

—PA — Environment Digest

*An Update on
Environmental
Issues in
Pennsylvania*

Edited By David E. Hess, Crisci Associates

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[PA Environment Digest Video Blog](#)

PA Infrastructure Group Urges Yes Vote on State Water Bond On November 4

The Pennsylvania Infrastructure Group, a coalition of hundreds of companies, governmental agencies, civic organizations and others this week urged Pennsylvania voters to support a \$400 million water bond referendum that will appear on the November 4 General Election ballot.



The bond issue referendum was included in [Senate Bill 1341](#), sponsored by Sen. Ray Musto (D-Luzerne),

Minority Chair of the Senate Environmental Resources and Energy Committee, passed by the General Assembly in July and signed into law by Gov. Rendell.

Funding for wastewater plant upgrades to meet state and federal clean water mandates, in particular mandates to reduce nutrients and sediment going to the Chesapeake Bay, was a key element of the [PA Fair Share for Clean Water Plan](#) supported by a coalition of 40 environmental, farm, business and local government groups.

The Water and Sewer Systems Assistance Act bond will be used to pay for water and sewer system improvements in the Chesapeake Bay Watershed and across the state.

Using the theme "Vote Yes for Clean Water", the Pa-IG is urging voters and other infrastructure allies to support the passage of the referendum through a comprehensive public awareness campaign.

"It is absolutely critical that we approve this bond," said Kelly Lewis, President of TechQuest and a founder of the PA Infrastructure Group. "We currently face a nearly \$20 billion backlog in maintenance and upgrade work at our state's many water and sewage treatment facilities, and these systems are essential to Pennsylvania's future economic health and growth."

Lewis said the problem is even more widespread in Pennsylvania because there are nearly 2,200 water systems and 1,100 sewage treatment systems, many now over a century old. The age of the systems, decades of deferred maintenance and upgrades, and newer, more stringent operating regulations have combined to create a 'perfect storm' of need for Pennsylvania's water and sewer utilities.

"But we prefer to look at it as a 'perfect opportunity' for Pennsylvania," said Lewis. "Approving this bond will ensure the safety and affordability of the state's many water and sewer systems, and helps avoid higher rates being charged to our residents."

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Lewis said that the Infrastructure Group was pleased with this year's budget, which allocated \$800 million for water and sewer infrastructure capital improvements and placed the \$400 million Water Act Bond referendum on the November ballot. "But we still need many more billions to adequately deal with our backlog of water and sewer infrastructure projects," said Lewis.

Formed earlier this year to provide guidance and support to state legislators, the Pennsylvania Infrastructure Group is a statewide coalition of more than 300 groups and individuals involved in the infrastructure industry.

Many of the group's recommendations were included in the most recent state budget, and members are currently updating their Infrastructure Agenda for a Fall outreach campaign to legislators and the public.

PA Fair Share For Clean Water Plan

The Fair Share for Clean Water Coalition supports these additional steps needed to help ratepayers and farm families comply with clean water mandates—

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

The Senate Environmental Resources and Energy and Agriculture and Rural Affairs Committees will hold a hearing on nutrient credit trading on September 17. ([See separate article.](#))

The Fair Share for Clean Water Coalition is also working actively to promote voter approval of the \$400 million bond issue referendum passed as part of the wastewater infrastructure funding package.

For more information, visit the [PA Fair Share for Clean Water Plan webpage](#).

Link: [State Budget Leaves Farmers Behind, Nutrient Trading Vital](#)
[New Budget Supports Wastewater Plants, Farmers Left Behind](#)
[\\$1.2 Billion Water Infrastructure Bills Become Law](#)

Pittsburgh's Three Rivers To Host Another Major Fishing Tournament

This week officials from [FLW Outdoors](#), the City of Pittsburgh and Allegheny County announced Pittsburgh's Three Rivers will host the 2009 Forrest L. Wood Cup national fishing tournament from July 30 to August 2, along with the National Guard Junior World Championship.

The Forrest Wood Cup, widely considered bass fishing's crown jewel, will be held on the Allegheny, Monongahela and Ohio rivers, pitting the sport's biggest



names against one another for a \$1 million top award.

The National Guard Junior World Championship will be held on the Allegheny River in nearby Kittanning, Pa.

“We’re delighted to have the prestige and excitement of the Forrest Wood Cup coming to Pittsburgh,” said Ken Komoroski, an attorney with the Pittsburgh office of K&L Gates and member of the local organizing committee. “As a result of years of water quality improvement efforts, substantial populations of smallmouth, largemouth and spotted bass can now be found throughout the three rivers. Western Pennsylvania is now a world-class destination for recreation and tourism, and we’re looking forward to the opportunity to showcase the beauty of our rivers to the nation.”

Komoroski co-chairs the local organizing committee with Davitt Woodwell, vice president of the [Pennsylvania Environmental Council](#). The committee also includes Craig Davis, vice president of [VisitPittsburgh](#).

“We’re delighted that anglers and fans from across the country will be traveling to Pittsburgh – the City of Bridges – for this world-class event,” said VisitPittsburgh’s Davis. “These fans, as well as FLW Outdoors, can look forward to a community that will welcome them with enthusiasm. It is their hospitality and support that will make this one of the best events ever!”

In 2005 the Three Rivers were host to the [Bassmaster Classic](#) which drew an estimated 60,000 visitors to the region, had an economic impact of at least \$35 million and put Pittsburgh in the U.S. and world spotlight as a fishing and clean water destination.

Video Blog: [Dennis Tubbs, Fish & Boat Commission On Bassmaster Classic](#)

“This is clearly the biggest game in the country and, in fact, is the largest fishing tournament in the world,” Komorski said, “and we are honored to be selected as the host.”

The historic 2007 Forrest Wood Cup in Hot Springs, Ark., where Scott Suggs became the sport’s first \$1 million winner, drew a record crowd of more than 60,000 fans over the course of four days, and the 2008 Forrest Wood Cup in Columbia, S.C., last month drew even larger crowds.

“The Forrest Wood Cup is more than a championship tournament,” said FLW Outdoors President and CEO Charlie Evans. “It’s more than an outdoor show. The Forrest Wood Cup is a weeklong festival that engages the entire community. From young anglers showcasing their talents in the National Guard Junior World Championship, to promising rookies testing their mettle against the sport’s legends, to the richest payout in all of fantasy sports, the Forrest Wood Cup showcases everything that makes bass fishing the greatest sport in the world, and we are honored to be visiting Pittsburgh.”

The Forrest Wood Cup will feature a free Family Fun Zone and Outdoor Show at the David L. Lawrence Convention Center with daily giveaways for children 14 and under. A new Ranger boat will also be given away to a member of the audience during the final weigh-in. Daily weigh-ins and a free concert will be held in Mellon Arena.

Coverage of the Forrest Wood Cup is broadcast to 81 million FSN (Fox Sports Net) subscribers in the United States as part of the “FLW Outdoors” television program. “FLW Outdoors” is also broadcast in Canada on WFN (World Fishing Network) and to more than 429 million households in the United Kingdom, Europe, Russia, Australia, Africa, Asia and the Middle East through a distribution agreement with Matchroom Sport, making it the most widely distributed fishing program in the world.

FLW Outdoors, named after Forrest L. Wood, the legendary founder of Ranger Boats, is the largest fishing tournament organization in the world. In 2008 alone the

organization is offering more than 90,000 anglers the chance to win over \$40 million through 230 tournaments in 10 circuits. FLW Outdoors also took fishing mainstream with FLW Fantasy Fishing, offering the largest awards possible in the history of fantasy sports, \$7.3 million in cash and prizes.

For more information, visit [FLW Outdoors](#).

NewsClip: [Forest L. Wood Cup Will Be Held In Pittsburgh](#)

Online Video Feature

Green Buildings In the Lehigh Valley

The WLVT television [magazine program Tempo](#) recently profiled green building projects in the Lehigh Valley, including those by [PNC bank](#) and [PPL's headquarters building](#) in Allentown.

The program provides examples of green building features and techniques and the dramatic savings in energy, water use and improvements in the health of workers using green buildings.

Video Blog: [Green Buildings In The Lehigh Valley](#)

Link: [Governor's Green Government Council - Green Buildings](#)

Online Video

Susquehanna University Breaks Ground For Green Science Center



On August 26 Susquehanna University broke ground for a state-of-the-art [green science building](#) that will transform teaching and learning in ways that will have critical impact on academic quality.

The 75,000-square-foot, LEED-certified science building will be prominently situated on the site of the North Hall parking lot across University

Avenue from Seibert Hall.

As the leading priority of the Changing Lives, Building Futures campaign, it will be the largest academic building on campus after its planned completion in August 2010.

Susquehanna University received a [\\$4 million state grant](#) earlier in August to help finance the construction.

Online Video: [Susquehanna University Green Science Building](#).

Online EE Resource

Teachers, Students - Look For The Environmental Question of the Week!



The school year has begun again for many students – and with it, a new season of the PA Center for Environmental Education’s "[Question of the Week!](#)"

Aligned to Pennsylvania’s [Standards for Environment and Ecology](#), and targeting grades 4-10, each week's question provides additional activities and resources related to the topic. Students answering six or more questions during

the semester receive a prize!

Every Monday morning a new question dealing with Pennsylvania environmental issues will be posted along with links for further activities and research.

For more information, visit [Question of the Week webpage](#) on the [PA Center for Environmental Education website](#).

On the Hill

On the Senate/House Agenda/Session Schedule/Bills Introduced

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

Session Schedule

Here is the House and Senate fall voting schedule—

House

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

October 6, 7, and 8

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

Senate

September 16, 17, 18, 22, 23, 24

October 6, 7, 8

November 20-21 (tribute to retiring members, certain nominations)

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

Calendars/Committees

The Senate and House committee meeting schedules and floor Calendars as they left them for summer recess--

Calendars

House (September 15): [House Bill 934](#) (Scavello-R-Monroe) authorizing counties to impose up to a \$4/ton solid waste management fee to support local recycling, anti-litter programs; [House Bill 44](#) (Rubley-R-Chester) banning the sale, installation and unsafe

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disposal of mercury thermostats; [House Resolution 546](#) (George-D-Clearfield) urging Congress to investigate gas and energy prices;; [House Resolution 712](#) (Hutchinson-R-Venango) re-establishing the Forestry Task Force; [House Resolution 719](#) (George-D-Clearfield) endorsing request for federal funding for PA river basin commissions.

[Special Session House Bill 13](#) (Bennington-R-Mifflin) amends the Alternative Energy Portfolio Standards Act to provide for increased use of energy efficiency, extends the compliance period from 15 to 21 years and provides additional milestones for the use of alternative energy; [Special Session House Bill 17](#) (McIlvaine Smith-D-Montgomery) excluding purchase price of hybrid electric vehicles from sales and use tax; [Special Session House Resolution 6](#) (Thomas-D-Philadelphia) designating November 15 as “Pennsylvania GIS Day” and the week of November 11-17 as “National Geography Awareness Week.”

Senate: All bills on the Calendar were tabled before the summer break.

