

-PA ——— Environment Digest

*An Update on
Environmental
Issues in
Pennsylvania*

Edited By David E. Hess, Crisci Associates

September 17, 2007

[PA Environment Digest Video Blog](#)

Rep. George to Introduce Bill to Save PA Senior Environment Corps



PA SEC Members Doing a Kick Sample

Rep. Bud George (D-Clearfield) this week announced he will introduce legislation to continue funding for the [PA Senior Environment Corps](#) through the end of the fiscal year to avert a total shutdown of the program in December.

Language directing the Department of Environmental Protection to fund the program established in law in 2004 was not included in the final budget adopted in July.

Rep. George, who serves as chairman of the House Environmental Resources and

Energy Committee, asked for the bipartisan support of his colleagues in the House saying:

“In May, the House voted unanimously to commend the Corps on its 10-year anniversary. We saluted the group’s 2,900 members who provide more than 37,400 hours annually – volunteer work valued at more than \$8 million – monitoring water quality at 628 sites. It would seem a tad disingenuous to pull the plug on such a worthwhile and cost-effective group four months later.”

Also praising the PA Senior Environment Corps for its work during the [10th anniversary celebration](#) were DEP Secretary Kathleen McGinty and Department of Aging Secretary Nora Dowd Eisenhower.

“The Pennsylvania Senior Environment Corps celebrates ten years of service, and offers invaluable generations of experience,” Secretary McGinty said. “All of us are grateful for the time, energy and remarkable contribution these members make on a regular schedule of monitoring, educating, creating and living as stewards of our environment now and for the future.”

“I commend the Pennsylvania Senior Environment Corps on this the 10th anniversary of its service to Pennsylvania,” said Secretary Dowd Eisenhower. “Men and women, who have already completed a lifetime of service, are to be applauded for their volunteer efforts to improve water quality across the state. Their environmental stewardship is an important example of civic engagement on the part of older Pennsylvanians.”

Rep. George explained, “The 2007-08 budget did not earmark funding for the program, which operates in 52 counties across the Commonwealth. Prospects also do not look favorable for discretionary funding that would enable the group to continue its water-

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monitoring and environmental education efforts. Corps officials have indicated they will have to start shutting down programs by the end of this month without additional funding.

“My legislation would appropriate \$120,000 to continue operations through June 30. It is my hope that a source for dedicated funding will be found. The Corps believes a \$300,000 annual appropriation would enable it to expand into Pike, Lycoming, Sullivan, Juniata, Susquehanna, Tioga, Wyoming, Cambria and Erie counties.”

The PA Senior Environment Corps was the first statewide program of its kind in the United States to give seniors a meaningful opportunity to help monitor and protect water quality and to share their concern for and knowledge of the environment with others, especially younger generations.

There are now over 2,900 seniors doing water sampling, mentoring high school students for Envirothon competitions, helping to locate abandoned oil and gas wells, educating the public on how to protect local drinking water supplies and on the proper disposal of household hazardous waste, clearing invasive species from watersheds, photo-documenting the results and progress of abandoned mine reclamation projects and educating the public on West Nile Virus and homeowners on the dangers of radon in 52 counties.

The program has been a model for other states and countries. The program and local chapters have won numerous awards, including being recognized by the United Nations Environment Programme which added the PaSEC to its Global 500 Honour Roll, joining the work of individuals like Jacques Cousteau and Jane Goodall.

Video Blog: [PA Senior Environment Corps Members in Action!](#)

Links: [House, Senate Celebrate 10th Anniversary of PA Senior Environment Corps](#)

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Session Schedule

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

session the week of September 17. Both will return to voting session on September 24.

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- National Hunting and Fishing Day at State Capitol Set for September 18
- Unified Sportsmen Lawsuit Seeks Increase in Deer on Public Lands
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Spotlight

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Opinion

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Feature

- Miller Run - A Stream On The Rebound, *by Robert Whittaker, Watershed Specialist, Huntingdon Conservation District*

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

On the Hill

On the Senate/House Agenda

The House and Senate have scheduled the following Committee meetings and hearings as well as published their voting Calendars —

Committees

Senate: Senate Environmental Resources and Energy Committee holds a public hearing on proposed alternative fuels mandate included in [House Bill 1202](#) (Gerber-D-Montgomery) and [Senate Bill 789](#) (Dinniman-D-Chester).

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.

Bills Introduced

Hazardous Sites Cleanup Fund: [Senate Bill 1068](#) (M.White-R-Venango) requiring fines and penalties assessed under the Hazardous Sites Cleanup Act to be deposited in the Hazardous Sites Cleanup Fund.

Keystone Fund Reporting: [Senate Bill 1069](#) (M.White-R-Venango) requiring agencies receiving funding under the Keystone Recreation, Park and Conservation Fund to submit detailed annual reports on spending to the Governor and General Assembly.

Alternative Energy: [House Bill 1835](#) (Yewcic-D-Cambria) amend the Alternative Energy Portfolio Standards Act to preserve existing PURPA act contracts with respect to alternative energy credits.

Appliance Energy Standards: [House Bill 1836](#) (King-D-Bucks) providing minimum energy efficiency standards for certain appliances and equipment.

Forced Deposits: [House Bill 1839](#) (Bennington-D-Allegheny) would require consumers to pay a deposit on beverage containers and return them to stores or redemption centers rather than putting them in their home recycling containers.

Geography Awareness: [House Resolution 385](#) (Thomas-D-Philadelphia) Designating November 11-17 National Geography Awareness Week and November 14 as Pennsylvania GIS Day.

Senators Mary Jo White, Tomlinson to Introduce Alternative Energy Investment Act

Senators Mary Jo White (R-Venango) and Robert Tomlinson (R-Bucks) this week announced their intent to introduce the “Alternative Energy Investment Act” when the Special Session on Energy convenes next week.

Under the legislation, \$60 million annually would be allocated out of existing revenues to provide grants and loans to projects geared at improving energy supply and efficiency, improved conservation and reduced demand for energy.

“This proposal is an important step as the Commonwealth prepares for the impact of expiring generation rate caps in the coming years,” said Sen. Tomlinson, chairman of the Senate Consumer Protection and Professional Licensure Committee. “Our legislation

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targets investment into alternative and renewable sources of energy, and provides incentives for both businesses and homeowners to reduce and improve their energy use.”

Specifically, the legislation includes:

- \$20 million annually in tax credits for investments in alternative energy production projects;
- \$20 million annually to finance a \$250 million bond; and
- \$20 million annually for consumer/home energy efficiency programs.

Tax credits would be available to facilities which:

- utilize waste coal, biofuel, biomass, solar power, wind energy, clean coal technologies or other alternative energy sources defined under the Alternative Energy Portfolio Standards Act to produce or distribute renewable energy;
- Manufacture or produce products that provide renewable energy; and
- Are used for the research and development of technology to provide alternative or renewable energy sources

Bond proceeds would be allocated over a five-year period for the following:

- Development of alternative/renewable energy technologies and venture capital – administered by Ben Franklin Technology Development Authority;
- Pollution control technology projects to assist existing electric generating units meet enhanced state and federal pollution emission reduction requirements – administered by the Department of Environmental Protection; and
- Clean energy and energy conservation projects – administered by the Commonwealth Financing Authority.

Consumer and home energy efficiency funding would provide grants, rebates and reimbursements for:

- Purchases of energy efficient heating and cooling units and appliances; and
- Residential energy conservation projects, including purchase and installation costs for:
 - Solar or solar photovoltaic panels,
 - Energy efficient windows and doors, and
 - Insulation, air-sealing and other energy saving projects.

“A sound energy policy must include efforts to expand and diversify our energy supply, while encouraging common-sense steps that can reduce demand and increase efficiency, both in our homes and businesses,” said Sen. White, chairman of the Senate Environmental Resources and Energy Committee. “We look forward to working with Governor Rendell and our colleagues in the General Assembly to adopt a sensible and responsible energy policy for Pennsylvanians.”

Funding for the Alternative Energy Investment Act will be found within existing revenues. Sen. White and Sen. Tomlinson indicated that a potential source of funding is the anticipated growth in revenues from the existing gross receipts tax on electricity, although other revenues may be identified as the proposal moves through the legislature.

House Republicans are scheduled to announce their own package of energy legislation next week.

NewsClip: [Study Claims \\$12 Billion in Savings from Governor’s Energy Plan](#)

Senators Pileggi, White Propose Solution to Hazardous Sites Cleanup Funding

Senate Majority Leader Dominic Pileggi (R-Delaware) and Sen. Mary Jo White (R-Venango) this week circulated draft legislation that would provide both a short-term and longer-term solution to funding the Hazardous Sites Cleanup Program.

The proposal would authorize \$15 million to be transferred from existing legislative accounts, including legislative reserve accounts, to the Hazardous Sites Cleanup Fund to fully fund the program through the 2007-08 fiscal year.

