cecile Stelter, Warren; Southeast Pennsylvania: Sandra Insalaco, Elverson; Southcentral Pennsylvania: Ed Dix, Harrisburg; Southwest Pennsylvania: Dave Planinsek, Laughlintown; Northcentral Pennsylvania: Chris Firestone, Wellsboro.

To contact any of the experts, please call Christina Novak or Terry Brady, DCNR, at 717-772-9101.



**Video Blog:** [Hawk Mountain Sanctuary Offers Unique Experience](#)

## Feature

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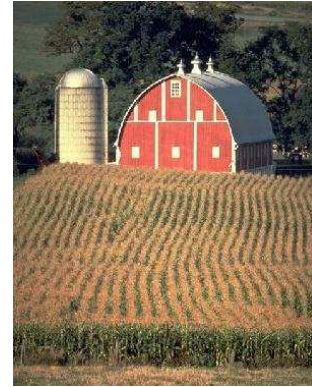
### **Ethanol Production: Hurdles on the Road to Energy Independence Report Calls for Action to Reduce Pollution from Increased Corn Production**

By John Surrick  
Chesapeake Bay Foundation



The rapid expansion of corn based ethanol production is resulting in increased corn production and—without significant new investments in conservation—increased pollution in local rivers, streams, and the Chesapeake Bay. 15 new facilities are proposed or under construction in the Mid-Atlantic region alone.

“To meet the growing demand for corn, the region’s farmers are expected to increase corn planted in the watershed by 500,000 to 1 million acres over the next few years,” said Tom Simpson, the lead author and Regional Coordinator of the Mid-Atlantic Regional Water Quality Program. “Even under relatively well-managed crop rotations, increased corn acreage will lead to increased nitrogen fertilizer use, and an increase in nitrogen pollution.”



A new report from a group of regional agriculture and environmental scientists, [“Biofuels and Water Quality: Meeting the Challenge and Protecting the Environment,”](#) estimates that increased corn production could result in an additional 8-16 million pounds of nitrogen pollution and 0.8-1.6 million pounds of phosphorus pollution annually. The expansion of cover crop implementation, and the aggressive use of nutrient management plans could curb those increases.

That increase in corn acreage has already begun. Statistics from the U.S. Department of Agriculture show that this spring, farmers in Virginia, Maryland, Delaware, and Pennsylvania planted nearly a quarter of a million additional acres of corn.

“At a time when the region is committed to reducing pollution it’s just common sense that when energy policy dictates an increase in ethanol production, the states and federal government act to reduce the additional pollution,” said Chesapeake Bay Foundation President William C. Baker. “Farmers have long demonstrated their willingness to help pay to implement conservation tools, but each year thousands of applications for cost-share conservation funding are denied because of a lack of state and federal government funding.”

Other findings and recommendations from the report include:

Perennial grass, wood, or waste-based cellulosic ethanol production has economic and environmental potential, but technical, production, and policy constraints impede widespread implementation. Federal funding must be provided to support research and development of ecologically sustainable cellulosic ethanol and related technologies that protect water quality.

Create a program similar to the Conservation Reserve Program that would provide incentives for farmers to grow low-impact alternate crops, such as perennial grasses, for biofuels.

There are several processes, other than fermentation for ethanol, by which organic wastes, conventional crops, and new specialty energy crops can be converted into useful bioenergy. The region should develop a vision and strategy for a diversified portfolio of biofuels and the feedstocks.

“The nation’s growing interest in biofuels presents a significant opportunity, as well as a significant challenge, to the Chesapeake Bay and other critical watersheds,” said Suzy Friedman Staff Scientist at Environmental Defense. “To ensure that we develop and implement a biofuels strategy that not only increases energy independence, but also reduces greenhouse gas emissions and advances critical water quality goals, it vitally



important that we fully research and understand the lifecycle environmental consequences — positive and negative — of the different biofuels feedstocks and pursue those that will deliver real gains in terms of energy generation and environmental quality.”

**Links:** [Increased Ethanol Production: Hurdles on the Road to Energy Independence](#)  
[Thirst for Ethanol Could Leave Chesapeake Bay With Hangover](#)  
[Ethanol-Driven Commodity Prices Drive Up Costs for PA Farmers](#)  
[Increase in Watershed’s Corn Acres Could Offset Bay Cleanup Efforts](#)

## Feature

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### Keystone Wild! Notes Offers Unique View of PA’s Wildlife Resources

*Keystone Wild! Notes* is the official publication of the Pennsylvania Wild Resource Conservation Program and is published twice a year.