Committees

House: the House Urban Affairs Committee meets to consider [House Bill 2559](#) (Petroni-D-Allegheny) guaranteed energy savings contracts; the State Government Committee meets to consider [House Bill 2748](#) (Eachus-D-Luzerne) adopting the Regal Fritillary butterfly as the official state butterfly; the Environmental Resources and Energy Committee meets to consider [House Bill 1164](#) (Wansacz-D-Luzerne) setting sitting criteria for landfills near State Parks, [Special Session House Bill 54](#) (George-D-Clearfield) extending electric rate caps and implementation of a least-cost portfolio, [House Resolution 848](#) (Waters-D-Philadelphia) urging President and Congress to increase funding for Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program, [House Resolution 843](#) (George-D-Clearfield) authorizing the Environmental Resources and Energy Committee to investigate all aspects of the Governor’s Energy Initiative; the House Republican Policy Committee holds a hearing on natural gas drilling in Marcellus Shale in Towanda.

Senate: the [Agriculture and Rural Affairs](#) and [Environmental Resources and Energy](#) Committee hearing on nutrient credit trading-- [Senate Bill 1493](#) (Vance-R-Cumberland); the Community, Economic and Recreational Development Committee meets to consider [House Bill 420](#) (Hickernell-R-Lancaster) amending the Main Street Program, [House Bill 2233](#) (Freeman-D-Lehigh) extending the Elm Street Program.

Bills Introduced

This bill of interest was introduced this week—

Geothermal Credit: [House Bill 2754](#) (Benninghoff-R-Mifflin) establishing a tax credit for purchase of geothermal energy systems.

Rendell Predicts Economic Fallout If Electric Rate Caps Issue Not Dealt With

In comments before the House Environmental Resources and Energy Committee this week, Gov. Rendell said the General Assembly must find a way for families and

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businesses to deal with expiring electric rate caps in a way that does not cause economic harm.

Senate Majority Leader Dominic Pileggi (R-Delaware) repeated his hope the General Assembly would provide a smooth transition to competitive electric markets. He expressed his disappointment at the lack of action when the Senate and House adjourned for the summer in July.

The Governor said that when electricity rate caps expire, beginning in 2010, Pennsylvania's consumers and employers will face increases of as much as 60 percent and that could pressure budgets already straining from sharply higher gasoline and home heating fuel costs.

"I want Pennsylvanians to be aware that a crisis is coming," said Gov. Rendell. "Just as we have seen price spikes for gasoline and winter heating fuels, like natural gas and heating oil, a price spike of equal or greater magnitude is coming for electricity. There is not much any of us here can do about the price of gasoline, but the price utility companies charge for electricity is currently set by the state. These controls are about to expire, but we have the power to keep prices in check if we choose to. But only if we choose to."

Gov. Rendell cited estimates from the state's consumer advocate, Sonny Popowsky, that show customers of the five utility providers with rate caps still in effect-PPL, PECO, West Penn (Allegheny Power), MetEd, Penelec and West Penn Power-could pay at least \$4 billion more than today's rates for electricity by 2011. Of that total, the Governor said, \$1.5 billion will be borne by the Commonwealth's families.

"For the past 10 years, Pennsylvanians have benefited from reasonably priced Pennsylvania's families and businesses will be paying significantly more for electricity due to legislatively mandated rate caps," said Gov. Rendell. "These caps are about to expire, and now every Pennsylvania family and business will need to ask whether it can afford to keep the lights on."

If rate caps expire, prices could go up by- 30, 50, maybe even 60 percent or more in some cases. Altogether this could add up to more than \$4 billion per year out of Pennsylvanians' pockets. For a household spending \$1,200 per year for electricity, this price spike could add as much as \$400 or \$500 per year depending on where you live.

"I come before you today not just to sound the alarm, but to offer concrete solutions. But let me be clear - if solutions along the lines I will describe in a moment are not approved, the pressure to simply extend the current rate caps will be overwhelming. And none of us here today will be able to resist that pressure, nor should we. Consumers must be protected one way or another - that is our job, and we must do it."

[House Bill 2200](#) (George-D-Clearfield) was passed by the House on February 12 and will help consumers save on their energy bills by conserving electricity and using it more efficiently.

The Senate Consumer Protection and Professional Licensure Committee held a [hearing on the bill in May](#) and had several hearings on the issue in prior months.

Once fully implemented, House Bill 2200 will save consumers \$1.3 billion by 2012 on their energy bills through conservation and bringing down the cost of electricity during peak load times - when demand is highest and electricity is most expensive.

The bill would also help to cut peak demand during the 100 highest demand hours of the year when electricity is most expensive and which are typically the 100 hottest hours

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of the year. These 100 hours account for 1 percent of all hours in a year, but 20 percent of what customers pay a year for electricity is because of them.

According to the Department of Environmental Protection, if demand could be reduced by just 5 percent during the 100 most expensive hours of the year, consumers could save \$233 million in electricity costs.

"We should embrace conservation wherever possible," said the Governor.

"Conservation shrinks the energy bill of the person or business that conserves, but it also reduces total demand in the wholesale market, which keeps price spikes to a minimum. In tight markets, where supply barely covers demand, small reductions in demand can lead to steep drop-offs in price.

"Look at the oil markets. Today, a barrel of oil is trading for around \$110, down from a record high of \$147 per barrel in July."

[House Bill 2201](#) (McCall-D-Carbon), which is awaiting a vote in both chambers, will require utilities to provide service to customers at the lowest reasonable rate. The bill would require utility service providers to procure power through a mix of short- and long-term contracts and spot market purchases, and obligate the Public Utility Commission to ensure that the procurement process is free of fraud, collusion or market manipulation.

In response to a question by Minority Committee Chair Rep. Scott Hutchinson (R-Venango), Gov. Rendell said [Special Session House Bill 54](#) (George-D-Clearfield), that would extend the electric rate caps and require implementation of a least-cost portfolio, the bill is flawed because it is unconstitutional. (*The House Environmental Resources and Energy Committee is set to consider the bill September 16.*)

A copy of Gov. Rendell's testimony [is available online](#).

Others providing testimony to the Committee were [Andrew Ott](#), Senior Vice President, PJM Interconnection, [Mark Crisson](#), CEO of the American Public Power Association, Liz Robinson, Executive Director of the non-profit Energy Coordinating Agency and Curtis Jones, Jr., Philadelphia City Council member.

The Majority Chair of the Committee is Rep. Bud George (D-Clearfield) and the Minority Chair is Rep. Scott Hutchinson (R-Venango).

NewsClips: [Governor May Seek To Extend Electric Rate Caps](#)
[Rendell Pushing For Action On Electric Rate Caps](#)
[Rendell Urges Law To Phase In Electric Rate Hikes](#)
[Electric Costs Apt To Soar In 2011](#)
[Rendell: Stagger Lifting Rate Caps](#)
[State Natural Gas Heating Cost to Rise 18 Percent, PUC Says](#)
[PUC Tries To Heighten Competition In Natural Gas Market](#)
[Rendell Urged To Release Aid To Help Poor With Heating Bills](#)
[Op-Ed: Better Electric Transmission Infrastructure Needed](#)

Links: [PUC Holds Special Hearing On Winter Heating, Energy Prices](#)
[John Hanger: High Energy Prices, Electric Rate Spikes Need Action](#)
[PUC Initiates Action Plan To Increase Natural Gas Competition](#)

Nutrient Credit Trading Subject of Hearing By Senate Committees

The Senate Environmental Resources and Energy and Agriculture and Rural Affairs Committees will hold a joint hearing on September 17 on the issue of nutrient credit trading that will help reduce the cost of complying with clean water mandates.

The Committees are asking for comments on [Senate Bill 1493](#) (Vance-R-Cumberland) which would create a Nutrient Credit Trading Bank and provides enhancements to the state's Nutrient Credit Trading program. (A companion bill was also introduced in [House Bill 2717](#) (DePasquale-D-York).)

Scheduled to testify are: Cathy Curran Myers, DEP Deputy Secretary for Water Management, John Brosious, PA Municipal Authorities Association, Robert Fisher, Pa Builders Association, Joel Rotz, PA Farm Bureau, Matt Ehrhart, Chesapeake Bay Foundation, Alexandra Chiaruttini, Stock & Leader and Edwin Winzeler, Materials Matters, Inc.

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

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

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

The House Agriculture and Rural Affairs Committee [held a hearing](#) on the Fair Share for Clean Water Plan and nutrient credit trading on August 20 in State College.

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

Sen. Mike Brubaker (R-Lancaster) serves as Majority Chair of the Agriculture Committee and Sen. Mike O'Pake (D-Berks) serves as Minority Chair.

The agenda and later the testimony and a video of the hearing will be available on the [Senate Environmental Resources and Energy Committee webpage](#).

For more information on credit trading, visit DEP's [Nutrient Trading webpage](#),
NewsClip: [Lycoming County To Study Nutrient Trading Program Option](#)

Link: [Fair Share Coalition: New Budget Supports Wastewater Plants, Farmers Left Out DEP's Nutrient Trading Webpage](#)

House Committee To Consider Waste, Electric Rate Cap, Heating Help Bills

House Environmental Resources and Energy Committee will meet on September 16 to consider legislation extending electric rate caps, setting additional siting criteria for landfills and asking Congress for more low-income heating assistance.

The bills include:

- [House Bill 1164](#) (Wansacz-D-Luzerne) setting siting criteria for landfills near State Parks; [Special Session House Bill 54](#) (George-D-Clearfield) extending electric rate caps and implementation of a least-cost portfolio;
- [House Resolution 848](#) (Waters-D-Philadelphia) urging President and Congress to increase funding for Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program; and
- [House Resolution 843](#) (George-D-Clearfield) authorizing the Environmental Resources and Energy Committee to investigate all aspects of the Governor’s Energy Initiative.

The Majority Chair of the Committee is Rep. Bud George (D-Clearfield) and the Minority Chair is Rep. Scott Hutchinson (R-Venango).

Other News

Lycoming County Looks At Nutrient Credit Trading To Meeting Cleanup Mandates

Lycoming County commissioners this week approved a plan to determine whether nutrient credit trading between farmers who install conservation practices and wastewater treatment plants in the county can be used successfully to make complying with Chesapeake Bay clean water mandates less expensive.

The study will be put together by [LandStudies, Inc.](#), which will analyze areas in the county where nutrient credits can be generated, [Brinjac Engineering](#), which will review the upgrades planned for wastewater plants to see if they are necessary, and [Delta Development](#), which will seek federal and state funding to help implement the trading plan.

Williamsport alone is facing a cost of over \$70 million in upgrades to reduce nutrient loading to the Susquehanna River.

Lycoming County commissioners initiated this project to see if they can reduce the cost of comply with the mandates by looking over the entire county and upgrading those wastewater plants where it is most cost effective and look to use nutrient credits to further reduce that cost.

In the last three years, only four nutrient credit trades have been approved by the Department of Environmental Protection, leading the Chesapeake Bay Foundation, PA Municipal Authorities Association, PA Farm Bureau and the PA Conservation Districts Association to recommend improvements to the program to promote its use.