The Department of Environmental Protection already has sufficient funding for the program through December 2007.

The proposal would also dedicate \$40 million in revenue annually from the Capital Stock and Franchise Tax to fund Hazardous Sites cleanups as a longer-term solution to funding.

The legislation would not change the current commitment under existing law to phase out the CSFT as of December 31, 2010. The proposal would require a new source of revenue for the 2011-12 fiscal year and beyond.

“We would have preferred to avert this crisis by addressing HSCA in the budget,” said Sen. Pileggi. “But this proposal is a common-sense approach that meets our obligation to the communities which rely on this important program.”

“Budgeting is about priorities, and HSCA funding has consistently been a priority for Senate Republicans,” said Sen. White. “This proposal provides valuable time to find a permanent funding solution for HSCA, and it does so without raising taxes on Pennsylvania residents and businesses.”

Deer Population Growth, Development Caused Dramatic Increase in Lyme Disease

The Department of Health this week told the House Health and Human Services Committee the incidence of Lyme disease, carried by deer ticks, has increased dramatically as a result of the growth in the deer population and development encroaching into forested areas of the state.

“At the beginning of the decade in 1990, a total of 685 cases were reported statewide, 50-percent in the southeast corner of the state. By 1999, that number had increased to 2,813 cases, with 86-percent of the cases in the southeast,” said Michael Huff, Deputy Secretary for Health Planning and Assessment from the Department of Health.

“Growing populations in high-risk locations (especially outer suburbs encroaching into forested areas), growth in the deer population in the state, and geographic spread of the organism and the tick vector are all factors that have truly increased the incidence of Lyme disease in the 1990s,” said Huff.

A copy of [Mr. Huff's testimony](#) is available online.

[Pat Smith](#), of the [Lyme Disease Association](#), testified in support of [House Bill 798](#) (Phillips-R-Northumberland) that would establish a Lyme and Related Tick-Borne Disease Task Force and outlined a series of challenges facing individuals with Lyme disease, including accurate diagnosis and treatment.

Smith noted that only 43,454 cases of the disease have been reported in Pennsylvania in the last 16 years, but according the U.S. Centers for Disease Control the estimates for Pennsylvania should be in the range of 434,540.

[Montie Peters](#) related the story of his son Matthew's five year struggle with Lyme disease and the impact it had on his family and friends.

[Tresa J. Britch](#) related her experience with Lyme disease since 1992.

Lyme disease, if left untreated, can result in bouts of arthritis with severe joint pain and swelling, chronic neurological complaints such as shooting pains, numbness, tingling in the hands or feet and problems with concentration and short term memory. Even with treatment, Lyme disease symptoms can last months to years after treatment with antibiotics.

The first sign of the infection is usually a circular rash called erythema migrans that occurs from 3-30 days after a tick bites. A distinctive feature of the rash is that it gradually expands over a period of several days and can result in a bull's-eye type appearance.

Steps to prevent Lyme disease include using insect repellent, removing ticks promptly and taking steps like integrated pest management around the home.

The chairs of the Health and Human Services Committee are Rep. Oliver (D-Philadelphia) and Rep. Kenny (R-Montgomery).

For more information, visit the Department of Health's [Lyme disease webpage](#).

House Consumer Affairs Committee Holds Hearing on PA Infrastructure

The House Consumer Affairs Committee this week held a hearing on issues related to the condition of Pennsylvania's energy, water, wastewater and telephone infrastructure

Witnesses presenting testimony on drinking water infrastructure issues raised concerns about the ability of small water and wastewater systems to pay for rehabilitating aging infrastructure to meet current standards.

[John Hollenbach](#), Vice President and Manager of United Water Pennsylvania, said small water and wastewater systems have an increasingly difficult time finding the revenue needed to comply with water quality standards. He suggested the Public Utility Commission be given the statutory authority to impose Collection System Improvement Charges, like water systems now have, to recover those costs and give investor-owned systems greater access to tax-exempt financing.

[Terrance Fitzpatrick](#), General Counsel to the Electric Power Generation Association, said consideration should be given to the impact on electric generation infrastructure when environmental standards are set because Pennsylvania's competitive market for electricity means investors are not assured of recovering their investments like under a regulated electricity market.

Fitzpatrick noted water utilities have successfully used the Collection System Improvement Charges to improve infrastructure and recommended the Public Utility Commission adopt a uniform policy that would allow other utilities to do the same. He pointed to the need for more investment in power transmission lines as an example.

[J. Michael Love](#), President and CEO of the Energy Association of Pennsylvania, said focusing on the needs of aging infrastructure was long overdue and also recommended the adopting of a System Improvement Charge to upgrade the electric transmission system.

[Michael Welsh](#), from the PA AFL-CIO Utility Caucus, said System Improvement Charges may work as an incentive to eliminate preventive maintenance programs and instead focus utilities on capital project improvements and urged caution in their adoption.

[Sonny Popowsky](#), the Consumer Advocate for Pennsylvania, said for the most part Pennsylvania's natural gas, electric and public water infrastructure is sound and it was important to ensure that utilities meet their infrastructure improvement obligations in the most cost-effective way possible. He said System Improvement Charges only raise utility

rates to recover one type of cost and do not offer the opportunity to look over the entire rate structure to see where rates could be lowered.

[Wendell Holland](#), chairman of the Public Utility Commission said the existing System Improvement Charges for water companies adopted 10 years ago have worked to fund upgrades to aging infrastructure at a rate that would not have been possible otherwise.

He noted the PUC does not have the statutory authority to adopt System Improvement Charges for other utilities, and said, “I strongly encourage the legislature to consider enacting a distribution system improvement charge that would allow wastewater, electric and natural gas utilities to make infrastructure improvements that would go a long way toward ensuring the safety and reliability of the systems that transverse the state.”

The Committee is chaired by Rep. Preston (D-Allegheny) and Rep. Godshall (R-Montgomery).

Online Training

EPA Sponsors Webcast on Wetlands: Condition, Loss and Restoration

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's Watershed Academy will hold a free [webcast for watershed practitioners](#) on September 26.

Kerry St. Pe, Director of the Barrataria-Terrebonne National Estuary Program and Jan Smith, Director of the Massachusetts Bays National Estuary Program, will discuss methods for assessing the condition of wetlands, measuring wetlands loss and techniques for restoring coastal wetlands.

Registration opens September 19.

For more information or to access archived audio versions of past webcasts, please visit the [Watershed Academy Webcast Seminars webpage](#).

Other News

Litter Summit Attendees Learn About New Tools to Combat Litter- Video Blog

This week attendees at the [Keep Pennsylvania Beautiful's](#) 4th Annual Litter Summit learned about new tools to combat litter and beautiful their communities. Department of Environmental Protection Secretary Kathleen McGinty also congratulated the group and its partners for getting out nearly 140,000 volunteers for the [Great PA Cleanup!](#)

This year's Summit theme was “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.

Attendees also heard the inspiring story of Chad Pregracke, who at 17, started a river cleanup program that begin along the Mississippi River and spread to the Illinois, Missouri and Ohio rivers. Pregracke now heads the [Living Lands & Waters](#) non-profit group dedicated to promoting river cleanups, reforestation and environmental education.



Secretary McGinty noted the 2007 Great PA Cleanup involved: 4,987 cleanup events; 139,480 volunteers; 372,096 bags of collected trash, weighing 7,441,919 pounds; 41,560 pounds of illegally dumped trash and 870 tires collected by volunteers in DEP's [Clean up Our American Lands and Streams](#) (COALS) program from April through May; 13,565 miles of road, railroad track, trails, waterways and shorelines cleaned, and 3,238 acres of park and or wetlands; and 4,124 communities involved, and all 67 counties in Pennsylvania.

She also told the audience significant issues are looming in the fall legislative session they should be aware of like consideration of the Governor's Energy Independence Initiative, dealing with electric rates after the caps come off in 2010 and funding for the Hazardous Sites Cleanup Program.

Video Blog: [DEP Secretary McGinty Remarks at the Litter Summit](#)

The Keep Pennsylvania Beautiful Alliance and the Pennsylvania Horticultural Society also recognized the first of 31 winners of the [Community Greening Award](#) that honors community gardeners in public spaces across the Commonwealth at the Summit. *(See separate story)*

Members of Keep Pennsylvania Beautiful also reported that more than 80 schools have signed up for the [Litter-Free School Zone pledge](#) and more are signing up.

Keep PA Beautiful, PA Horticultural Society Present Community Greening Awards



The [Keep Pennsylvania Beautiful](#) Alliance and the [Pennsylvania Horticultural Society](#) recognized the first of 31 winners of the [Community Greening Award](#) that honors community gardeners in public spaces across the Commonwealth.

