

-PA ——— Environment Digest

*An Update on
Environmental
Issues in
Pennsylvania*

Edited By David E. Hess, Crisci Associates

October 1, 2007

[PA Environment Digest Video Blog](#)

Video Blog Feature - Exelon Supports Riparian Buffer Project for Multiple Benefits

A unique partnership of conservation groups and local corporations is combining forces to improve water quality in the Conestoga River and address climate change globally.

A forested riparian buffer was planted last Saturday along a tributary to the Little Conestoga River near the Lancaster General Health Campus north of Route 30 in Lancaster Pa.

[Exelon Corporation](#) in partnership with the [Pennsylvania Environmental Council](#), [Lancaster General Health System](#), [Little Conestoga Watershed Alliance](#), [Lancaster County Conservancy](#) and [Rettew Associates](#) developed and carried out the project.



Video Blog: [A Riparian Buffer With Multiple Environmental Benefits](#)

Brian Hill, President of the Pennsylvania Environmental Council, said, “This project exemplifies how the Council’s approach of conservation through cooperation can be implemented with on-the-ground projects. We were delighted that Exelon, Lancaster General and others joined with us for this collaborative effort to improve water quality, and at the same time demonstrate ways to generate nutrient credits and store carbon by planting trees and other native species. This is a classic win-win situation where water quality gets better and we begin to address climate change.”

“Saturday’s tree planting is exactly the kind of community partnership Exelon looks for as a way to demonstrate our commitment to the environment,” said Exelon Vice President, Environment, Health and Safety Helen Howes.

“This project will reduce sediment and nutrient runoff into the Little Conestoga River and the Susquehanna River watershed, it will improve habitat and is expected to reduce greenhouse gas emissions. Planting more than 600 native trees and shrubs are estimated to sequester 3 metric tons of CO₂ annually once the trees mature,” Howes added.

The project will demonstrate how a community-based partnership can implement a watershed restoration project that improves air and water quality, improves wildlife habitat and yields two sets of quantifiable environmental service credits, one for reducing nutrients and sediments entering the stream and another for sequestering carbon, the leading cause of global warming.

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The partnership planted a diverse mix of native trees and shrubs as a stream or riparian buffer 1,100 feet long and 120 feet wide adjacent to a field of soybeans on property owned by Lancaster General. The project builds on a riparian buffer planted by the Little Conestoga Watershed Alliance last spring immediately upstream of the project site located on the west side of Route 741.

These projects have multiple environmental benefits including improved water quality, air quality and aquatic and terrestrial habitat for fish and wildlife.

The buffer planted Saturday represents a groundbreaking way to fund watershed restoration projects to yield environmental credits. Specifically, the project will yield nutrient and sediment reduction credits in the nutrient-trading program for the Chesapeake Bay Watershed recognized by the state Department of Environmental Protection.

In addition, the buffer will sequester approximately one metric ton per acre of carbon per year for the first 25 years after its installation. The World Resources Institute and Environmental Resources Trust will assist the partnership with the estimation of the nutrient and carbon credits, respectively.

PEC will receive the annual nutrient, sediment and carbon credits for 25 years through a contractual agreement with the property owner, Lancaster General. In turn, PEC will transfer title to those credits for the same period to Exelon Corp., which is paying the project costs. The forested buffer will also be placed under a conservation easement with the Lancaster County Conservancy for the 25-year term.

Video Blog: [A Riparian Buffer With Multiple Environmental Benefits](#) features **Brian Hill**, President & CEO of the Pennsylvania Environmental Council, **Helen Howes**, Vice President for Environment, Health and Safety at Exelon, **Todd Trout**, a teacher from [Lancaster Country Day School](#) and a board member of the Little Conestoga Watershed Alliance, **Danielle Lukens**, a High School Senior at Lancaster Country Day School, [Senator Mike Brubaker](#) (R-Lancaster), who represents Lancaster and Chester counties, and **Dr. Julie Ambler**, from [Millersville University](#) and a member of the board of the Little Conestoga Watershed Alliance.

Link: [Pennsylvania Environmental Council Unveils Climate Roadmap for PA](#)

Video Blog: [PEC Unveils Climate Roadmap for PA](#)

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Session Schedule

The Senate and House will return to voting session on October 1, 2 and 3 and then will

break until October 15.

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On the Hill

- On the Senate/House Agenda/Bills Introduced
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- Delaware Estuary Celebration Attracts More Than 370
- Fish & Boat Commission Seeking Nominations for Conservation, Recreation Awards
- Caren Glotfelty to Keynote 3 Rivers Wet Weather Conference October 3-4
- Funds To Be Used to Protect the Shenango River from Agricultural Runoff
- New Book: Floodplain Restoration Improves Water Quality, Reduces Flood Damage
- Nominations Wanted for PA Land Trust Association Government Leadership Award
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- Annual Harvest Tour Features Visit to Ernst Conservation Seeds
- Workshops on How You Can Be Paid to Save Electricity in Periods of Peak Demand
- Request a DOE Targeted Energy Assessment to Save Energy Now
- Families Can Save Money and Conserve Energy With KeystoneHELP
- Volunteers Wanted for Homewood, Squirrel Hill, Point Breeze Fall Cleanup
- Applications Now Available for PA Conservation Corps Grants
- Springside 4th Grader Wins “Green Award” in the Great Green America Program
- Six Luncheon Programs on Using Recycled Glass in Septic Systems Set
- Fish & Boat Commission Announces \$1.1 Million in State Wildlife Grants
- Ozone-Causing Emissions Reduced by 60% Since 2000 over Eastern U.S.
- EcoArtFest October 14 at the Abington Art Center

Opinion

- No Child Left Inside By Don Baugh, Chesapeake Bay Foundation

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

Video Blog

Clean Up Our American Lands Program Subject of Environmental Issues Forum

Julie McMonagle, Director of the [Pennsylvania Environmental Council's](#) Northeast Office, and Steve Bartos, from the Department of Environmental Protection, made presentations on the [Clean Up Our American Lands Program](#) at the Environmental Issues Forum this week.