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

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

farmers to meet the mandates and create tradable nutrient credits was not adopted. Those elements include:

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

The House Agriculture and Rural Affairs Committee [held a hearing](#) on the Fair Share for Clean Water Plan and nutrient credit trading on August 20 in State College and the Senate Environmental Resources and Energy and Agriculture and Rural Affairs Committees will hold a hearing on the issue September 17.

For more information on credit trading, visit DEP’s [Nutrient Trading webpage](#), **NewsClip:** [Lycoming County To Study Nutrient Trading Program Option](#)

Cooperative Extension Needs Help To Prioritize Water Education Programs

[Penn State Cooperative Extension](#) Water Resource Educators are inviting Pennsylvania residents to take an online survey to help them prioritize water education programs.

Every five years Cooperative Extension educators reevaluate their programs to see if they are meeting the needs of Pennsylvania and how they should be changed to meet emerging issues.

They hope to collect 500 surveys before the September 23 deadline for submissions.

This survey data will be used to determine what delivery methods are preferred and what topic areas various stakeholders (homeowners, farmers, water resource professionals, gov. officials, etc.) think we should be concentrating our water resources educational efforts on in the next five years.

Penn State Cooperative Extension invites you to [fill out the survey online](#).

York County Alliance to Hold Annual Watershed Weekend September 27-28

The [Watershed Alliance of York](#) is pleased to announce the opening of registration for the 6th Annual Watershed Weekend to be held September 27 and 28.

The purpose of the Watershed Weekend is to increase public awareness about the importance of their watersheds. The idea is to encourage as many WAY partner organizations as possible to plan and sponsor one activity, locally.

Past venues have included: educational programs, hiking and paddling tours, stream cleanups, riparian buffer plantings or any activity that will draw people to you and allow them to participate in some manner while learning more about your organization and watershed.

Individuals and families would be encouraged through multi-media Public Service Announcements to tour one or more of their local watersheds and attend the specific activities being hosted by each group. Also, we will prepare and distribute before-hand a

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self-guided tour brochure listing all of the planned activities, a brief description and directions to your location.

The Watershed Alliance of York, Inc. is a coalition of stakeholders committed to being innovative leaders encouraging watershed-based planning, restoration and protection, through locally led conservation, education and stewardship initiatives, in York County, Pennsylvania, and beyond. WAY will serve a central coordinating role, handling advertising and promotion and provide technical assistance for the venue.

Our responsibility will be to get as many organizations and people involved in the tour as possible. Venue sponsoring organizations will be responsible for planning, staffing and implementing their sponsored activity.

Watershed Weekend participation is open to all conservation, environmental, sportsmen, and watershed groups, nonprofit organizations, and governing agencies in Maryland's Upper West Shore of Maryland and Pennsylvania's Lower Susquehanna River regions, of the Chesapeake Bay Watershed.

There is no cost to register or participate. If you would like to sponsor a venue, then please visit [our website](#) to download and complete a registration form and mail or e-mail it to WAY, 118 Pleasant Acres Road, York, PA 17402 or send email to: Gary R. Peacock at gpeacock@yorkccd.org.

For more information about how to sponsor a Watershed Weekend venue, you may call Gary R. Peacock at 717-840-7430 or e-mail.

Wiconisco Creek Watershed Tour in Dauphin County Set For October 4

The [Dauphin County Conservation District](#) and [Wiconisco Creek Restoration Association](#) will hold a fall watershed tour on October 4 starting at 9:00 a.m. from the [Ned Smith Center for Nature and Art](#) in Millersburg, Pa.

The tour will visit several restoration projects in Northern Dauphin County including: the Porter Mine Tunnel and Bear Creek mine reclamation projects, Rattling Creek acid rain remediation project, the Washington Township Authority wetland water treatment and several agricultural best management practices.

To pre-register or for more information, contact Michael Potthoff at 717-921-8100 or send email to: mpotthoff@dauphinc.org.

River Conservation Meeting in Kreutz Creek Watershed, York County

The public is invited to participate in the first formal meeting of the Kreutz Creek Rivers Conservation Plan Steering Committee to be held on October 8 from 7:00 to 9:00 pm, at the York County ANNEX, 118 Pleasant Acres Road, York.

The Kreutz Creek Rivers Conservation Plan includes all of the tributaries to the Lower Susquehanna River and the Deer Creek and Gunpowder Falls watersheds, of York County, Pennsylvania.

The Steering Committee will hold three public meetings in 2008 and 2009—

- October 8: Data Collection will address project area characterization and existing conditions; issues, concerns, constraints, and opportunities for conservation; and land, water, biological, and cultural resources;
- January 19: Plan Development; will address management options, appendices and maps, and development of Kreutz Creek Watershed Toolkit. Steering Committee;

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- July 15: Kreutz Creek, Susquehanna, and Mason-Dixon Watersheds Rivers Conservation Plan.

The Steering Committee will submit its petition to the Department of Conservation and Natural Resources on October 14, 2009, for addition of these watersheds to the State Rivers Registry.

Listing on the [State's Rivers Registry](#) increases the grant funding eligibility of local municipal governments, recreation board, nonprofit organizations, and watershed groups in these watersheds.

If you have any questions regarding the Kreutz Creek Rivers Conservation Plan, please contact Gary R. Peacock, Watershed Specialist, York County Conservation District, by telephone at 717-840-7430 or send email to gpeacock@yorkccd.org.

Training Workshop on Zebra & Quagga Mussels October 18 In Philadelphia

The Pennsylvania [Zebra and Quagga Mussel Monitoring Network](#) will hold a zebra mussel monitoring workshop on October 18 at the Fairmount Water Works Interpretive Center in Philadelphia.

Volunteers will be asked to visit a high risk location, such as a public boat launch or downstream from a known source of mussels, and report the presence or absence of mussels each month of the warm season (until about October). No prior experience is needed - just an interest in protecting our local waterways. All materials including a DVD training video and monitoring manual will be provided.



Why is monitoring important? Zebra and quagga mussels can cause great harm to the economy, aquatic ecosystems, and native clam and mussel populations. Zebra mussels have shown-up in the Finger Lakes Region of New York and more recently in the Cowanesque Lake in Tioga County, Pennsylvania.

Since their discovery in the lake last May, Pennsylvania Sea Grant has been working with the Army Corps to alert visitors to take precautions to reduce the risk of transporting the zebras to new locations.

Only a few of Pennsylvania's 12,000 lakes and 84,000 miles of streams are infested with invasive mussels. The Pennsylvania Zebra and Quagga Monitoring Network is sponsored by the Department of Environmental Protection and Pennsylvania Sea Grant, with the assistance of a host of partners, to help slow the spread of invasive mussels in the Commonwealth's rivers, streams and lakes.

Monitors are needed so that water users may be alerted to take proper prevention measures; whenever invasive mussels are found at a new location, an alarm is sounded so appropriate steps can be taken - for example - to warn visitors and recreational boaters leaving an infested location to properly clean equipment and gear.

Zebra mussels have been present in the Great Lakes since the mid-1980s when they were introduced by freighters that had filled their ballast tanks with infested water in Eastern Europe. Since then, zebra mussels have been transported to many other waterways in the United States and have caused environmental havoc and millions of dollars in property damage.

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Adult zebra mussels are small clam-like animals that can grow to about two-inches long. As the name suggests, most have a zebra-striped pattern on the shell. However, some have faint bands. Microscopic larval zebra mussels, called veligers, are free floating for the first month of life before they attach to hard surfaces.

Zebra mussels are capable of harming native mussels and disrupting food chains by devouring the algae (microscopic aquatic plants) that support native mussels and fish. They can also clog utility pipes and industrial water intakes. In North America, zebra mussels have few predators and multiply very rapidly. Because zebra and quagga mussels are mobile and are transported in many ways, they have great potential to proliferate.

There is a very good chance that zebra mussels hitch-hiked a lift into the Cowanesque Lake attached to a boat or trailer that visited an infested lake before launching. Adult zebra mussels can stick to the hull of a boat or any hard underwater surface.

A boat moving from one body of water to another may also carry larval veligers which can't be seen by the naked eye. Veligers can survive and be transported in standing water found in the live well, bilge, boat decking, trailer frame, or a marine toilet.

Invasive mussels can also settle on any hard surface and rapidly reduce the inside diameter of an intake pipe or fill in the spaces in an outboard motor, blocking the flow of air or water. This can ultimately cause the motor to overheat.

Boaters, anglers, water-skiers, scuba divers, and canoeists are urged to take the following precautions to help prevent the spread zebra mussels and other aquatic invasive species:

- While boating, avoid traveling through aquatic plants;
- Before leaving a body of water, remove all visible plants, fish, animals, and mud. Drain all water from the boat, trailer and all other fishing and boating equipment before leaving the water body;
- Before traveling to a new body of water, use a power washer to clean your boat and trailer. Alternatively, allow the boat, trailer, and other gear to thoroughly dry for a minimum of five days; and
- Always dispose of unused bait in a trash can. Do not release live bait into the wild.

To register for the workshop, send an e-mail with your name, address, phone number, and e-mail address to: Ann Faulds, Pennsylvania Sea Grant, afaulds@psu.edu or you can mail to Ann Faulds, 1350 Edgmont Avenue, Suite 2570, Chester, PA 19013 or call 215-806-0894. Lunch will be provided.

For questions or more information, visit the [Monitoring Network webpage](#) or contact Ann Faulds, 215-806-0894, or send email to: afaulds@psu.edu .

Reminder: PA Chapter American Water Works Assn. Waterfest IV September 18

Just a final reminder, the [PA Chapter of the American Water Works Association](#) will hold its annual workshop and demonstration program called [Waterfest IV](#) on September 18 at the City of Harrisburg, Bureau of Water.

This year the focus of the events are on public notification, infrastructure and distribution issues.

For registration and other information, contact Diane Cox at 717-774-8870 or send email to dianecox@paawwa.org .

Municipal Pollution Prevention, Good Housekeeping Practices Manual Available

The [Center for Watershed Protection](#) this week released the final installment of the Urban Subwatershed Restoration Manual Series, Manual 9: [Municipal Pollution Prevention/Good Housekeeping Practices](#).

Historically, most communities have had little reason to consider the stormwater pollution generated by their own municipal operations. Over the last decade, this reality has begun to change as the National Pollution Discharge Elimination System spurred communities across the country to begin developing comprehensive pollution prevention/good housekeeping programs.

While municipal pollution prevention/good housekeeping concepts are relatively simple, many communities have found that developing a program can be both confusing and intimidating.

Several guidance documents have been written about the source control practices that can be used to address individual pollution-generating activities (e.g., building maintenance, waste handling and disposal), but few have focused on the development of comprehensive pollution prevention/good housekeeping programs.

For this reason, the Center developed Manual 9. It provides "how to" guidance, and outlines the Center's most recent ideas on how municipal pollution prevention/good housekeeping practices can be used to address local water quality issues and watershed restoration goals. Key topics covered include:

- The basics of municipal pollution prevention/good housekeeping and the reasons for developing comprehensive programs for it in the first place;
- How to investigate and improve ten major municipal operations, including park and landscape maintenance, street repair/maintenance and hotspot facility management;
- How to identify which major municipal operations have the greatest impact on water quality and how to craft a pollution prevention/good housekeeping strategy addressing those greatest threats; and
- How to set measurable goals and scope the level of effort needed to develop an effective pollution prevention/good housekeeping program.