The first of three regional award ceremonies took place at the Litter Summit in Camp Hill on September 12 and two other ceremonies are planned for October 28 in Pittsburgh and in Philadelphia on November 11.

The Community Greening Award, which debuted this summer, is a collaboration of the Pennsylvania Horticultural Society and the Keep Pennsylvania Beautiful Alliance. The groups will repeat the awards program next year with entries due July 15.

“We are delighted this new partnership allows us to honor dedicated greening work across the region,” said Blaine Bonham, Jr., executive vice president of PHS.

Fifty seven nominations came from as far west as Pittsburgh and Indiana, Pa.; as central as Gettysburg and Chambersburg and throughout Southeastern Pennsylvania. Spaces were judged throughout August on a host of criteria including variety of plant material, maintenance, design, visual appeal, and use of space.

Studies have shown that these green spaces enhance the health, beauty and economic vitality of an area and often serve as meeting places for the community.

Entries came from civic groups, volunteers, garden clubs, businesses and municipalities. A total of 31 winners were selected including:

Western Pennsylvania: Chestnut Ridge Resort, Blairsville; Sawmill Center for the Arts, Cooksburg; Ewing Park Gardens, Ellwood City; Hughes Library at Jefferson, Jefferson;

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Site at East Philadelphia Street, Indiana; Site at Philadelphia Street & East Pike, Indiana; Rose Garden in Renziehansen Park, McKeesport; PNC Firstside Park, Pittsburgh; Pleasant Hills Triangle, Pleasant Hills.

Central Pennsylvania: River Front Park, Danville; Falling Springs Nursing Home & Rehabilitation Center, Chambersburg; Lincoln Square, Gettysburg; The Long Home, Lancaster; Yuengling Park & Gardens, Pottsville; Depot Square Park, Tamaqua; Conrad Weiser Homestead, Womelsdorf.

Southeastern Pennsylvania: Russell School, Broomall; Buckingham Elementary School, Buckingham; Londonderry Township Park, Cochranville; Iris Garden at Delaware Valley College, Doylestown; Eaton Park, Hatboro; St. Cyril of Jerusalem Church, Jamison; Roy Lomas Carpets Inc., Kulpville; Whitmarsh Township Building, Lafayette Hill; Richardson House Community Grounds, Langhorne; Pennsbury Manor, Morrisville; West Chester Pike Traffic Island, Newtown Square; High Street Planters, Pottstown; St. John's Organic Community Garden, Phoenixville; Reading Public Museum, Reading; Shikellamy State Park, Sunbury.

For information on [next year's awards](#), please call Flossie Narducci at 215-988-8897 or send an email to: fnarducc@pennhort.org.

Lens on Litter Photography Contest Deadline October 31

The [Pennsylvania Resources Council](#) is inviting photographers to help identify the worst example of litter in their communities through the [Lens on Litter photo contest](#).

Winning photos will not only be displayed in a “Rogues Gallery” on PRC’s website, in displays and in PRC offices. First price winners will receive \$1,000, second prize \$500 and third prize \$250.

For rules and entry information, visit the [Lens on Litter webpage](#).



Volunteers Remove More than 700 Tires from Susquehanna River

DEP's Northeast Regional Office, the Wyoming County Conservation District and the northeast office of Pennsylvania Environmental Council organized a major tire clean up September 8 in the Susquehanna River in Mehoopany Township, Wyoming County.

A group of 61 volunteers came out on a very hot and humid Saturday morning to clean up 1,000 tires illegally dumped years ago. In order to get to these tires the river level had to be extremely low. Other clean up plans had been organized in the past, but the river didn't cooperate. This year, the river stayed low and the volunteers pulled out about 700 of the 1,000 tires.

Volunteers ranged from Boy Scouts, local residents, Tunkhannock High School students, Sen. Lisa Baker (R-Luzerne) and staff from the Fish and Boat Commission,

Pennsylvania Environmental Council, the Wyoming County Conservation District and DEP.

Numerous area business donated food and water for the volunteers. Wyoming County Commissioner Stark Barton donated two 'bobcats' from his John Deere dealership. WNEP-TV's Pennsylvania Outdoor Life taped the event and will feature the clean up in an upcoming show. Cost for disposal of the tires is being funded through the Pa Cleanways and the COALS Program.

The event would not have been a major success without all the volunteers and especially Mehoopany Township Supervisors and their road crew and equipment. The township provided a backhoe/front-end loader and two dump trucks to remove the tires from the river and transport them to the dumpsters.

The volunteers filled two 40-yard dumpsters and stockpiled the remaining tires in a farmers' field for disposal in the future.

In addition to the river clean up, there was a tire pile of about 200 tires tucked away off the road which DEP and the County West Nile Program treated in the past. The township agreed to clean up this pile as well. Special thanks to Mehoopany Township Supervisors, especially Jack Simmers and Frank Scholz and their road crew.

PROP Announces 2007 Waste Watchers Award Winners



The [Professional Recyclers of Pennsylvania](#), [Pennsylvania Waste Industries Association](#), and the [Keystone Chapter of the Solid Waste Association of North America](#) recently announced the winners of this year's Waste Watcher Awards given annually to those outstanding recycling, composting, waste reduction, and reuse programs in Pennsylvania.

Awards were be presented to municipalities, counties, private businesses, individuals, schools, and community organizations in 10 categories: Outstanding Recycling Achievement, Outstanding Composting Achievement, and Outstanding Achievements in Public Education, Special Event Recycling, Special Collections, Commercial/Institutional Recycling, School Recycling, Materials Processing, Reuse, and Market Development.

"This year's Waste Watcher Award winners are especially noteworthy," stated John Frederick, PROP Executive Director. "The applicants represented a cross-section of Pennsylvania. Ranging from a small school in a non-mandated municipality to the Commonwealth's largest city, they included institutions, manufacturers, waste and recycling firms and municipalities of all sizes, yet with one thing in common: they looked for innovative ways to successfully and significantly reduce their waste streams."

It's been 18 years since the enactment of Act 101 – the Municipal Waste Planning, Recycling and Waste Reduction Act. Despite cuts in funding and programs, recycling continues to conserve energy and raw materials, reduce dependence on foreign oil, and create jobs here in Pennsylvania and across the nation.

For example, in 2005 (the latest year for actual data) Pennsylvania's recycling resulted in saving almost 98 trillion BTUs of energy, which could be used to power more than 940,000 homes for one year and it is the equivalent of conserving 786 million gallons of gasoline.

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The recycling and reuse industry includes more than 3,200 businesses with total sales of \$18.4 billion annually. More than 81,000 people are employed in this industry with a \$2.9 billion annual payroll. This growth and success is the result of a serious commitment to recycling by individuals, institutions, businesses, government, and the recycling industry, such as our award winners.

The list of award winners follows and a [detailed description of each winning program or activity](#) is available online:

Adams County

- Gettysburg College Facilities Service Department: Outstanding Achievement in Special Event Recycling, Outstanding Achievement in Reuse

Armstrong County

- Armstrong Recycling Center, Progressive Workshop of Armstrong County Inc. : Outstanding Recycling Achievement, Outstanding Achievement in Public Education, Outstanding Achievement in Special Collections

Blair County

- New Pig Corp., John Fudalski, with Concord Plastics of PA, Jeff Furmanchin: Outstanding Achievement in Commercial/Institutional Recycling, Outstanding Achievement in Recycling Market Development

Bucks County

- Business & Education Partnership: Waste Management of Pennsylvania & Newspaper in Education Departments of The Bucks County Courier Times & The Intelligencer Newspapers, and Neshaminy Mall: Outstanding Achievement in Public Education

Cambria County

- Cambria County Solid Waste Authority: Outstanding Recycling Achievement, Outstanding Achievement in Public Education, Outstanding Achievement in Special Collections

Carbon County

- Carbon County Department of Solid Waste: Outstanding Achievement in Special Collections

Centre County

- The Art Alliance of Central Pennsylvania, Marie Doll, Executive Director: Outstanding Recycling Achievement
- The Borough of State College, Mark Whitfield, Director of Public Works: Outstanding Composting Achievement
- CCDA Waters LLC: Outstanding Achievement in Commercial/Institutional Recycling
- Centre County Solid Waste Authority, Joanne Shafer: Outstanding Recycling Achievement, Outstanding Achievement in Public Education, Outstanding Achievement in Materials Processing
- Harris Township, Amy Farkas: Outstanding Achievement in Special Event Recycling
- Penn State University, Nadine Davitt: Outstanding Composting Achievement
- Penn State University Office of Physical Plant with Penn State University Housing and Centre County United Way: Outstanding Achievement in Special Collections
- Troop 45, Milesburg, Ralph Stewart & Mark Watson: Outstanding Recycling Achievement

Chester County

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- Chester County Solid Waste Authority: Outstanding Recycling Achievement, Outstanding Composting Achievement, Outstanding Achievement in Public Education, Outstanding Achievement in Special Collections