The goal of *Notes* is to inform people about the activities of the Program, which is the principal agency that supports research and protection efforts for the state’s natural heritage—its unique collection of native nongame animals and wild plants.

Here’s a sampling of just some of the stories that appeared in *Notes* over the last several issues—

Spring 2007 –

[Eagle-Eyed Volunteers Sought for Breeding Bird Atlas](#)  
[Fisher Study Seeks to Learn About Animal’s Status in State](#)  
[Merlins Bring Their Magic to State’s Skies](#)  
[Sinuous Dance of the Salamander Ensures Its Future](#)

Winter 2007 –

[Northern Flying Squirrels Losing Turf Battles to Southern Cousins](#)  
[Hidden Snow Tunnels Reveal Active Winter Wildlife](#)  
[Lure of City Lights Too Much for Birds](#)  
[Wild Resource Conservation Program Projects](#)

Fall/Winter 2006 –

[Monongahela Survey Nets Surprising Number of Large, Rare Species](#)  
[Tutorial on Rooting Out an Invasive Weed](#)  
[Aquatic Snails – Small Faces in Wet Places](#)  
[Underfoot and Underappreciated – Mosses, Liverworts](#)

Summer 2006 --

[Bog Turtle Running Out of Places to Hide](#)  
[Allegheny Mound Ants: If You Step On Them, Be Prepared to Step On It!](#)  
[Eels Hit Dam Blockage](#)  
[Let’s Give a Hoot About Barn Owls](#)

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For more information, visit the [Keystone Wild! Notes webpage](#). To add your name to the mailing list, send your postal address to: Editor, Wild Resource Conservation Program, PO Box 8764, Harrisburg, PA 17105.

### Quick Clips

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

[Editorial: Don't Abandon Toxic Cleanups in PA](#)  
[Altoona Pushes Recycling Participation](#)  
[Giant Stores Promoting Reusable Grocery Bags](#)  
[Op-Ed: Reducing Greenhouse Gases Doesn't Require Belief in Global Warming](#)  
[Allegheny Energy Power Line Path Mostly Rural](#)  
[Transmission Line Troubles Southwestern Residents](#)  
[Smart Meters Help PPL Save Money](#)  
[Electricity Price Based on Peak Use](#)  
[Flat Rate Pricing Turns on Many Electricity Users](#)  
[Quakertown to Pay More for Electricity in New Deal](#)  
[Lehighon's Rising Electricity Cost Generates More Interest in Dam](#)  
[Methane Gas Has Town Living on the Edge](#)  
[Taking a Shine to Solar Energy](#)  
[Going Solar in a Big Way in Bucks](#)  
[Solar Power Project to be Built in Suburban Philadelphia](#)  
[Valley Supers Might Regulate Windmills](#)  
[Hundreds Protest Wind Turbines](#)  
[LIHEAP Process Favors Early Applicants](#)  
[Fixes May Prevent LIHEAP Fraud](#)  
[Ethanol Plans at Former Sony Plant Delayed a Year](#)  
[DEP Loan Helps Another Dentist Reduce Waste, Energy Use](#)  
[PA Joins Multi-State Strategy to Cut Mercury in Consumer Products](#)  
[Drillers, Landowners Clash Over Methane](#)  
[Farm Fends Off Developers in Cranberry](#)  
[Environmental Auditors Keep Invasive Plants Out of Yards](#)  
[Gypsy Moth Caterpillars Back With Bite](#)  
[Wheelchair-Friendly Fishing Spots Along Allegheny Rebuilt](#)  
[Carl Martin: A Natural At Conservation](#)  
[Union County Conservation District Turns 90](#)  
[Editorial: State Mine Rescue Contest a Vital Event](#)

### Watershed NewsClips

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

- [What's POWR Up To?](#)

[Lancaster County Farmers Doing Their Part to Keep Chesapeake Bay Healthy](#)

[Monocacy Creek to Get New Lease on Life](#)  
[Cleaner Fishing Creek Eyed](#)  
[Heilman Dam Breached to Improve Fishing, Recreation](#)  
[Plain Sect Farmers Get County's Attention](#)

## **Regulations**

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The Environmental Quality Board published two proposed rulemakings for comments this week, one dealing with [anthracite and bituminous coal mine safety](#) and another a general update of [safe drinking water requirements](#). The State Conservation Commission published for comment proposed facility [odor control requirements](#) and [draft odor management guidance](#).