The manual is intended primarily for use by smaller NPDES Phase II communities and other unregulated communities interested in protecting and restoring local water resources.

However, other entities regulated under Phase II of the NPDES program (e.g., departments of transportation, military installations, school districts), as well as communities regulated under Phase I of the NPDES program, will also find it useful.

The manual is available [for free download](#).

RFP Released For Watershed Protection Technical Capacity Mini-Grant Program

With funding from a U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Targeted Watershed Initiative Grant, the [Center for Watershed Protection](#) is currently inviting proposals for its [Technical Capacity Mini-Grant Program](#), awarding direct assistance and financial support to a wide range of small watershed organizations.

Proposals are due September 30.

These small watershed organizations play a key role in local watershed management and, collectively, in regional water resource protection and restoration. The

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goal of the mini-grant program is to strengthen the technical capacity of these watershed organizations in the areas of stormwater and watershed management.

Since watershed organizations often have little to no full-time staff, the grant application process is intended to be simple and streamlined. However, funds are limited and grants will be awarded on a rolling basis, so associations are urged to act quickly.

Download the [Technical Capacity Mini-Grant Program RFP](#).

September Issue EE Connections From PA Center for Environmental Ed

The [PA Center for Environmental Education](#) now has available the [September issue](#) of the *EE Connections* newsletter covering a variety of topics of interest to the environmental education community. This issue includes:

General News: Job Opening at PCEE, Dudley Edmondson Event Showcases Photos, Speakers Panel, Thousands of Trees Planted Through Internet Campaign, Game Commission First State Agency to Host 'eBird' Website, Allegheny Power Customers Able to Buy Wind Energy Credits, Four PA Communities Benefit from Recycling Bin Grants,

K-12 News: PCEE's 'Question of the Week' Returns!, City Teens Encouraged to Explore the World of PA State Park, Free Download of Rachel Carson Homestead Lessons, Wildlands Conservancy's EE Activities Featured on Program, US EPA's 'A Day in the Life of a Drop' Now Available, Children's Book Features Inside Scoop on Soil

Higher Education: Energy Efficient Building Technologies Challenge, Lafayette College Students Place in USGBC Contest, Penn State Selected to Participate in EcoCar Competition, Congress Passes Higher Education Sustainability Act, Campus Climate Neutrality Toolkit now Available, The Real Food Challenge

Professional Development: Act 48 Available for Invasive Mussel Species Workshop 'Creating Sustainable Community Parks' Conference, Recycled Products Program Offered Sept. 19

Grants/Awards: Environmental Curricula Development Grants Available, 'Kids in Need' Teacher Grants, Announcing Two Earth Day Network Grants for Educators, Watershed Education Training Grants, Campus Ecology Fellowship Grants from NWF, Funding Available for Brook Trout Habitat Improvements

Contributions welcome! The Center receives news and information from a variety of sources across Pennsylvania and beyond. Center staff appreciates all of the organizations, agencies and individuals who provide EE services and share their relevant information.

If you would like to contribute to future issues of EE Connections, please submit your article before the 15th of the month. Articles should be of statewide interest and are subject to space availability. Send email to: info@pcee.org for more information.

Share EE Connections! If you know of others who would appreciate receiving EE Connections, please [complete the on-line form](#) or call 724-738-9020.

Help Celebrate Pollution Prevention Week 2008 – September 15-21

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency is pleased to join organizations throughout the nation in celebrating [National Pollution Prevention Week](#), September 15-21. Pollution Prevention or P2 means not creating pollution in the first place.

P2 focuses on reducing waste at its source, reusing what can't be reduced and recycling what otherwise would be thrown away! The keys to Pollution Prevention are the three R's – Reduce, Reuse and Recycle!

P2 week provides an opportunity to emphasize and highlight pollution prevention and sustainability activities in business, government and organizations.

"Pollution prevention has grown from a good idea many years ago to one of the principal ways our country protects the environment. As a result, our land, air and water are cleaner and safer," said Donald S. Welsh, EPA's mid-Atlantic regional administrator.

According to the National Pollution Prevention Roundtable, P2 Week is the time when businesses, environmental groups and citizens can join forces for a common cause.

By sharing information about pollution prevention, businesses can become more competitive, and lower operating costs. Individuals can also save money on monthly utility bills.

EPA estimated that each individual generates about 1.5 tons of solid waste per year, which equates to about 4.5 pounds per person, per day. Whether you are a student, a parent a small business owner or a corporate leader, EPA encourages everyone to make pollution prevention part of your daily life. Here are some ways that you can help:

For P2 tips and more information, visit EPA's [Pollution Prevention Week webpage](#).

Acting DEP Secretary John Hanger To Speak At PA Environmental Council Meeting

Join the [PA Environmental Council](#), Acting DEP Secretary John Hanger and other climate change and policy experts for a look at Pennsylvania's Climate Change Act during PEC's 39th [Annual Members meeting](#) and lunch on September 17 at the Hilton in Harrisburg.

The Pennsylvania Climate Change Act (Act 70) was enacted on July 9 and requires the development of a Climate Change Action Plan for Pennsylvania. The legislation was sponsored by Sen. Ted Erickson (R-Delaware/Chester) in the Senate and Rep. Greg Vitali (D-Delaware) in the House.

"This legislation will help Pennsylvania address both the significant challenges and the potential opportunities associated with climate change," said John Walliser, Vice President for Legal and Governmental Affairs for PEC. "Climate change will affect our economy, environment, and our quality of life; we commend Sen. Erickson, Rep. Vitali, and the other sponsors of the legislation for taking leadership on this immediate, critical issue."

Walliser will provide an introduction of Act 70 during the meeting. Other scheduled or invited presenters include Nancy Cole, Director of Climate Outreach, Union of Concerned Scientists to discuss climate change impacts to Pennsylvania; Robert Barkanic, Director, Environmental Management, PPL Corporation to discuss perspectives on Act 70 of 2008; John Quigley, Chief of Staff, Department of Conservation and Natural



Resources to speak about carbon sequestration opportunities and challenges in Pennsylvania.

For more information and to register, visit the [PEC website](#).

25 To Be Recognized At Green Power Awards Luncheon September 16

[PennFuture](#) will host the [Annual Green Power Awards Luncheon](#) in Philadelphia on September 16 to recognize the contributions of 25 businesses, nonprofit groups and individuals in promoting green power solutions.

This year's winners in several categories include:

Large Green Power Purchasers

- [Philadelphia Phillies](#), for purchasing 20 million kilowatt-hours of green energy to power 100 percent of the electricity needs of Citizens Bank Park, becoming the largest green power purchaser in major league baseball. - Platinum winner for 100 percent.
- [Dickinson College](#), for purchasing 50 percent of the electricity used on campus from wind power and for installing a 60 kilowatt solar array.
- [University of Pennsylvania](#), for purchasing 200,000 megawatt-hours per year of its electricity from wind energy.
- [Children's Museum of Pittsburgh](#), for purchasing 100 percent of its electricity from green energy sources, including wind and hydro- Platinum winner for 100 percent.
- [University of Pittsburgh Medical Center](#), for leadership in pursuing environmentally sustainable practices within the health care industry and for purchasing 10 percent of its electricity from green energy sources.

Small Green Power Purchasers

- [Dansko](#), for purchasing 100 percent of its electricity from wind power and for its Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) New Construction Gold Certified office and retail complex in West Grove, PA.- Platinum winner for 100 percent.
- [Montgomery County](#), for purchasing 100 percent of all county electrical accounts from wind energy, becoming the first 100 percent wind-powered county in the nation.- Platinum winner for 100 percent.
- [The Philadelphia Print Shop, Ltd.](#), for purchasing 100 percent of its electricity from wind power- Platinum winner for 100 percent.

Green Power Generators

- [AE Polysilicon](#), for choosing Pennsylvania for the location of its new polysilicon manufacturing facility and for its commitment to creating great green jobs in the state.
- [Brubaker Farms](#), for its manure digester project that supplies clean energy back to the grid and helps to reduce carbon emissions by approximately 47,300 pounds per day.
- [EverPower Renewables](#), for its continued leadership in the development of wind energy in Pennsylvania, including the completion of the [Highland Wind Project](#), the first project to utilize 2.5 megawatt Nordex turbines.

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- [Exelon Corporation](#) and [Epuron L.L.C.](#), for their continued leadership in the development of solar energy in Pennsylvania, including the construction of the Exelon-Epuron Solar Center at the [Navy Yard](#) in Philadelphia.
- [Sisters of St. Francis of Philadelphia](#), for the installation of a 9.89-kilowatt solar photovoltaic system to help produce vegetables for 115 families.

Leadership

- Sam Enfield, for his continued commitment to the sustainable development of wind in Pennsylvania, particularly his work on wind and bat interactions.
- Mike Freeman, for his work in the development of the Exelon-Epuron Solar Center in Bucks County and the Navy Yard.
- Lance Simmens, for his work to develop the wind energy model ordinance, solar working group, and for 67 [Climate Change](#) Al Gore presentations.
- [Bill Cagney](#), for his enthusiasm and leadership in providing training to fill the great green jobs of the future, and for sharing his expertise with other unions, government, the private sector and public interest organizations throughout the state.
- Sister Janice McGrane, for her continued efforts to promote green energy including her extensive volunteer work for the [Great Green Jobs Campaign](#).
- [Mike Mckinley](#), for his continued efforts to promote green energy through his support for the [Great Green Jobs Campaign](#) and the [Energy Independence Strategy legislation](#).

Pioneers

- Jon Costanza, for his continued efforts to grow the solar energy industry in Pennsylvania and participation in the [Great Green Jobs Campaign](#).
- [Rushforth Solar](#), for its continued commitment to the development of renewable energy in Pennsylvania, particularly solar thermal, and for participation in the [Great Green Jobs Campaign](#).

Green Jobs

- Sally Silver, for her work in the development of the [Smart Energy Initiative of Southeastern Pennsylvania](#), its training programs and network of over 300 companies.

Energy Efficiency & Demand Side Management

- PPL, for the development and expansion of the residential time-of use rate pilot program, [Energy Analyzer website](#), and installation of advanced meters for all customers.
- Millcreek Township School District, for the installation of a green roof at the [Asbury Woods Nature Center](#).

Special Award

- Lewis Kindja, principal of United Junior/Senior High School, and Aaron Steinly, assistant principal for United High School in Armagh, Pa, serve as executive directors of [www.PrincipalsForChange.org](#) and were recognized with the Citizens' Choice Green Power Hero Award for their leadership in Principals for Change and the 210 mile walking trip from Meyersdale, Pa to Washington, D.C. to raise awareness about the need for alternative energy.

For more information on the luncheon, visit the [Green Power Awards webpage](#).

PUC Special Hearing On Winter Heating, Energy Prices, Second Hearing Set

The Public Utility Commission reported this week that the cost of heating homes with natural gas this winter will increase about 18 percent and those who heat with electricity will see about an 8 percent increase.

The U.S. Energy Information Administration has estimated heating oil customers can expect an estimated [36 percent cost increase](#) this winter.