Clinton County

- Clinton County Solid Waste Authority: Outstanding Recycling Achievement, Outstanding Achievement in Public Education, Outstanding Achievement in Special Collections, Outstanding Achievement in Materials Processing

Columbia County

- Town of Bloomsburg, Charles Fritz: Outstanding Recycling Achievement, Outstanding Achievement in Public Education, Outstanding Achievement in Materials Processing

Dauphin County

- Dauphin County Department of Solid Waste Management & Recycling: Outstanding Recycling Achievement
- Middletown Remanufacturing Center, Stephen Weaver: Outstanding Achievement in Commercial/Institutional Recycling

Delaware County

- Delaware County Solid Waste Authority (DCSWA) & The County of Delaware: Outstanding Achievement in Special Collections, Outstanding Achievement in Reuse Delaware, Bucks, Montgomery, and Philadelphia Counties

- PA Southeastern Regional Household Hazardous Waste Program: Outstanding Achievement in Special Collections

Erie County

- Erie Times/News in Education, Anna McCartney, with Waste Management-Erie, Carm Camillo: Outstanding Achievement in Public Education

Huntingdon County

- PA CleanWays of Huntingdon County, Bob Whittaker: Outstanding Recycling Achievement, Outstanding Achievement in Public Education

Indiana County

- Indiana County Solid Waste Authority: Outstanding Achievement in Special Collections, Outstanding Achievement in Materials Processing

Jefferson County

- Hickory Grove Elementary School: Principal Ray Puller, Teachers Ann Fritz, John MacBeth, Jason Brinkley: Outstanding Composting Achievement, Outstanding Achievement in Public Education, Outstanding Achievement in School Recycling

Lackawanna County

- Cinram Manufacturing LLC: Outstanding Achievement in Commercial/Institutional Recycling

Lancaster County

- Lancaster County Solid Waste Management Authority: Outstanding Achievement in Special Event Recycling Township of Manheim, Outstanding Composting Achievement

Lawrence County

- Lawrence County Recycling/Solid Waste Department with Tri-County Industries: Outstanding Recycling Achievement

Lawrence & Butler Counties

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- PA CleanWays of Butler-Lawrence Counties: Outstanding Achievement in Special Collections

Lebanon County

- City of Lebanon: Outstanding Recycling Achievement
- Palmyra Area School District: Outstanding Achievement in School Recycling

Lehigh and Northampton Counties

- The Bethlehem Recycling Bureau of the City of Bethlehem: Outstanding Recycling Achievement, Outstanding Composting Achievement, Outstanding Achievements in Public Education, Outstanding Commercial/Institutional Recycling, Outstanding Achievement in Special Event Recycling, Outstanding Achievement in Materials Processing

Monroe County

- Coolbaugh Township Leaf and Yard Waste Compost Facility, James Frutche: Outstanding Composting Achievement

Montgomery County

- Upper Merion Township's Government Access Television (UMGA-TV): Outstanding Achievement in Public Education

Northampton County

- Just Born Inc., and The Green Team: Outstanding Achievement in Public Education, Outstanding Achievement in Commercial/Institutional Recycling, Outstanding Achievement in Reuse

Philadelphia County

- Philadelphia Recycling Office, Joan Hicken: Outstanding Achievement in Public Education
- Temple University, H. Marshall Budin: Outstanding Recycling Achievement, Outstanding Achievement in Commercial/Institutional Recycling

Susquehanna County

- Forest City Borough: Outstanding Recycling Achievement, Outstanding Achievement in Public Education, Outstanding Achievement in Materials Processing

Westmoreland County

- Westmoreland Cleanways: Outstanding Achievement in Public Education, Outstanding Achievement in Special Collections

York County

- Caterpillar Logistics Services Inc.: Outstanding Achievement in Commercial/Institutional Recycling, Outstanding Achievement in Reuse

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

Three PA Businesses, Groups Among Those Honored for Energy Savings

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency this week recognized the winners of the 2007 Energy Star [Award for Small Businesses and Congregations](#), including three in Pennsylvania.

The businesses included Central PA Settlement LLC of Bedford, Bedford County, and Sendell Motors Inc. of Greensburg, Westmoreland County, who were winners in the Energy Star Small Business category. The [Pennsylvania Small Business Development Center](#) was given a special award for notable achievement in energy efficiency.

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The Pennsylvania Small Business Development Center was recognized for its development of the Environmental Management Assistance Program (EMAP) that assists small businesses in recognizing and implementing the steps needed to increase profitability by cutting energy costs.

Since its inception in 1980, Pennsylvania SBDC has evolved into a network of 18 university-based centers and more than 90 outreach locations operating under the guidance of a state director. Since 1990, the SBDCs have helped Pennsylvania entrepreneurs start more than 22,000 new businesses and obtain \$1.8 billion in start-up and expansion capital. More than 97,800 new jobs have been created.

Tom and Linda Bullington, owners of Central PA Settlement LLC, purchased an old building in Bedford in 2003. They began operating three small businesses on the first floor and leased six apartments on the second floor. They quickly realized their building needed to be more energy efficient. The Bullingtons began by replacing all 70 windows with Low-E energy efficient windows and increasing insulation in the attic to R38.

The next hurdle to overcome was an old boiler that was only 50-55 percent efficient. The Bullingtons turned to the Pennsylvania Small Business Development Center at St. Francis University and its Environmental Management Assistance Program for guidance.

The EMAP environmental specialist assisted the Bullingtons in reviewing contractor estimates and making equipment selections for a new boiler with an efficiency rating of 87 percent. EMAP also helped the Bullingtons obtain state assistance through the Small Business Advantage Grant administered by the Department of Environmental Protection. This enabled them to recuperate 50 percent of the boiler upgrade.

As a result of their new boiler, the Bullingtons are saving approximately \$6,200 from their gas bill, a reduction of over two-thirds and a savings of 4100 therms. Plus, they are saving by not running the air conditioner so frequently. Because of the state's grant, the Bullingtons began seeing a return on their investment in just 8 months. Their more efficient boiler is also preventing about 61,000 pounds of CO₂ emissions from being released into the atmosphere each year.

Sendell Motors of Greensburg, has grown since William M. Mohler first purchased the Buick dealership in 1980. The addition of Volkswagen, Oldsmobile and Mitsubishi franchises has required the purchase of an extra 3.7 acres of land and 13,500 square feet of facility space. Prior to expanding and building a new combined showroom and reconditioning garage, Mohler compiled three years of utilities records on the existing structures. Then, he and his staff set a goal of reducing energy use by 10 percent, even with 3,100 square feet of additional space.

Heating was the first area of focus. A waste oil boiler was installed to provide in-floor radiant heat. The multi-faceted environmental impact of this move eliminated the need for externally purchased natural gas by using the vast majority of used waste oil generated in the service department. Controls enable different areas of the building to be heated separately.

To increase electric energy efficiency, all existing exterior lot lighting was placed on controlled timers. Interior lighting in the new space is high-efficiency T5HO. The space uses solid aluminum windows with Low-E glass throughout the showroom area and a 40 percent smaller surface area is exposed for light penetration.

Finally, a high-efficiency rooftop air conditioning unit was installed. Underground cabling was used to tie all electric service, Internet and television cabling, overhead music,

paging and other electronics to the existing buildings. This eliminates costs as well as redundancies. Water savings were achieved with the installation of low-flow/high-efficiency toilets and water fountains to keep water usage constant even with the addition of two rest rooms, sinks and water fountains.

As a result of these efforts, Sendell Motors is saving over \$8,000 annually in energy costs. Electric consumption was reduced by 40,000 kWh, natural gas by 3300 therms, and CO2 emissions by over 112,000 pounds per year.

Launched in 1992, Energy Star is a government program that helps businesses and consumers protect the environment through superior energy efficiency. In 2006, Americans with the help of Energy Star saved \$14 billion on their energy bills and reduced greenhouse gas emissions equal to those of 25 million vehicles annually.

More information, visit the [2007 Small Business Award Winners webpage](#).

NewsClip: [PA Small Business Development Centers Recognized for EMAP](#)

Chesapeake Bay Commission Report Raises Cautions About Ethanol Impacts

The [Chesapeake Bay Commission](#) this week issued a new report raising cautions about the impacts ethanol production will have on water quality and forests in the Chesapeake Bay Watershed.

“[Biofuels and the Bay: Getting It Right to Benefit Farms, Forests and the Chesapeake Bay](#)” says biofuels could lead to shifts in crop patterns and acreages that create an uncertain future for farmers and foresters and seriously worsen the overload of nutrients to rivers.