[Pennsylvania Bulletin – September 1, 2007](#)

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

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

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

## **Technical Guidance & Permits**

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The Department of Environmental Protection [published an interim final policy](#) on combined sewer overflows and a final policy on NPDES permits for farm operations.

Interim Final: DEP ID: 385-2000-011. Pennsylvania Combined Sewer Overflow (CSO) Policy. On March 1, 2002, the Department published a Combined Sewer Overflow (CSO) Policy to assist in meeting the goals of controlling and eliminating CSO discharges, as practical, and ultimately bringing all remaining CSO discharges into compliance with State water quality standards through the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permitting program. Comments due: October 1.

Final: DEP ID: 390-2100-001. Implementation Guidance for NPDES CAFO Permits and Water Quality Management Permits for Manure Storage Facilities. This guidance document was developed to provide clarification concerning the Environmental Quality Board's rulemaking on Concentrated Animal Feeding Operations and Other Agricultural Operations (25 Pa. Code Chapters 91 and 92), published at 35 Pa.B. 5796 (October 22, 2005).

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

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

## **Calendar of Upcoming Events**

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## PA Environment Digest – Crisci Associates

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

- **September 5** –House Consumer Affairs Committee hearing on electricity procurement, rate caps and electric price mitigation strategies. Room G-50 Irvis Building. 9:30.
- **September 5** – **NEW**. House Republican Policy Committee hearing on energy workforce development, environmentally friendly fossil fuels and energy efficiency. Singleton Room, Robert’s Hall, Carnegie Mellon University, Pittsburgh. 1:00.
- **September 5** – **RESCHEDULED** to September 21. DEP [Chesapeake Bay Advisory Committee](#) meeting. Room 105 Rachel Carson Building. 9:00.
- **September 6** – PA Environmental Council “[Climate Change Policy in PA and Around the Nation](#).” Harrisburg Hilton. 10:30. Contact: 717-230-8044 x21.
- **September 6** – **NEW**. House Republican Policy Committee hearing on alternative energy sources, energy efficiency and conservation. Crawford County Extension Office, Meadville. 10:30.
- **September 10** – **NEW**. DEP [Great Lakes Regional Water Resources Committee](#) meeting. Erie County Conservation District. 10:00. *(This meeting was set for August 7.)*
- **September 11** – **CANCELLED**. DEP Laboratory Accreditation Advisory Committee meeting. Rescheduled to October 16.
- **September 12** – **NEW**. House Consumer Affairs Committee public hearing on the state of utility infrastructure in PA. Room 418. 9:30.
- **September 13** – DEP [Recycling Fund Advisory Committee](#) and [Solid Waste Advisory Committee special meeting](#). Room 105 Rachel Carson Building.
- **September 14** – **NEW**. House Health and Human Services Committee hearing on [House Bill 798](#) (Phillips-R-Northumberland) establishing a Lyme and Tick Borne Disease Education Program. Room 140. 1:00.
- **September 14** – **NEW**. DEP [Potomac Regional Water Resources Committee](#) meeting. Franklin County Administrative Annex, Chambersburg. 10:00. *(This meeting was set for August 17)*
- **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.
- **Septmeber 19** – 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](mailto:cindy.l.rock@comcast.net) or 717-633-7959.
- **Septmeber 19** – 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](mailto:cindy.l.rock@comcast.net) .
- **September 19** – **CANCELLED**. DEP [Cleanup Standards Scientific Advisory Board](#) meeting. Next scheduled meeting is December 4.

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- **September 21** - **NEW**. DEP [Chesapeake Bay Advisory Committee](#) meeting. Room 105 Rachel Carson Building. 9:00.
- **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 4** – **NEW**. Joint Legislative Air & Water Pollution Control and Conservation Committee hearing on electronic waste recycling. Room 8E-A, East Wing. 9:00.
- **October 10-11** – [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 13** – Schuylkill River Festival. Pottstown. Contact: Carolyn Brunschwyler, Montgomery County Community College, 610-718-1847, or send email to: [cbrunsch@mc3.edu](mailto:cbrunsch@mc3.edu)
- **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 16** – **NEW**. [DEP Laboratory Accreditation Advisory Committee](#) meeting. Room 206 Bureau of Laboratories building, 2575 Interstate Dr., Harrisburg. 10:00.
- **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](mailto:slathrop@state.pa.us) .
- **October 25** – [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**

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[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

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Send your stories about environmental issues, programs and positive actions to *PA Environment Digest* - [DHess@CrisciAssociates.com](mailto:DHess@CrisciAssociates.com) or go to [www.PaEnvironmentDigest.com](http://www.PaEnvironmentDigest.com) .

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