The PUC announced it will hold a second public hearing on November 13, to seek information on alternative energy resources, as well as energy conservation and efficiency, and demand side response tools and programs to assist consumers.

The hearing will be held at 12:30 p.m. in Hearing Room 1 of the Commonwealth Keystone Building in Harrisburg. The public is welcome to attend.

More details will follow soon on the Announcements page of the PUC Web site as it is available.

The five PUC Commissioners will conduct the en banc hearing to solicit comments from interested parties on specific issues and questions that will be released soon. As part of the informal en banc hearing process, the Commissioners will pose questions to speakers after their testimony.

The winter heating report released by the Commission, which is broken down by company, shows that the average natural gas customer using 15 Mcf of natural gas will see their monthly bill increase by \$38.12 (17.69 percent) from \$218.69 in winter 2007 to \$256.80 in winter 2008. The average electric customer using 2,000 kwh of electricity will see their monthly bill increase by \$17.65 (7.83 percent) from \$208.49 in winter 2007 to \$226.14 in winter 2008.

Some prices consumers actually pay will be higher and others lower – depending on usage, and changes in market prices relative to these estimated prices. Charts of the [electric](#) and [natural gas](#) bills are available on the Commission's website.

The hearing kicked off the Commission's annual "Prepare Now" campaign with a special en banc hearing focused on issues including increasing consumer awareness on rising energy prices; exploring ways to reduce energy usage; educating consumers about the availability of low-income programs; increasing awareness for safe home heating; and discussing potential policies and strategies for the campaign.

The PUC also released a comparison of monthly bills for Pennsylvania electric and natural gas customers from last winter and the estimated bills for this winter for each electric and natural gas company.

The five PUC Commissioners conducted the en banc hearing to solicit comments from the Department of Environmental Protection, the Energy Association of Pennsylvania, the PA Home Energy Program, the Keystone Help Loan Program, the PUC Consumer Advisory Council, the Energy Coordinating Agency, the Office of Consumer Advocate, the Office of Small Business Advocate, the Pennsylvania Utility Law Project, the Dollar Energy Fund, the Department of Public Welfare, and the Department of Community and Economic Development.

Comments provided in writing are [available on the PUC's website](#).

This marks the sixth winter in which the Commission is urging consumers to "Prepare Now." The message is simple: "Prepare Now" for higher energy costs this winter.

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Learn about changes in the law related to utility shut-offs and know your rights. Save money by learning how to conserve energy. Heat your home safely.

Explore budget billing options. Look into programs that help low-income customers restore and maintain service. Visit the [PUC's Prepare Now webpage](#) or call the PUC at 1-800-692-7380 for more information.

NewsClips: [State Natural Gas Heating Cost to Rise 18 Percent, PUC Says](#)
[PUC Tries To Heighten Competition In Natural Gas Market](#)
[Rendell Urged To Release Aid To Help Poor With Heating Bills](#)
[Governor May Seek To Extend Electric Rate Caps](#)
[Rendell Pushing For Action On Electric Rate Caps](#)
[Rendell Urges Law To Phase In Electric Rate Hikes](#)
[Electric Costs Apt To Soar In 2011](#)
[Rendell: Stagger Lifting Rate Caps](#)

Links: [Rendell Predicts Economic Fallout If Electric Rate Caps Issue Not Dealt With](#)
[John Hanger: High Energy Prices, Electric Rate Spikes Need Action](#)
[PUC Initiates Action Plan To Increase Natural Gas Competition](#)

Acting DEP Secretary Hanger: High Energy Prices, Electric Rate Spikes Need Action

Families facing substantially higher energy costs this winter are looking for help on how they can control their bills while staying warm, said Acting Department of Environmental Protection Secretary John Hanger this week as he outlined six measures to help consumers during a hearing of the state's Public Utility Commission.

Acting Secretary Hanger stressed the urgency of immediate action now because Pennsylvania's families and businesses will also soon face double-digit increases in their electricity bills, and that, he said, could be too much.

"We have all watched with increasing concern as energy prices across the board have risen rapidly during the past five years," said Acting Secretary Hanger. "This rising tide of costs threatens the well-being of our families and businesses. Add to this the electricity price shock coming with the end of rate caps over much of the state and the cost of energy will be a threat to the well-being of even more families and businesses."

Acting Secretary Hanger said there were six steps public officials, utility companies and consumers could take to reduce the impact of higher energy prices on budgets, the first of which should be conservation.

"In tight markets where supply is barely adequate to fulfill demand, small reductions in demand can lead to large reductions in price," said Acting Secretary Hanger. "For example, reduced demand is the principal reason why oil prices have now fallen from \$147 on July 11 to less than \$110 per barrel today."

Earlier in the week, Gov. Rendell told the House Environmental Resources and Energy Committee he is supporting two bills to help deal with the end of electric rate caps.

Under [House Bill 2200](#) (George-D-Clearfield), the PUC would implement programs that encourage conservation and efficiency by every major rate class. Those programs could lead to more than \$1 billion in annual savings by 2013.

[House Bill 2201](#) (McCall-D-Carbon) would require electric utilities to procure the power they deliver to consumers using a portfolio approach to ensure service at the lowest reasonable cost.

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"As Gov. Rendell said yesterday, on the issue of expiring rate caps, many have been frustrated by the level of inaction to date, so they're proposing an extension of those caps. The Governor would prefer not to go that route, but in the absence of action to protect consumers, a rate cap extension will become the most sensible option," said Acting Secretary Hanger.

"While the Commission has consistently refused to move toward a managed portfolio approach, we continue to believe that it is the best and most-flexible approach to minimizing the cost of retail electricity," said Acting Secretary Hanger, adding that while the PUC has rejected such an approach on the basis that it was too risky, it used in the natural gas industry. "The fact is that intelligently managed procurement can save money for consumers."

Acting Secretary Hanger also stressed the need to allow customers the ability to choose to phase-in pending electricity rate increases rather than facing the shock of higher utility bills all at once.

The state should also continue its efforts to deploy more renewable energy facilities, he added. These clean generation sources can be built quickly so they can generate electricity sooner.

Finally, Acting Secretary Hanger encouraged everyone to do more to help educate consumers and expand low income programs.

He praised the PUC for its ["Prepare Now"](#) effort to provide consumers with information on how they can deal with higher energy prices and noted that Governor Rendell will soon launch the fourth year of [Stay Warm PA](#).

The initiative will offer tips to consumers on how to reduce their energy consumption, weatherize their homes, and it will provide access to financial assistance programs for low-income families and individuals.

"It is clear that time is running out," said Acting Secretary Hanger. "The longer we delay significant action, the longer it will take to get ahead of the coming electricity price spikes. There is time to act this fall so that we can get to work in the next few months. Failing this, we face an economic tragedy."

NewsClips: [State Natural Gas Heating Cost to Rise 18 Percent, PUC Says](#)
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[PUC Holds Special Hearing On Winter Heating, Energy Prices](#)
[PUC Initiates Action Plan To Increase Natural Gas Competition](#)

PUC Initiates Action Plan To Increase Natural Gas Competition

The Public Utility Commission this week initiated an action plan to increase effective competition in the retail market for natural gas supply.

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The Commission voted unanimously to release a report documenting the work of the Stakeholders Exploring Avenues for Removing Competition Hurdles [working group](#) and begin the action plan saying that efforts to increase effective competition in the retail natural gas market should "be concentrated on changing the market structure and its operation to reduce or eliminate barriers to supplier entry and participation."

The action plan will be implemented in two phases and is to be completed within two years. The first phase will address items that the PUC can implement immediately to facilitate the development of a competitive market such as:

- Creating an Office of Competitive Market Oversight with the Commission;
- Expanding purchase of receivables programs; and
- Pursuing legislative changes regarding capacity assignment/release.

A copy of the [final order and action plan](#) is available online.

Phase two will include three rulemakings to address issues for natural gas distribution companies; natural gas suppliers and business practices. NGDC issues include price to compare; reconciliation and quarterly adjustments; purchase of receivable programs; mandatory capacity release and non-discrimination; and cost recovery of competition-related activities.

NGS issues include creditworthiness of suppliers and reasonable security requirements. Business practice issues include standardization of NGDC system operating rules; specific operation rules regarding nomination and delivery requirements, tolerance bands, cash out/penalties and standardization of electronic bulletin boards.

The 1999 Natural Gas Choice and Competition Law allows customers to purchase gas from independent suppliers, while still having their gas physically delivered by PUC-regulated distribution companies. The law directed the PUC to investigate the level of competition five years after the law went into effect and to report its findings to the General Assembly.

In October 2005, the Commission determined that "effective competition" did not exist in the retail natural gas supply market statewide based on the lack of participation of an adequate number of natural gas suppliers and customers in the retail natural gas market, and the identification of substantial barriers in the market structure and operation that prevented the participation of these groups in the market. The PUC then convened the stakeholders in the natural gas industry to examine avenues to increase competition.

The PUC will complete a formal milestone review in five years to evaluate the progress in development of more competition in the retail natural gas market.

The report and additional information is available on the [Commission's website](#).

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[PUC Holds Special Hearing On Winter Heating, Energy Prices](#)
[John Hanger: High Energy Prices, Electric Rate Spikes Need Action](#)

Natural Gas Bids On State Forest Land Bring In \$190 Million

The Department of Conservation and Natural Resources this week said five companies have responded [to its bid request](#) for Marcellus Shale natural gas drilling rights on State Forest Lands that [could provide \\$190 million](#) for State Park and Forest improvement projects.

A total of 18 tracts were put out for bid by DCNR totaling over 74,000 acres.

The winning bidders on the state forest tracts in Tioga and Lycoming counties included Texas-based ExxonMobil, which submitted high bids for leases on six tracts, and Texas-based Anadarko Exploration & Production Company LP, which won five leases.

The others were the New York-based Seneca Energy Production Company, which won four leases; New York-based Fortuna Energy Inc., which won two; and Texas-based Hunt Oil USA Inc., which won one.

The 10-year leases include annual per-acre rental fees starting in the second year — the sale price counts as the first year's payment — and a 16 percent state royalty on natural-gas production which by law are deposited in the DCNR Oil and Gas Lease Fund.

Winning bidders must comply with both the permit requirements of the Department of Environmental Protection and DCNR lease agreements. DCNR said it does not expect activity on the leases for two years.

For more information, visit DCNR's [2008 Oil and Gas Lease Offering webpage](#).

NewsClips: [Five Firms Win Gas, Oil Leases In PA State Forests](#)
[5 Companies Share High Bids For PA Gas Drilling](#)

PA Geologic Survey Releases Publication To Celebrate Oil's 150th Anniversary



The Bureau of Topographic and Geologic Survey and the Oil Region Alliance of Business, Industry and Tourism have announced the republication of a special issue of [Pennsylvania Geology](#) to celebrate [150th anniversary](#) of the discovery of oil in Pennsylvania.

The 32 page magazine—which was originally published in 1998—features articles such as "Why the Drake Well?" by John Harper; "The Origin of Oil," by Christopher Laughrey; and "As the Drill Bit Churns," by Kathy Flaherty.

It also contains an article by Samuel Pees discussing "Oil Creek's Riparian Wells," which describes the early efforts of drillers to recover oil from the banks and even "off shore" in Oil Creek.