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

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

Other major findings in the report include:

- Due to fertilizer requirements and the relatively inefficient uptake of nutrients, more corn will likely increase nitrogen and phosphorus loadings to the Bay, unless offset by aggressive programs to plant cover crops and put in place other conservation practices;
- Without subsidies, corn-based ethanol is not likely a long-term sustainable technology, and plants cannot yet be readily converted to cellulosic feedstock; and
- Overall, grain-based ethanol should be considered a short-term windfall for farmers and refiners, a necessary step toward future development of an ethanol industry that includes cellulosic sources, and a stimulus for near-universal cover crops and other agricultural conservation measures to prevent adverse effects on the Bay.

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

Many of these practices are already being used in the watershed to meet water quality goals, but additional efforts will be required to meet the environmental threats from additional corn growing acreage.

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The report said overall, cellulosic ethanol offers a promising source of additional income for farmers and foresters beginning 2012–15, and can be better managed to help reduce nutrient overloads to the Bay.

A complete [copy of the report and its recommendations](#) is available online.

Presenters Wanted for 2008 Schuylkill Watershed Congress

The [Schuylkill Watershed Congress](#) organizers invite you to share your knowledge with a presentation or poster session at the March 1-2, 2008 Congress.

Proposals are due October 31.

Congress participants are interested in the latest information on progressive watershed planning, model projects, and innovative watershed protection.

Topics requested by participants include: urban stream restoration, water quality monitoring, aquatic plants and animals, land use impacts on water quality, grantsmanship, the Hopewell Big Woods, agricultural BMPs, nutrient criteria, working with local government and the Municipalities Planning Code, watershed projects for teachers and youth group leaders, stream restoration from assessment to implementation, recreational opportunities, invasive plant management, rain barrels, rain gardens and green roofs for homeowners, global warming effects on mid-Atlantic river systems, organizational capacity building, watershed education for the general public, multi-municipal watershed planning, effects of emerging contaminants, Schuylkill River watershed TMDLS and public water supply protection.

Field trips and hands-on, interactive presentations are encouraged.

All presentations must include a question and answer component. Poster and concurrent sessions proposals should include: presentation title (please limit to 10 words), presenter(s), affiliation(s), address(es), email address(es), daytime telephone number(s), presenter bio(s) (should not exceed 100 words), preferred format for presentation (concurrent or poster session), preferred length of presentation (30 and 60 minute sessions available), level (e.g., introductory, intermediate, advanced; advanced sessions are encouraged), one sentence presentation summary, abstract body (should not exceed 200 words).

Submission of a proposal does not guarantee inclusion in the Congress program. The number of proposals received often exceeds the session availability. Following the proposal format provided will greatly aid the Congress Program Committee in the tough decision-making process.

The Schuylkill Watershed Congress, a gathering of watershed citizens interested in understanding, protecting and restoring their local streams, is held annually on the first Saturday in March. The event features a diverse program with concurrent and poster sessions covering a broad range of watershed topics.

The Congress audience, which has hailed from throughout the Schuylkill Watershed, across Pennsylvania and from as far away as Wilmington, Delaware; New Jersey; Baltimore, Maryland; and Providence, Rhode Island, attends the Congress seeking new information on watershed protection.

Submit presentation proposals or questions about the Schuylkill Watershed Congress by email to chari@delawareriverkeeper.org . If you have any questions, please call 610-469-6005.

PA Resources Council Holds Fall Environmental Workshop Series

The [Pennsylvania Resources Council](#) will host a series of workshop this fall on several topics: installing your own rain barrels, backyard composting, consequences of climate change and worm composting.

Here are the workshop dates:

- October 2 – Rain Barrel Workshop, 6:30-9:00 p.m.;
- October 4 – Joys of Backyard Composting, 7-9:00 p.m.;
- October 9 - The Consequences of Climate Change, 7-9:00 p.m.(free);
- November 5 – Joys of Backyard Composting, 7-9:00 p.m.; and
- November 14 – Worm Composting Time, 7-9:00.

The workshops will be held at the Environmental Living Demonstration Center, 3606 Providence Road, Newtown Square in Ridley Creek State Park.

A small fee will be charged for workshops, except where noted.

To register call 610-353-1555, ext. 230 or send email to John Buter at:

butler@prc.org.

DEP Says Preserving Great Lakes Water Resources Key to Region

Environmental Protection Deputy Secretary Cathleen Curran Myers said this week that with millions of people relying on the Great Lakes for energy, recreation, agriculture and commerce, preserving its water resources is important to northwest Pennsylvania's economy and quality of life.

"Properly managing the Great Lakes and its basin is of paramount importance to protecting the vital water resources that Lake Erie and the Genesee River provide to Pennsylvania," said Myers. "This water benefits our communities, local industrial businesses and the region's farmers. It also attracts visitors to the region for recreational opportunities like fishing and boating.

"We must be good stewards of these resources and do what we can to preserve it for the sake of our people, our economy, and our quality of life," Myers said at a joint meeting of the [Great Lakes Regional Water Resources Committee](#) and Pennsylvania's Great Lakes Compact stakeholders.

The meeting featured a discussion of the Great Lakes-St. Lawrence River Basin Water Resources Compact, which would update the way the lakes and waters within its basin are managed and protected, and give Pennsylvania a voice in the management of the basin's waters and water-dependent natural resources.

On December 13, 2005, the Great Lakes governors and premiers signed agreements at the Council of Great Lakes Governors' Leadership Summit to provide unprecedented protections for the Great Lakes–St. Lawrence River Basin.

The Great Lakes-St. Lawrence River Basin Sustainable Water Resources Agreement, a good-faith agreement among the Great Lakes States, Ontario and Québec will be implemented in Ontario and Québec through provincial laws, and in the states, through the Great Lakes-St. Lawrence River Basin Water Resources Compact.

The compact, an agreement among the Great Lakes states that will be passed into law as an interstate compact with congressional consent, was the focus of the meeting.

Together, these agreements will forestall any future actions that could unsustainably draw down the Great Lakes. The agreement and compact will ban diverting

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Great Lakes water outside the basin, with possible exceptions for communities and counties that straddle the basin boundaries. The compact's intent is to help avert conflicts and water shortages in the future.

Legislation to enact the compact in Pennsylvania is currently before the General Assembly. To date, Minnesota and Illinois have adopted the compact, and bills await final approval in New York following adoption in both legislative chambers of the state. Michigan and Indiana are currently considering legislation to accept the compact.

More Than \$1 Million Awarded to Protect, Enhance PA's Coastal Zones

The Department of Environmental Protection this week awarded more than \$1 million in grant funding for 37 projects designed to improve and maintain Pennsylvania's coastal zones.

Grants are awarded to nonprofit groups, educational institutions, local governments and state agencies to finance projects, such as the rehabilitation of streambanks and the restoration of riparian buffers to reduce pollution flowing into waterways, the reforestation of urban areas, better management of stormwater runoff, and the development of new technologies to locate and address unseen sources of pollution.

“Our shorelines and coastal zones provide our citizens and visitors with recreational, tourism and educational opportunities all year long,” said Gov. Rendell. “But these areas are also driving Pennsylvania's economy through research, environmental restoration and by providing the waterway access many businesses depend on to move their products. The investment we're announcing today will help preserve this vital resource for the benefit of our people and our economy.”

[A complete list of project awards is available online.](#)

The coastal zone is an area where the land meets the sea and includes coastal waters and adjacent shorelands. Pennsylvania has two coastal areas: 57 miles of coastline along the Delaware Estuary and 63 miles of coastline along Lake Erie.

The Delaware Estuary Coastal Zone lies within Bucks, Delaware and Philadelphia counties and contains islands, marshes and the shorelands of tributaries that are affected by ocean tides. The combined facilities of the Delaware Estuary comprise the largest freshwater port in the world.

The Lake Erie Coastal Zone is located within Erie County and includes the shorelines of major tributaries. The zone extends to the middle of the lake to the boundary with Canada and inland 900 feet within the city of Erie. The lake, one of the state ports for international shipping, also contains Presque Isle State Park.

The majority of coastal zone management grants are funded through the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration from money made available by the federal government. Grant recipients include local governments, educational institutions, nonprofit organizations and state agencies.

Since 2003 the Pennsylvania Coastal Resource Management Program has provided more than \$6.2 million in funding for coastal zone projects.

The application period for next year's grant round will be open until October 22.

For more information, visit DEP's [Coastal Zone Management Program webpage](#).

DCNR Protects Streamside Land, Expands Pine Creek Trail

The deed for 176 acres of prime land along Pine Creek and forestland in Lycoming County is being transferred from the [Northcentral Pennsylvania Conservancy](#) to the Department of Conservation and Natural Resources. The land will be added to the Tiadaghton State Forest.

Also this week, state and local officials celebrated the completion of the fourth phase on the northern end of [Pine Creek Rail-Trail](#), one of the state's longest and most popular rail-trails.