Pennsylvania Geology is a quarterly publication of the Geologic Survey.

A free copy of this special issue of [Pennsylvania Geology](#) is available online. For more information on the anniversary, a special newsletter, posters and educational resources, visit the [Oil 150 website](#).

3 PA Grocery Stores Lead the Way in EPA's GreenChill Energy, Climate Program



The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency named PA-based Giant Eagle Inc. and Harris Teeter Inc. as the first winners of its [GreenChill Advanced Refrigeration Partnership](#) Environmental Achievement Award.

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The award recognizes the two food retailers for emitting the lowest rates of ozone-depleting refrigerant in GreenChill's first year.

Four Pennsylvania grocers are part of the EPA GreenChill Program, in addition to Giant Eagle, Inc., they include [Weis Markets](#), Sunbury, Acme Markets, Philadelphia and Arkema Inc., Philadelphia.

"EPA congratulates Giant Eagle and Harris Teeter for leading the field with exemplary emissions prevention and maintenance systems," said Robert J. Meyers, EPA's principal deputy assistant administrator for Air and Radiation. "GreenChill has grown from 10 to 30 partners in less than a year, showing that what's good for the environment is good for business."

GreenChill partners in the food retail business have refrigerant emissions rates nearly 50 percent lower than the EPA-estimated industry average. These partners are responsible for a reduction in greenhouse gas emissions from refrigerants totaling 2.5 million metric tons of carbon dioxide—equivalent to the annual emissions of 500,000 cars.

They also saved money to the tune of nearly \$13 million in 2007.

If supermarkets nationwide reduced emissions to the current GreenChill average, they could generate an additional cost savings of \$67 million while preventing the annual emission of 13 million metric tons of carbon dioxide equivalent and 157 ozone depleting potential tons. ODP tons are a measure of the potency of ozone-depleting substances.

For more information, visit the [EPA GreenChill Partnership webpage](#).

PA Renewable Energy & Sustainable Living Festival In Kempton September 19-21

The fourth annual [PA Renewable Energy & Sustainable Living Festival](#) has expanded to 3 full days this year, September 19, 20 and 21 on 66 acres in a beautiful rural setting the Kempton Community Center, Kempton, Pa.

The event, organized by MAREA, is the first of its kind in the Mid-Atlantic Region and attracts thousands of visitors from several states.

The festival promotes solar, wind and hydrogen power, biofuels, green building, organic farming and sustainable living.

There will be more than 60 lectures, practical workshops and hands-on demonstrations, given by industry leading experts on a variety of topics related to renewable energy and sustainable living.

Workshops and lectures include an introduction to wind power, vegetable oil for fuel, alternative farming techniques, solar site selection and solar panel installation, biofuel auto conversions, alternative heat sources, and many other topics.

There will be an entire section dedicated to transportation, showcasing some of the most efficient vehicles on the market today, as well as some innovative ideas from the past and present.

The festival will also feature live music and entertainment, children's activities, delicious natural food and much more. This year's featured musical guest will be Livingston Taylor.

On September 21, in addition to the regularly scheduled festival events, there will be a series of lectures and workshops dedicated to the education of middle and high school students and their teachers.

There will be an extensive list of educational programs for students to promote energy conservation and awareness and sustainable living. The activities will be correlated

to the PA Standards in Environment and Ecology and/or Science and Technology. Educators can become eligible for Act 48 credit.

Some of the organizations represented include Kutztown University, Rodale Publishing, Lehigh Valley Green Builders, East Penn Manufacturing, The Sierra Club, The Mid-Atlantic Renewable Energy Association, Alliance for Sustainable Communities Lehigh Valley, Organizations United for the Environment, Four Winds Renewable Energy, Nolde Forest Environmental Center, and Pennsylvania Association for Sustainable Agriculture.

For more information, visit the [PA Renewable Energy & Sustainable Living Festival website](#)

Hundredfold Farm Annual Fall, Sustainable Energy Open House October 11

The [Hundredfold Farm](#) near Gettysburg in Adams County will hold its annual Fall Open House on October 11 from noon through 5:00.

This free event will feature guided tours of the community's solar homes and greenhouse-based wastewater treatment plant, refreshments, and an opportunity to speak with current residents.

Hundredfold Farm is an eco-community of solar/passive solar homes that is being developed just west of Gettysburg, PA.

For more information, visit the [Hundredfold Farm website](#) or contact Leonard Mazza, event coordinator, at 717-334-7471.

EPA Opens New Energy Star@Work Website To Promote Energy Saving

This week the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency unveiled a new online tool, [Energy Star@Work](#), to provide Americans with tips and information on how to save energy and protect the environment in the workplace.

Energy use in commercial buildings and manufacturing plants accounts for nearly half of U.S. greenhouse gas emissions and nearly 50 percent of energy consumption nationwide.

With the average American worker spending almost 8 hours a day at their place of employment, the workplace offers a unique opportunity for people to make a significant impact in the fight against climate change.

"Millions of Americans are already doing their part to save energy by being more energy efficient at home," said Robert J. Meyers, EPA's principal deputy assistant administrator for Air and Radiation. "With help from EPA's Energy Star program, we can also take many of the same energy efficient steps in the workplace."

Energy Star@Work is an animated image of a typical office work space with tips and links to valuable information employees can use on a daily basis—from starting a Green Team in the office to simply changing a desk lamp bulb. Simple actions by employees can make a big difference in the overall energy performance of a building. Some of the tips included in the Energy Star@Work tool include:

- Replace the bulbs in desk lamps with Energy Star qualified compact fluorescent light bulbs. These light bulbs use about 75 percent less energy than incandescent bulbs and last up to 10 times longer. Energy Star qualified lamps and light fixtures also are available for even more energy savings.

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- Use a power strip as a central "turn off" point when you are done using office equipment to completely disconnect the power supply. Even when turned off, electronic and IT equipment often use a small amount of electricity when plugged in.
- Remember to turn off your lights when leaving conference rooms and your work space, especially at the end of the day.
- Use Energy Star qualified battery chargers or power adapters which, on average, use 30-35 percent less energy than conventional models. Don't forget to unplug battery chargers or power adapters when equipment is fully charged or disconnected from the charger.

Get involved! Create a Green Team with your co-workers, help reduce office waste, and set a goal to earn the Energy Star label for your building.

EPA also offers energy-saving tips for building managers, executives, and small businesses; information on taking the Energy Star Challenge; and a downloadable tip card to pass along to friends, family, and coworkers.

Energy Star was introduced by EPA in 1992 as a voluntary, market-based partnership to reduce greenhouse gas emissions through superior energy efficiency. Today, the Energy Star label is on more than 50 different kinds of products, on new homes, and on commercial and industrial buildings.

In 2007 alone, Americans, with the help of Energy Star, saved more than \$16 billion on their utility bills while reducing greenhouse gas emissions equivalent to those from 27 million vehicles.

[Take a tour of Energy Star @ Work online.](#)

It's YOUR Environment And Now EPA.gov Is YOUR Website

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency is opening the doors on a new, more interactive, and [task-oriented website](#) designed to meet users' needs.

EPA heard from its audience and they are interested in more than just reading about EPA programs on the web. Citizens want to participate in protecting the environment in which they live and work. People want an active voice in what happens at EPA. They want to find topics of interest to them quickly.

"EPA has heard the voice of the people loud and clear! We're going to do everything possible to make participating in environmental protection a reality," said Molly O'Neill, EPA's Chief Information Officer and assistant administrator for the Office of Environmental Information. "We're using Web 2.0 technologies to give citizens a Web site that is more interactive, uses multimedia tools, and is better organized by what they want to do or know."

The new design includes: links to immediate actions people can take to protect the environment at home or in their community: How can I make my home more energy-efficient? What and where can I recycle? How do I learn about environmental conditions in my community? What can my community do to help to prevent pollution?

Interactive media like blogs so people can: Post comments to our blog "Greenversations;" Comment on proposed regulations; Bookmark EPA pages with Digg It.

Web 2.0 Tools to inform people on EPA activities: RSS news feeds to provide information to subscribers, videos and podcasts, widgets to put EPA information on their website.

Take YOUR new website [out for a "test drive."](#) And use the [EPA blog](#) to let EPA know how it runs.

Outdoor Lighting Council Recognizes Leaders In Cherry Springs Dark Skies Effort

On September 6, the [Pennsylvania Outdoor Lighting Council](#) recognized the efforts of two leaders in the effort to preserve the dark skies of [Cherry Springs State Park](#) in Potter County during the annual [Black Forest Star Party](#).

Plaques were presented to Harry P. “Chip” Harrison, Park Operations Manager of the Hills Creek State Park Complex, and his wife, Maxine Harrison, Director of the Cherry Springs State Park Dark-Sky Fund Association

The honor recognized their steadfast adherence and active promotion of the principles of responsible outdoor lighting at Cherry Springs State Park, as contained in the [Pennsylvania Wilds Design Guide](#) and promoted by the Pennsylvania Outdoor Lighting Council.

Stargazers and astronomers from far and wide gathered at Cherry Springs State Park to view the cosmos under unusually dark skies, said to be among the least light-polluted skies in all of Pennsylvania.

The skies are dark not just because of the rural character of the area but also because of the effort of several dedicated people.

The Harrisons have established and enforced standards in the park for low levels of glare-free lighting that operates only when needed. They have worked with local legislators to get lighting ordinances passed and provided educational materials for use by residents and businesses in the vicinity.

Their efforts were recently recognized by the [International Dark-Sky Association](#) in designating the Park as a Gold Tier International Dark-Sky Park, the first to be so designated in the U.S.

But their efforts are not only about the stars. Speaking recently about the economic benefits of the astronomy venue, Mrs. Harrison observed, “Thousands of astronomers come to visit Cherry Springs and in the course of their visit, they spend money buying gas, groceries, lodging and dining dollars in the area, all because we are committed to keeping the dark night sky just that ... dark.”

The Pennsylvania Outdoor Lighting Council, Pennsylvania Section of the International Dark-Sky Association, is a not-for-profit volunteer organization. Its aim is not only to protect the night sky but also to promote the use of energy-efficient lighting and protect the citizens of Pennsylvania and its natural environment from the negative consequences of bad lighting.

The Council has worked with many communities across the state to enact protective ordinances and provide educational materials for citizens. [Their website](#) contains a considerable amount of useful information on good lighting practices, including model lighting ordinances.

The International Dark-Sky Association, based in Phoenix, AZ, has over 11,000 members worldwide. A rich source of information about good outdoor lighting practices and equipment can be found at their website.

For additional information, contact Stan Stubbe, POLC President, 610 326-1402, or send email to: polcouncil@cs.com .

Game Commission Invites Public to Wildlife, Hunting and Trapping Events

The Game Commission this week invited the public to participate in a variety of events in September promoting wildlife, hunting and trapping. The events include:

- September 19-20: 2008 [Elk Expo](#) in Elk County;
- September 20-21: [Pymatuning Ducks Unlimited Waterfowl Expo](#), Crawford County;
- September 20-21: [Middle Creek Wildfowl Show](#), Lebanon County;
- September 23: National Hunting and Fishing Day, Capitol Rotunda, Harrisburg; and
- September 28: National Hunting and Fishing Day, [Middle Creek](#), Lebanon County;

For details, see the [Game Commission events announcement](#).

DEP Now Accepting Recycling Infrastructure Development Grant Applications

The Department of Environmental Protection is now accepting applications for the 2008 [Recycling Markets Infrastructure Development Grant Program](#).

Applications are due November 3.

This program provides reimbursement for equipment costs associated with increasing the use of recycled content in products by for-profit business entities, whether established or start-up, or incorporated nonprofit organizations located and operating in this Commonwealth as a result of a grant award under this program.

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 nonprofit organizations with increasing their use of recyclable materials in the production of finished products.

One 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](#).

DEP said applications for the 2008 Program will be posted on its [Recycling Market Development webpage](#). Applications may also be obtained by contacting Charles Scheidler, Bureau of Waste Management, by sending email to: cscheidler@state.pa.us or calling 717-787-7382.

Give and Take Day in Ross Township, Monroe County, September 20

Ross Township (Monroe County) residents are invited to drop off unwanted items and take useable items all for free on September 20 from 11 a.m. – 4 p.m. at the Van Buskirk-Haney Park, Anchorage Rd, Saylorsburg, Pa.

A Give & Take Day is a great opportunity for people to donate unwanted items that are taking up room in the home and garage, and reduce disposing of usable items to a landfill.

The event, organized by [Close the Loop, LLC](#), is the first of its kind in Monroe County.

Items donated will then be displayed for others to re-use, rather than be thrown away. Alternately if you need something for the home or garden come along and find something for free!

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All Ross township residents are welcome and it is guaranteed to be a fun day out; there will be refreshments and a competition, activities for children, plus information on recycling, composting and much more!

Close the Loop is hoping that more townships will adopt this type of event as part of their annual cleanup days and give residents a chance to reduce, reuse and recycle before throwing items away.

Volunteers are needed for the event, if you are able to help out, please call 570.629.8414 or just show-up on the day of the event!

To learn more about the event visit the [Close the Loop website](#).

PA CleanWays Sponsors Trash Cleanup In Tuscarora State Forest October 4

[PA CleanWays](#) is sponsoring a volunteer trash cleanup on October 4 on the Hoverter Tract dumpsite along SR 233 in the [Tuscarora State Forest](#) in Franklin County.

Volunteers should meet at 9:00 a.m. at the [Colonel Denning State Park](#) office which is located on SR 233, eight miles north of Newville in Cumberland County. Volunteers will carpool to the cleanup site.

To see a calendar of cleanups happening all across the state this fall, visit the PA CleanWays [Calendar of Events](#).

For more information, contact Sue Urchek at 1-877-772-3672 ext. 23 or send email to: surchek@pacleanways.org.

PEMA Accepting Applications For Volunteer Fire Services Grants

The Pennsylvania Emergency Management Agency, [Office of the State Fire Commissioner](#) is now accepting applications for its Volunteer Fire Company and Volunteer Ambulance Services Grant Program.

Applications are due October 17.

Grants can be used for purchase or repair of firefighting or rescue equipment, construction or renovation of fire or ambulance facilities, the installation of equipment, fixtures and furnishings to improve their capabilities.

For more information, visit the [Volunteer Fire Company Grant webpage](#).

Help Wanted: PRC Education Assistant, West Branch Field Technician

The Pennsylvania Resources Council is seeking a part-time Environmental Education Assistant and Trout Unlimited West Branch Susquehanna Restoration Initiative is looking for a field technician. Details below:

The [Pennsylvania Resources Council](#) is seeking a part-time Environmental Education Assistant to conduct educational programs in Fairless Hills Pennsylvania (Bucks County) on environment and ecology subjects including alternative energy.

Responsibilities include presenting dynamic, well rounded educational programs to a broad range of audiences and working as an effective team member.

Qualifications: Working towards or maintains a B.S./B.A. degree in Education, Biology, Environmental Education, or related field. Possess excellent customer service skills and has experience working with children.

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Send resume by email to lynam@prc.org or mail to: PRC Attn: Siobhan Lynam, 3606 Providence Road, Newtown Square, PA 19073.

Trout Unlimited's [West Branch Susquehanna Restoration Initiative](#) is seeking a field technician to assist the project manager with field surveys, provide technical assistance to local TU chapters and assist with implementation of communications and outreach efforts.

This position requires a degree in biology or related field, experience with chemical and biological surveys, data management, and report writing. In addition, experience with ArcGIS software is preferred. Field work and overnight travel is required.

This is a full-time temporary position located out of TU's Lock Haven, Pa field office. Salary is commensurate with experience.

To apply send a cover letter and resume to WBSRI Project Manager, Rebecca Dunlap, by sending email to: rdunlap@tu.org by October 6.

Feature

A Fishing Fable – Watershed Stewardship

By Nick Pinizzotto

Senior Director, Freshwater Conservation
Western Pennsylvania Conservancy



There once was a 12-year old boy named Chet who lived on a dairy farm in Indiana County. He loved to fish, but growing up on his family's dairy farm meant chores at daybreak, school and then more chores waiting for him when he got home.

Each morning, the rooster ordered Chet out of his bed and into the overalls and rubber boots he laid out the night before. Leaning close to his dresser was a worn out fishing rod with an antique reel, half-filled with old line. Outside his door, he kept an old coffee can full of worms and a retired

miner's lunchbox that served as a tackle box.

A couple of years back Chet and his dad were able to grab a few minutes together at the beginning of the day and hiked to a neighbor's pond where they fished for a few moments as the sun came up.

Chet's family has a pretty sizeable stream flowing through their pasture, but there were never any fish in it because there weren't any trees around to cool the water and they had an ongoing problem with Holsteins regularly finding their way down the banks and into the stream.

Last summer, Chet's father worked with WPC, county conservation officials and the local conservancy to remove his cattle from the stream, repair the stream banks, and make other positive changes around the barnyard to buffer the stream from manure and other pollutants.

There was a lot of planning and several meetings at the farm, and eventually, the money was in place to do the work. With the price of fuel and equipment significantly

outpacing the return on a gallon of milk, it was important that several different Federal Farm Bill programs, as well as grants and private dollars, helped finance the job.

A couple of months ago, while he was retrieving an ornery calf, Chet noticed a pair of nesting mallards in the high grass that was growing just inside the fence that lined the stream banks. When he moved in to get a better look, he saw that distinct flash of light in the water that every fisherman recognizes immediately as fish darting for cover.

He had never seen fish in his stream before, and he wasn't sure if he really had now. He raced back to the house, explained what he thought he just saw and pleaded to get out of milking the next morning to try and fish his stream, using his solid report card as a bargaining chip.

The next morning, he and his father were catching fish out of their own stream. Even though they were just common creek chubs and suckers, it was a start and neither fisherman was complaining.

Chet looked forward to many moments like this and he told his dad he was going to do all he could to protect that stream. He said maybe someday he and his children would be sitting in the same spot catching brook trout right there on his family's farm.

The Western Pennsylvania Conservancy's Freshwater Conservation Program works closely with farmers across the (Western PA) region, to promote conservation practices designed to protect sensitive waterways. This work often includes devising a plan to pay for the project using a variety of state and federal programs, and private funds.

When staff members visit a farm to discuss potential pollution issues with a landowner, they also bring the solution. In most cases, that solution includes the funding to implement the plan.

Since 2001, more than 80 miles of streambank fencing has been installed, dozens of stabilized stream crossings and alternative watering sources have been developed, and thousands of acres of warm season grasses have been planted.

Working with county conservation district and U.S. Department of Agriculture officials, the (WPC) [Freshwater Conservation Program](#) offers a comprehensive suite of services to farmers that help improve and protect water quality.

Reprinted from the [Fall Issue of Conserve](#) by the [Western Pennsylvania Conservancy](#).

Link: [New State Budget Supports Wastewater Plants, Farmers Left Behind](#)

We Remember -- September 11, 2001

DEP Responds to National Tragedy

We will all remember where we were and what we were doing on September 11, 2001, but Betsy Mallison, Community Relations Coordinator from DEP's Southwest Regional Office in Pittsburgh, will remember it more vividly than most.

Betsy was heading to Harrisburg on the Turnpike when news of the attacks in New



York broke and word came that there might still be planes left in the air ready to hit other targets.

Calling reporter friends in Pittsburgh newsrooms, Betsy found out that a plane had crashed in Somerset County, just as she was coming up on the Somerset Exit.

Somehow she found the crash site and relayed details of the site and its condition via cell phone into the Emergency Operations Center at the Pennsylvania Emergency Management Agency and to DEP.

She stayed on site to help local responders, federal and state agencies and DEP's own Emergency Response Team set up and deal with the crash site and the hundreds of reporters that descended there.

The site became a small city literally overnight.

She continued on duty for the next few days and weeks as the families of the victims of Flight 93 came to visit the site.

Betsy and Freda Tarbell from DEP's Northwest Office also took time to help the Red Cross and Salvation Army make red, white, blue and yellow ribbons for emergency workers on site to show their patriotism and respect for what the passengers and crew did to overcome the terrorists.

Flight 93 crashed on a reclaimed surface coal mine, so DEP staff knew the geology of the area well and helped guide the FBI and federal agencies investigating the site. Investigators literally sifted the crash site down to a depth of 45 feet, but nothing much remained of the plane that was larger than a person's fist.

Even though most of the fuel was consumed in the initial crash and ball of flame, some remained and posed a potential threat to investigators working at the site. DEP staff, along with local fire company personnel, helped organize decontamination procedures to keep investigators safe.

It was tough duty working in and around the crash site knowing what happened to the people on that flight, but everyone did their job.

Two DEP staffers walking back through the site happened to pick up a piece of paper lying on the ground. It didn't seem too special because there were small pieces of paper all over the site. Then they realized it contained the last few words one of the passengers wrote to their loved ones.

In all, 74 agencies totaling 1,100 people responded to the crash scene in the weeks following September 11.

The days that followed September 11 were equally difficult. Chasing down reports of contaminated water supplies and anthrax contamination, security threats at Pennsylvania's nuclear reactors and dams and dozens of other incidents all had to be investigated and any concerns eliminated.



Top: Crash Site
Middle: Investigating Crash Site
Bottom: Emergency Response City

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Betsy is just one of thousands of public servants in Pennsylvania, the United States and around the world doing her job that day and the days that followed in the face of unspeakable evil.

Little did Betsy and other DEP staff know that just 10 months later they would be back in Somerset County to deal with another event that captured the world's attention—the [Quecreek Mine Rescue](#).

Visit the [DEP Responds to National Tragedy webpage](#) for more background on how DEP and Pennsylvania responded on September 11.