“By conserving this land, we are protecting much more than trees and open space,” DCNR Secretary Michael DiBerardinis said at a special ceremony along Pine Creek. “With 2,300 feet of frontage on Pine Creek and 3,000 feet of the [Pine Creek Rail-Trail](#) crossing it, this property has significant recreational value and will be open to fishing, boating and hiking with its addition to the Tiadaghton State Forest.”

DCNR invested approximately \$595,000 of Growing Greener II funding, a voter-approved \$625 million bond issue, to acquire the land through the Northcentral Pennsylvania Conservancy.

“A steep hillside on the property with a footpath also provides access to an impressive stand of red pine and a nice view from the mountaintop,” Secretary DiBerardinis said.

The land, known as the Yoder property, was the former home of the Pine Creek Camper Court. Several times, high water from Pine Creek has flooded the campground, strewing debris along the banks of the creek.

“Pine Creek and the Pine Creek Rail-Trail are tremendous assets, not only for recreation but also to the economies of our communities,” said Northcentral Pennsylvania Conservancy Executive Director Renee Carey. “The protection of this land offers a great opportunity to replant the streamside and to view the creek and hillside without distraction.”

“The Yoder property brings the Northcentral Pennsylvania Conservancy close to reaching a milestone of protecting 10,000 acres,” Secretary DiBerardinis said. “We congratulate the conservancy on their success and thank them for their hard work facilitating the Yoder property acquisition.”

With this recent addition, Tiadaghton State Forest now encompasses about 147,000 acres, most of which are in Lycoming County.

Tiadaghton was the name the Iroquois gave to Pine Creek, the largest tributary of the West Branch of the Susquehanna River. Tiadaghton State Forest was formed as a direct result of the depletion of the forests of Pennsylvania that took place during the mid to late 1800s.

Secretary Michael DiBerardinis also cut the ribbon to mark the occasion with a host of local officials and trail enthusiasts at the trailhead outside of Wellsboro Junction, Tioga County. The trail runs through Pine Creek Gorge in Tioga and Lycoming counties. The northern trailhead and a connection into Wellsboro are future plans.

“Trails are all about connections, and in the case of the Pine Creek Rail-Trail, the vision is to connect one of the best hiking and biking trails in the country to a host of facilities and local businesses in Wellsboro,” Secretary DiBerardinis said. “A DCNR Growing Greener grant recently funded a survey by the Rails-Trails Conservancy showing

that more than half of the people who visit the trail stay overnight, and that the trail generates about \$5.5 million annually for the local economy."

DCNR has invested about \$7.5 million in the Pine Creek Rail-Trail, including \$1.4 million in Phase IV. Most of the funding came through federal transportation enhancements administered by PennDOT.

"The next phase of our work on the Pine Creek Trail will be a connector that will help us focus the development of accommodations and services in the nearby trail town of Wellsboro, rather than in the Pine Creek Valley where they would have a greater impact on the natural resource," Secretary DiBerardinis said. "It's a continuation of our efforts in the Pennsylvania Wilds to work with local communities to make sure this area can be enjoyed by all, but also retains its charm and remains protected for future generations."

The first phase of the Pine Creek Rail-Trail opened in 1996 through the bottom of the Pine Creek Gorge, often called the Grand Canyon of Pennsylvania, along an abandoned railroad bed. An additional eight miles of trail is now being added at its northern terminus, from Ansonia to Wellsboro Junction to complete the 62-mile, multi-use trail for hiking, bicycling and cross country skiing.

Trail users can see wildlife like eagles, ospreys, coyotes, deer, wild turkeys, herons, river otters and black bears. Diverse plant life, scattered old-growth timber, historic pine and spruce plantations and several foundations from the Civilian Conservation Corps era can also be found along the trail.

The trail work is part of ongoing efforts to improve recreational opportunities and increase nature tourism in the 12-county area known as the Pennsylvania Wilds, which covers Cameron, Clarion, Clearfield, Clinton, Elk, Forest, Jefferson, Lycoming, McKean, Potter, Tioga, and Warren counties. It includes 27 state parks, 1.5 million acres of state forest and game lands, the largest elk herd in the northeast U.S., and the darkest nighttime skies.

Visit the [Pennsylvania Wilds webpage](#) for more information.

PennDOT Expands BicyclePA Program to Nine Designated Routes

Pennsylvania's countryside will soon be alive with color and PennDOT is encouraging bicycling enthusiasts and weekend riders to explore Pennsylvania's fall foliage with a ride on any one of Pennsylvania's nine [BicyclePA routes](#).

The recently completed Route V starts at the Ohio border in Lawrence County and travels about 360 miles, nearly paralleling Interstate 80, to the New Jersey border in Northampton County. It promises to offer bicyclists not only blazing autumn color but also a host of tourist attractions.

The route spans five tourism regions, including Pittsburgh and its Countryside, Pennsylvania Wilds, The Alleghenies and Her Valleys, Northeast Pennsylvania Mountain Region, and Philadelphia and the Countryside. Among the many attractions offered along or near the route, bicyclists can explore Penn's Cave, historic Brookville, Lewisburg and Danville, shopping outlets and several state parks.

BicyclePA routes are designed by experienced bicyclists associated with PennDOT's Pedacycle and Pedestrian Advisory Committee and provide bicycling enthusiasts with a guide to traveling across the Commonwealth. The routes use a combination of lower-traffic volume roads and rail-trails.

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Working through the advisory committee, the BicyclePA program called upon volunteers from local bicycle clubs, tourist promotion agencies, other planning agencies and PennDOT to determine safe, scenic bicycle touring routes.

All BicyclePA routes are clearly marked; PennDOT has invested more than \$200,000 to install and maintain signs along the routes.

Along with the addition of Route V, Route L in the Allentown area was also recently redesigned. The 225-mile stretch extends from Susquehanna County to Chester County and boasts a rural setting despite passing close to the major metropolitan areas of Scranton, Allentown and Philadelphia.

PennDOT's Pedacycle and Pedestrian Advisory Committee meets quarterly to ensure that bicyclists and pedestrians are well represented on projects undertaken by the commonwealth.

The first BicyclePA route, Route G, opened in 1999. It starts at the New York State border in Lawrenceville, Tioga County, and travels 235 miles to the Maryland State border in Bedford County.

More information, visit the [Bicycle PA webpage](#).

National Hunting and Fishing Day at State Capitol Set for September 18

Representatives of the Game Commission and the Fish and Boat Commission, along with several respected statewide sportsmen's organizations, will host a National Hunting and Fishing Day celebration on September 18, in the East Wing Rotunda of the State Capitol in Harrisburg.

The event, which will feature a series of informational booths, will run from 9 a.m. until 1 p.m., and will include a noon news conference. The event will highlight the importance hunting, trapping, fishing and boating and the related activities supported by the two independent state agencies have had on and continue to provide to the state's cultural heritage, outdoors recreation and economy.

In an effort to explain the state's deer management program, the Game Commission will bring its open house display on deer management program to the State Capitol.

"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, including one within the Capitol Complex, to provide a convenient way for those who live and work in the Harrisburg area to learn more or inquire about Pennsylvania's deer management program through conversations with deer managers, displays, presentations and brochures. This will be the third of seven open houses scheduled across the Commonwealth."

For more information, visit the agency's [deer management open houses announcement](#).

Unified Sportsmen Lawsuit Seeks Increase in Deer on Public Lands

The [Unified Sportsmen of Pennsylvania](#) petitioned Commonwealth Court last week to put a halt to all antlerless deer hunting on State Game Lands and State Forest Lands. The

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request for injunctive relief demands the Game Commission scientifically document and substantiate the need to further reduce deer herds on public lands.

The group said for the past six years the Game Commission and the Department of Conservation and Natural Resources have conducted an accelerated deer reduction program resulting in the harvest of more than 3 million and believe the Game Commission has violated the law as well as abused its discretionary authority in the execution of its deer management program.

The Unified Sportsmen said hunting in Pennsylvania is a \$4 billion per year industry touching the lives of millions of Pennsylvania citizens. The Unified Sportsmen of Pennsylvania believe the present deer management policies threaten the future of deer hunting in the Commonwealth.

Links: [Deer Population, Development Caused Dramatic Increase in Lyme Disease DCNR Study Shows Deer Exacting Heavy Toll on State Forests Too Many Deer Damaging Forest Ecosystems, Agriculture](#)

Agriculture Now Accepting Healthy Farms, Healthy Schools Grant Applications

The Department of Agriculture announced it is now accepting applications for the [Healthy Farms and Healthy Schools Grant Program](#).

Applications are due October 5.

The program provides matching funds to educational institutions located in this Commonwealth that have a kindergarten program, whether they be public, private or charter schools.

The purpose of the Program is to educate kindergarten students and their families about the importance of choosing healthy, locally produced foods while increasing awareness of Pennsylvania agriculture. The application, work plan and budget should reflect a project completion date of June 30, 2008.