NewsClips: [7 Years On, Sept. 11 Is So Far And Yet So Close](#)
[Hundreds Gather In PA Field To Honor Flight 93](#)
[Public Service To Mark Courage Of Flight 93 Victims](#)
[Town Where Flight 93 Crashed Looks To Tourism](#)

Grants & Awards

This section gives you a heads up on upcoming deadlines for grants and financial assistance as well as nominations for awards and other recognition programs. **NEW** means from last week—

- **September 19**— [EPA Clean Air Excellence Awards](#)
- **September 20**— [Fish & Boat Commission Boating Facilities Grants](#)
- **September 21**— [EPA Clean Diesel Emerging Technology Grant](#)
- **September 24**— [Coca-Cola, NRC Recycling Bin Grants](#)
- **September 29**— [Friends of the Wissahickon Photo Contest](#)
- **September 30**— [DEP Recycling Performance Grants](#)
- **September 30**— **NEW.** [Watershed Protection Technical Capacity Grants](#)
- **October 1**— [Eastern Brook Trout Habitat Grants](#)
- **October 3**— [NOAA Chesapeake Bay Watershed Education Grants](#)
- **October 3**— [Lehigh Charles H. Nehf, Sr. Conservation Leadership Award](#)
- **October 15**— [PPL Project Earth Environmental Education Grants](#)
- **October 15**— [Tulpehocken and Quittapahilla Watersheds Grants](#)
- **October 17**— **NEW.** [PEMA Volunteer Fire Company Grants](#)
- **October 20**— [Westinghouse Brighter Future School Grant Program](#)
- **October 20**— [DEP Coastal Zone Grant Applications](#)
- **October 31**— [PA Resources Council Lens On Litter Photo Contest](#)
- **October 31**— [Chesapeake Bay Fund Nutrient, Sediment Reduction Grants](#)
- **November 3**— **NEW.** [DEP Recycling Infrastructure Grants](#)
- **November 30**— [PPL Green Building Certification Grants](#)
- **November 30**— [Sinnemahoning Watershed Grant Program](#)
- **December 15**— [Coldwater Partnership Watershed Restoration Grants](#)

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

Quick Clips

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

[Dept. Of Health Confirms Additional West Nile Cases](#)
[Going Green May Bring Job Boom In State](#)
[Coalition Proposes \\$100 Million Clean Energy Program](#)
[Going Green To Grow Jobs](#)
[Environmentalists, Unions Call For Green Jobs Plan](#)
[New Report Sites Economic Benefits Of Clean Energy Investment](#)
[Editorial: U.S. Can Jump Start Economy With Focus On Energy Options](#)
[Rendell Urged To Release Home Heating Money](#)
[Editorial: Oil Producer Record Profits, Record Taxes](#)
[Editorial: Fallout From Higher Electric Rates Will Spread Across State](#)
[Study Calls For New Energy Policies](#)
[Editorial: Green Driver](#)
[Editorial: PA Looking To Next Generation Of Alternative Fuel](#)
[Slippery Rock To Offer Solar Power Workshop](#)
[Mehoopany Signs BP Wind Pact](#)
[Titusville Implements Changes, Saving Energy, Tax Dollars](#)
[Op-Ed: The Greening Of Philadelphia](#)
[A GreenFest Philly, Style Meets Lifestyle](#)
[It's So Pleasing Being Green](#)
[Company Opens Residential Green Building](#)
[Letter: Electricity Rates Should Be Allowed To Rise, PennFuture](#)
[Electric Rates To Jump In Chambersburg](#)
[PPL Customers Could See Rate Rise](#)
[Electric Bills Going Up, PECO Feels Your Pain](#)
[Allegheny Energy Seeks Transmission Line Ruling Delay](#)
[Rising Cost Of Home Heating Oil Prompts Scramble For Alternatives](#)
[Anxiety About Staying Warm This Winter Spreads](#)
[State Leading Way In Biofuel Variety](#)
[Editorial: PA On Mark In Enviro Stewardship With Biofuels](#)
[Seeking Power From Sun and Wind](#)
[Is Geothermal System The Most Efficient Option?](#)
[Allegheny County Trying To Strike Gas Under Its Airports](#)
[Onorato Wants County Say, Share In Airport Gas Leases](#)
[PA High Court to Hear Natural Gas Drilling Case](#)
[Municipalities Strive to Keep Yard Debris Out Of Landfills](#)
[Elk County Authority To Start Business Materials Exchange](#)
[Greensburg To Crack Down On Jacks Run Litter](#)
[Regional Composting Center Talks To Continue](#)
[Young Workers Go Into The Mines For Money](#)
[Five Firms Win Gas, Oil Leases In PA State Forests](#)
[5 Companies Share High Bids For PA Gas Drilling](#)
[Holy Colony! Bats Still Welcome On Farm](#)

Watershed NewsClips

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

[Editorial: Vote Yes On Clean Water Referendum, Don't Forget Flooding Wording Set For Water Infrastructure Bond Issue Referendum](#)
[Joint Project Repopulating Area Mountain Streams](#)
[Editorial: PA Wisely Moves To Save Water](#)
[Editorial: Plan Treats Water Like Key Resource](#)
[Lycoming County To Study Nutrient Trading Program Option](#)
[Venango Study Begins On Stormwater Flooding](#)
[Chesapeake Bay Lawsuit Hearing In Court](#)
[Surface Hole Opens Into Abandoned Mine](#)
[Dam Removal At Yellow Breaches Creek](#)
[Editorial: Learn How Buffers Can Curb Flooding](#)
[Court Weighs Whether PA Towns Can Stop Gas Wells](#)
[Gas Drilling Yields Thousands A Week To Water Authority](#)
[Regulators To Set Parameters For Water Use By Gas Drillers](#)
[Delaware Basin Gas Drilling Hits A Snag](#)
[Two Susquehanna River Gauges Face Shut Down](#)
[Work Plan OK'd For Petroleum, Water Well Cleanup](#)
[75 Dams In State Make Greatest Risk List](#)

Regulations

The Delaware River Basin Commission published [notice of a final rule](#) classifying the Lower Delaware River As Special Protection Waters.

[Pennsylvania Bulletin – September 13, 2008](#)

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

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

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

Technical Guidance & Permits

The Department of Environmental Protection [published revised continuous source air emissions](#) policy for comment and changes to the list of those certified radon services ([Pa Bulletin page 5086](#)). The Fish and Boat Commission published its [Wind Power Projects Statement of Policy](#).

DEP ID: 274-0300-005. Applicability Determination and Implementation Procedures for Continuous Source Monitoring Manual Revision No. 8. This technical guidance document proposes the procedures and schedule to be utilized for the owners/operators of affected

facilities to comply with Revision No. 8 of the Continuous Source Monitoring Manual (Manual). Comments are due October 13.

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

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

Calendar of Events

Upcoming conferences, meetings, workshops, plus links to other online calendars. Meetings are in Harrisburg unless otherwise noted. **NEW** indicates new from last week.

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

- **September 15**—**NEW**. House Urban Affairs Committee meets to consider [House Bill 2559](#) (Petroni-D-Allegheny) guaranteed energy savings contracts. Room G-50 Irvis Building. Call of Chair.
- **September 15**—**NEW**. House State Government Committee meets to consider [House Bill 2748](#) (Eachus-D-Luzerne) adopting the Regal Fritillary butterfly as the official state butterfly. Room 60. 10:30.
- **September 16**—**NEW**. House Environmental Resources and Energy Committee meets to consider [House Bill 1164](#) (Wansacz-D-Luzerne) setting sitting criteria for landfills near State Parks, [Special Session House Bill 54](#) (George-D-Clearfield) extending electric rate caps and implementation of a least-cost portfolio, [House Resolution 848](#) (Waters-D-Philadelphia) urging President and Congress to increase funding for Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program, [House Resolution 843](#) (George-D-Clearfield) authorizing the Environmental Resources and Energy Committee to investigate all aspects of the Governor’s Energy Initiative. Room G-50 Irvis Building. 9:00.
- **September 17**— Joint Senate [Agriculture and Rural Affairs](#) and [Environmental Resources and Energy](#) Committee hearing on nutrient credit trading-- [Senate Bill 1493](#) (Vance-R-Cumberland). Hearing Room 1, North Office Building. 9:15.
- **September 17**—**NEW**. Senate Community, Economic and Recreational Development Committee meets to consider [House Bill 420](#) (Hickernell-R-Lancaster) amending the Main Street Program, [House Bill 2233](#) (Freeman-D-Lehigh) extending the Elm Street Program. Room 461. 12:00.
- **September 18**—**CANCELLED**. Joint Conservation Committee Sewage Management and Treatment Task Force. Penn Stater Conference Center, State College. 10:00.
- **September 19**—**NEW**. House Republican Policy Committee hearing on natural gas drilling in Marcellus Shale. The Riverstone Inn, Towanda. 11:00.
- **September 19**—**CANCELLED**. DEP Potomac Water Resources Regional Committee meeting. ([See Act 220 Participation webpage](#)).
- **September 22**— Environmental Issues Forum presentation by U.S.G.S on emerging contaminants in PA Streams sponsored by the [Joint Conservation Committee](#). Room 205 Ryan Building. 12:00.
- **September 23**—[Governor’s Sustainable Water Infrastructure Task Force](#) meeting. Room 105 Rachel Carson Building. 9:30.

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- **September 23**— Joint Legislative Budget and Finance Committee meeting on [Senate Resolution 195](#) (Brubaker-R-Lancaster) related to a review of the Agricultural Conservation Easement Purchase Program. Hearing Room 3, North Office Building. 10:00.
- **September 24**— Senate Game and Fisheries Committee hearing on powers and duties of deputy wildlife conservation officers with the Game Commission. Hearing Room 1, North Office Building. 9:30.
- **September 24**— [Senate Environmental Resources and Energy Committee](#) informational meeting on carbon sequestration. Room 8E-A, East Wing. 9:15.
- **September 24**—**NEW**. [Delaware River Basin Commission](#) meeting to [provide an update on implementation](#) of the 2004 Water Resources Plan for the Delaware. West Trenton Volunteer Fire Company, West Trenton, NJ. 10:30.
- **September 24**—**NEW**. DCNR [Conservation and Natural Resources Advisory Council](#) meeting. Room 105 Rachel Carson Building. 10:00.
- **September 29**—**NEW**. DEP [Laboratory Accreditation Advisory Committee](#) meeting ([rescheduled from September 11](#)). Room 206 Bureau of Laboratories Building, 2575 Interstate Dr., Harrisburg. 10:00.
- **October 2**— [DEP Solar Work Group](#) meeting. Room 105, Rachel Carson Building, Harrisburg. 10:00. Contact: Libby Dodson, 717-772-8907 or send email to: ldodson@state.pa.us.
- **October 2**— PROP Organics Committee meeting. Tillotson Room, Tippie Alumni Center, Allegheny College. Meadville. 9:30.
- **October 18**—[Joint Conservation Committee](#) Sewage Management and Treatment Task Force. Penn Stater Conference Center, State College. 10:00.
- **October 23**—[Joint Conservation Committee](#) Legislative Forestry Task Force. Penn Stater Conference Center, State College. 10:00.
- **November 13**—**NEW**. Public Utility Commission hearing seek information on alternative energy resources, as well as energy conservation and efficiency, and demand side response tools and programs to assist consumers. Hearing Room 1, Keystone Building. 12:30.

[DEP Calendar of Events](#)

[Environmental Education Workshop/Training Calendar](#)

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

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

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

Stories Invited

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

PA Environment Digest – Crisci Associates

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