Applications and more information is available at the [Healthy Farms and Healthy Schools Grant Program webpage](#).

PA Chamber Sponsors Regional Waste, Storage Tank, Clean Air Conferences

The PA Chamber of Business and Industry is sponsoring a series of four regional environmental conferences on issues related to residual waste, storage tanks and clean air issues.

Find out the latest changes in state and federal regulations that might impact your business and the practical steps to help you comply in a cost-effective manner.

The conferences will be held: October 11-Lehigh Valley, October 17- Camp Hill, October 25- Pittsburgh and November 1- Valley Forge.

For more information visit the PA Chamber of Business and Industry [Conference and Events webpage](#).

Outdoor Lighting Workshop for Municipal Planners October 30

The [Pennsylvania Outdoor Lighting Council](#) and the Department of Environmental Protection will hold a workshop titled, "Outdoor Lighting: Planning Issues for Municipalities" at 7 p.m., October 30 in West Chester.

The program will help define good and bad outdoor lighting, showcasing equipment to help reduce glare and light pollution, and provide tools for communities to protect themselves against irresponsible lighting practices.

There will also be an important discussion on the elements of an effective lighting ordinance and the process of getting such an ordinance enacted and enforced in your community. Participants will be provided information on energy waste, light trespass and ways to save on utility bills.

Although the program will focus mainly on the needs of municipal officials, it is open to interested members of the general public as well.

The program will be held at the West Goshen Township Building, 1025 Paoli Pike, West Chester, Chester County.

To register, contact DEP's Jim McTish at 484-250-5180 or by e-mail at jmctish@state.pa.us .

Reminder: Energize PA Poster Contest Entries Due September 21

Teachers and students are invited to submit entries to the [“Energize PA” poster contest](#) that encourages students to learn more about alternative energy. The contest is sponsored by the PA Waste Industries Association.

Entries are due September 21.

Pennsylvania is recognized as a national leader in building a new future with green energy – by converting landfill gas into usable energy.

The contest is one way to teachers and students to join the movement and help spread the word about the benefits of renewable – also known as green – energy to the people in local communities.

This statewide contest is open to all students graded K through 12. Every student entering will receive an acknowledgment of participation. Entries will be divided into three categories – elementary, middle and high school.

In each category, one first place winner will be awarded \$500, one second place winner will receive \$200.00 and one honorable mention prize of \$100 will be given. All winning posters will be displayed in Harrisburg during the end of October, and selected entries will be displayed in the artists' communities.

For more information, visit the [“Energize PA” Poster Contest webpage](#) .

Spotlight

CARDONE Industries Wins Governor’s Environmental Award, So Can You!

Philadelphia-based manufacturer CARDONE Industries won a 2007 [Governor Award for Environmental Excellence](#) for its commitment to reducing emissions, saving energy and ensuring public safety by creating a better "on-the-road" home for its delivery specialists.

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In June 2006, CARDONE installed auxiliary power units on 23 of its long-haul tractors, conservatively estimating that it could reduce actual idle hours to less than 10 percent of total operating hours.

Through CARDONE's efforts, the company expects to achieve an annual net savings of 12,000 idling hours. Using the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's February 2003 "Emission Facts Study," this means the company has saved 9,600 gallons of fuel and – at \$2.93 per gallon – \$28,000. It has also cut annual nitrogen oxide emissions by 3,703 pounds and carbon dioxide by 216,931 pounds.

"Our commitment to reducing vehicle emissions through decreased engine idling is a perfect fit for our corporate culture," Michael Cardone Jr., chairman and CEO of CARDONE Industries said. "We embrace the 'cleantech' philosophy -- not only through the very nature of remanufacturing but in every aspect of our operations."

CARDONE is a privately held, 36-year-old remanufacturer of automotive parts headquartered in Philadelphia. The company was started in a two-car garage but has grown to become one of the largest manufacturers in the world.

Winners of the 2007 Governor's Award for Environmental Excellence receive a commemorative plaque and an outdoor flag to acknowledge their commitment to environmental quality.

Applications for the 2008 Award are due October 15.

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.

For more information, visit the [2008 Governor's Environmental Award webpage](#).

Visit the same webpage for past winners or the links below:

[2004 Winners](#) [2003 Winners](#) [2002 Winners](#) [2001 Winners](#) [2000 Winners](#)
[1999 Winners](#) [1998 Winners](#) [1997 Winners](#) [1996 Winners](#)

Opinion

Wind Power Development on Public Lands – It Isn't Worth It **By the** **Pennsylvania Biological Survey**

The [Pennsylvania Biological Survey](#) is a nonprofit organization whose purpose is to increase the knowledge of and foster the perpetuation of the natural biological diversity of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. Our membership includes scientists, representatives of state and federal agencies concerned with natural resource management, and representatives of non-profit conservation organizations.

PABS technical committees serve as official advisory committees to several natural resource agencies in the state, including the Pennsylvania Department of Conservation and Natural Resources, Game Commission, and Fish and Boat Commission.

After reviewing evidence on the environmental costs and benefits of wind energy, PABS is opposed to wind energy development on Pennsylvania natural resource agency lands.

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We are aware of the serious environmental costs of fossil fuel energy sources, including the threats of global climate change to Pennsylvania's natural biological diversity. We therefore support the responsible development of alternative energy sources, including properly sited wind energy development.

However, because wind energy development has associated environmental costs, wind energy development should only be instituted on state lands if the environmental benefits can be demonstrated to exceed the environmental costs.

Based on the available evidence, it is our conclusion that wind energy development is not suitable on state-owned lands where natural resource conservation is a major goal (i.e., primarily lands owned and managed by the Pennsylvania Department of Conservation and Natural Resources and the Pennsylvania Game Commission).

The reason for our opposition is outlined below but can be summarized as follows:

The environmental benefits of wind energy development, in the mid-Atlantic area in general and on Pennsylvania state lands in particular, are small relative to the negative consequences, which include habitat fragmentation and mortality to birds and bats.

The primary environmental benefit of wind energy production is that it offsets the use of fossil fuels, thereby reducing emissions of carbon dioxide, a potent greenhouse gas.

The Department of Energy projects that by 2020, wind power will meet 1.2 to 4.5 percent of the country's electricity generation, and will thus offset emissions of carbon dioxide from electricity generation by 1.2 to 4.5 percent. Since electricity generation accounts for 39 percent of carbon dioxide emissions in the United States, wind power will offset between 0.5 and 1.8 percent of total carbon dioxide emissions (National Research Council 2007).

The National Research Council (2007) concludes "Wind energy will contribute proportionately less to electricity generation in the mid-Atlantic region than in the United States as a whole, because a smaller portion of the region has high-quality wind resources than the portion of high-quality wind resources in the United States as a whole."

Thus, it is apparent that wind energy development in the mid-Atlantic will offset a very minor portion of future carbon dioxide emissions.

Because Commonwealth Natural Resource Agency Lands make up only a fraction of land in Pennsylvania, the contribution of wind energy development on these lands to future energy needs, as well as any offset of carbon dioxide emissions, will be negligible.

Energy conservation, on the other hand, could considerably reduce the demand for energy and thus reduce carbon dioxide emissions. For example, residential home energy consumption in 2020 could be feasibly reduced by over 1/3 using existing technologies (Bressand et al. 2007).

The environmental impacts of wind energy are considerable. Mortality to birds and bats has been of particular concern. Bat mortality from wind turbines has been particularly high, especially along forested ridge tops in the eastern United States.

Because bats generally have low reproductive rates, cumulative negative impacts of wind energy development on bat populations are likely (Kunz et al. 2007). Based on projections of installed wind capacity, it is estimated that by 2020 annual mortality in the mid-Atlantic highlands could be as high as 45,000 birds (National Research Council 2007) and 111,000 bats (Kunz et al. 2007).

With wind energy development expanding on private lands in Pennsylvania, the forested ridge tops of state-owned lands will become even more critical for birds, bats, and other species that utilize these habitats.

Another important, and often overlooked, impact of wind development is habitat fragmentation and its associated effects. These effects include reduced habitat area, habitat isolation and loss of species from an area, disruption of dispersal, increased edge effects and loss of core habitat, and facilitation of invasive species (Groom et al. 2006).

Due to their linearity, roads and transmission lines, both of which accompany wind energy development, have particularly pronounced fragmentation effects (Groom et al. 2006, Willyard et al. 2004).

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (2003) recommends that wind energy development “avoid fragmenting large, contiguous tracts of wildlife habitat” and advises that wind turbines be placed “on lands already altered or cultivated, and away from areas of intact and healthy native habitats.”

Because natural resource agency lands are among the last remaining large blocks of unfragmented land in Pennsylvania, these lands are particularly in need of protection. A publication produced by the Pennsylvania Department of Conservation and Natural Resources (Moyer 2003) emphasizes the importance of preserving these last remaining large blocks of unfragmented habitat in the state.

In conclusion, the environmental benefits wind energy development on natural resource agency lands in Pennsylvania are negligible compared with the environmental consequences. These lands should remain closed to wind energy development.

For more information on the position of the Pennsylvania Biological Survey, contact Dr. Tim Maret, Department of Biology, Shippensburg University, by calling 717-477-1170 or sending email to: tjmare@ship.edu .

Feature

Miller Run - A Stream On The Rebound

by Robert Whittaker

Watershed Specialist, Huntingdon Conservation District

If you would ask a resident of the Broad Top (an area on the border of Huntingdon and Bedford counties) where you could find a good trout stream in the area, they would probably say, “Not here!”

Little do they know, located within the heart of this old mine land, a native Brook Trout population is on the rebound.

Miller Run a tributary of Shoup’s Run, has undergone an “environmental makeover” over the last six years. With the cooperation of the Department of Environmental Protection, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Game Commission, and the Huntingdon County Conservation District, the Shoup’s Run Watershed Association is seeing positive results from years of planning and construction within the watershed.



Limestone Lined Swale to treat runoff

PA Environment Digest – Crisci Associates

Over the last six years Miller Run has seen quite a bit of change: two limestone sand dosing areas, an acid mine land project complete with a large storm water retention basin, and one limestone bed with one more to be completed this summer. All of these practices are meant to treat the acid mine drainage occurring in that watershed.

However, the watershed group was looking to do more. That was when we started looking at the road surfaces. Continuing for over one mile alongside Miller Run is a state game lands access road which historically was built from and maintained with mine spoil. With every rain event, a little bit of that mine spoil and its acidic runoff would make its way into the stream, depressing the pH levels and making it harder for the trout to survive.

Finding a way to treat that runoff became the focus.

With the cooperation of the Penn State Dirt and Gravel Roads Program we had a plan developed to not only address runoff, but also address erosional problems along this 7,000 feet of road surface. The plan consisted of two phases.

The first phase addressed unstable road ditches and acidic seeps along this stretch of road. The second phase consisted of placing 2,600 tons of high calcium carbonate limestone on the road surface that years ago had been previously constructed of mine spoil.

During the summer months, Miller Run has very little water so the year-round seeps, in spite of their acidity, are vital to the resident trout. Previous analyses have shown that the water from these acidic seeps fortunately is very low in metals. By simply providing high quality limestone and sufficient contact time in the roadside ditches, we've been able to treat the acidity before that water enters the stream.

Chemical analysis of the seep water before treatment shows zero alkalinity and very low pH. Water samples of the treated water taken at the end of the limestone ditches reveal that the system is indeed working, with recent data showing a remarkable alkalinity of 40 mg/L and a neutral pH of 7.0.

The ditches weren't the only target. We also focused on treating the acidity at the outlet of the culvert pipes. In some cases there was just not enough space to overexcavate the ditches to fill them with limestone. In those cases, we designed infiltration boxes to be placed at the outlet of the culverts.

The infiltration box is essentially an excavated area containing two sizes of limestone. The larger limestone size provides erosion protection, while the smaller size limestone provides alkalinity to neutralize the acid water coming from the seeps. These structures are designed to allow water coming out of the culvert during low flows, to be stored in the infiltration box. Once the holding capacity is met, the water spills out of the end of the box and to the creek.

Although during high flow the water may fill the box and escape treatment but the box will still provide erosion protection benefits at the outlet of the culvert. The boxes are indeed functioning, producing the much-needed alkalinity on Miller Run while providing erosion control as the water from the ditch outlets to the stream.

This project was jointly funded through EPA/DEP 319 program and through the Penn State Dirt and Gravel Road Program.

(Reprinted from [Abandoned Mine Posts](#), [Western PA Coalition for Abandoned Mine Reclamation](#).)

Quick Clips

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

[Chester County Joins Montgomery County Global Warming Task Force](#)
[PSU Solar Team Works on Home](#)
[Green Building Takes Root at George School](#)
[St. Vincent College Center's Debut a Hole-In-One](#)
[East Penn Gives Green Light for Planned Elementary School](#)
[PA Must Lessen Electricity Demands](#)
[Curbing Electricity Use Could Save Billions](#)
[Editorial: A Place for Wind Power, Not At Expense of Environment](#)
[PA May Give Smart Electrical Power a Try](#)
[Pittsburgh Mayor Proposes Auction for Electricity Supplier](#)
[DuBois Council Looks to Save Money Through Efficiency](#)
[Matthews Pushing Wind Power in Montgomery](#)
[DEP Highlights Another Dentist Who Saved Energy](#)
[Rendell, Woolsey Stress Necessity of Biofuels](#)
[Lancaster Ethanol Debate Reignites](#)
[Keeping Deer From Gardens is Tough Job](#)
[Trough Creek Park Trails Lead to Wonderful Sights](#)
[State Ponders Resumption of Drilling in Forests](#)
[Is the City of Bridges Becoming a City of Bicycles?](#)
[Cleanup Crusaders Undeterred](#)
[They Long Ago Caught Fishing Fever](#)
[Game Commission Open House Attracts 50](#)
[Saddleback Caterpillar Carries a Sting](#)
[Aviary Checks Out a Cute Chick](#)
[Dickinson's Organic Farm Project Bringing Sustainability to the Table](#)
[Cumberland County Farm Preservation Hits 13,000 Acres](#)

Watershed NewsClips

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

[North Hills Panel to Update Watershed Plan](#)
[Growing Greener Funds Approved for Cambria Authority](#)
[A Stream on the Rebound](#)
[Another Look at River's Problems](#)
[Boost in Corn Crop Here Could Harm Bay](#)
[The Key to the Susquehanna River](#)
[Area Waters Teeming With Bluegills](#)
[Grand Opening Set for Schuylkill River Center](#)
[Residents Encourage Waterways Study](#)
[Dredging Creek a Possibility to Help Curb Flooding](#)
[Letter- Nutrient Trading, A Cost Effective Nutrient Management Alternative](#)

[Taming Chartiers Creek Again](#)

Regulations

The Environmental Quality Board published a [proposed regulation](#) setting volatile organic compound limits on certain consumer products.

[Pennsylvania Bulletin – September 15, 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 of Environmental Protection, Pennsylvania Emergency Management Agency and the Public Utility Commission all published policy changes this week. Here's the rundown...

The Department of Environmental Protection published a proposed [Great Lakes Mercury in Products Phase-Down Strategy](#) for comment and proposed revisions to the [Air Quality State Implementation Plan](#) relating to interstate transport and other issues. DEP also published changes to the list of certified radon service firms (*PA Bulletin, page 123*).

The Public Utility Commission [published its final policy](#) statement and [final order](#) on providing electricity default service.

The Pennsylvania Emergency Management Agency this week [published a notice](#) inviting comment on a draft All-Hazard Mitigation Plan for the Commonwealth as required by the federal Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act.

[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](#)

- **September 18 – NEW. CANCELLED.** Environmental Quality Board. Next scheduled meeting is scheduled for October 15.

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- **September 18** – [DEP Citizens Advisory Council](#) meeting. Room 105 Rachel Carson Building. 11:00.
- **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** – 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** – 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 19** – **CANCELLED**. DEP [Cleanup Standards Scientific Advisory Board](#) meeting. Next scheduled meeting is December 4.
- **September 21** - DEP [Chesapeake Bay Advisory Committee](#) meeting. Room 105 Rachel Carson Building. 9:00.
- **September 24** –Gov. Rendell’s formal address to open the Special Session on Energy. 1:00.
- **September 24** –Environmental Issues Forum Presentation on Clean Up Our American Lands Program by the [Joint Legislative Air and Water Pollution Control and Conservation Committee](#). Room 205 Ryan Building. 12:00.
- **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.
- **September 26** – **NEW**. [Delaware River Basin Commission public hearing](#) on multi-jurisdictional use of Delaware River Basin. 25 State Police Drive, West Trenton, NJ. 10:15
- **September 26** – **NEW**. [DCNR Conservation and Natural Resources Advisory Council](#) meeting. Room 105 Rachel Carson Building, Harrisburg. 10:00.
- **September 27** –House Game and Fisheries Committee hearing on legislation creating a junior fishing license. Hub Cira Centre, 2929 Arch St., Philadelphia 7:00.
- **October 3** – **NEW. CANCELLED**. [DEP Oil and Gas Technical Advisory Board](#).
- **October 4** –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
- **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** –[DEP Laboratory Accreditation Advisory Committee](#) meeting. Room 206 Bureau of Laboratories building, 2575 Interstate Dr., Harrisburg. 10:00.

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- **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 .
- **October 25** –Sewage Task Force, [Joint Legislative Air and Water Pollution Control and Conservation Committee](#). Penn Stater Conference Hotel, State College. 10:00.
- **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

[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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