In this Video Blog entry, Julie describes the benefits of the program to communities, students and the environment of the COALS anti-dumping program.

The Environmental Issues Forum series is sponsored by the [Joint Legislative Air & Water Pollution Control and Conservation Committee](#).

The next Forum will be on October 15 and features a presentation by Brian Hill, President & CEO of the Pennsylvania Environmental Council on the [Climate Roadmap for Pennsylvania](#).

Video Blog: [Julie McMonagle, PEC, Talks About the COALS Program](#).

On the Hill

On the Senate/House Agenda

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

Committees

House: the Environmental Resources and Energy Committee meets to consider [House Bill 1380](#) (Bennington-D-Allegheny) amending the Clean Streams Law prohibiting the release of untreated agricultural waste that contains more than 10 parts per million of arsenic and Special Session [House Bill 2](#) (Gerger-D-Montgomery) PennFuels renewable fuels mandate as proposed by Gov. Rendell and holds a hearing on the Governor’s Special Session Energy Proposals; the Local Government Committee holds an information meeting on [House Bill 1525](#) (Steil-R-Bucks) providing for greenways, stormwater and other green infrastructure improvements and [House Bill 1787](#) (McIlvain-Smithe-D-Montgomery) amending the Municipalities Planning Code related to curative amendments; the Urban Affairs, Subcommittee on Third Class Cities holds a hearing on revitalizing the Commonwealth’s smaller cities.

Other: the Joint Legislative Air & Water Pollution Control and Conservation Committee holds a hearing on electronic waste recycling; the Joint Legislative Budget & Finance Committee meets to release a report on a review of Pennsylvania’s Homeland Security Program pursuant to [Senate Resolution 366](#) (D.White-R-Indiana).

Calendars

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

Bills Introduced

On-Bill Financing: [House Bill 1431](#) (George-D-Clearfield) establishing an on-bill financing program to help electric customers finance energy efficiency improvements.

Coal Miner’s Day: [House Resolution 410](#) (DeWeese-D-Greene) designating December 19 as “Coal Miner’s Day.”

Special Session Energy Bills

Legislation introduced in the Senate and House as part of the Special Session on Energy is introduced separately from the regular session and Senate and House bill number start over

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at #1. To avoid confusion, they are listed separately on the [General Assembly website](#) and will be here. This is just a sampling of the bills introduced so far.

PennFuels Initiative: [House Bill 2](#) (Gerger-D-Montgomery) PennFuels renewable fuels mandate as proposed by Gov. Rendell.

Green Buildings Tax Credit: [House Bill 5](#) (M.Smith-D-Chester) providing for a High-Performance Buildings Tax Credit.

Tax Exclusion: [House Bill 6](#) (Preston-D-Allegheny) excluding the purchase price of electric hybrid vehicles from sales and use tax.

Alternative Energy Tax Credit: [House Bill 9](#) (DePasquale-D-York) providing for an alternative energy tax credit.

Energy Star Tax Credit: [House Bill 10](#) (DePasquale-D-York) excluding EnergyStar compliant appliances and other products from sales and use tax.

Alternative Energy Portfolio Standards: [House Bill 13](#) (Bennington-D-Allegheny) strengthening the position of energy conservation in meeting the Alternative Energy Portfolio Standard.

Reallocating Growing Greener II Bond Proceeds: [House Bill 14](#) (Leach-D-Montgomery) reallocating the Growing Greener II bond proceeds to fund installation of residential solar energy systems.

Minimum Energy Efficiency: [House Bill 15](#) (King-D-Bucks) setting minimum energy efficiency standards for certain appliances.

State Energy Office: [House Bill 16](#) (King-D) establishing a State Energy Office.

Animal Waste Recycling: [House Bill 21](#) (Caltagirone-D-Berks) establishing the Animal Waste Recycling Fund to provide tax credits for qualified animal waste recycling facilities.

Senate/House Bills Moving

The House and Senate moved these bills this week—

Oil Profits Tax: [House Bill 1588](#) (Evans-D-Philadelphia) authorizing an oil company gross profits tax was recommitted to the House Rules Committee.

Electric System Benefit Charge: [House Bill 1201](#) (George-D-Clearfield) making changes to Title 66 (Utility Code) consistent with Gov. Rendell’s Energy Independence Proposal, including the proposed system benefit charge, was recommitted to the House Rules Committee.

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Hazardous Sites Funding: [House Bill 1206](#) (Surra-D-Elk) establishing a \$2.25 municipal waste disposal fee to fund the Hazardous Sites Cleanup Program was recommitted to the House Rules Committee.

Plug-In Hybrids: [House Bill 690](#) (Cohen-D-Philadelphia) establishing the Plug-In Hybrid Task Force was reported from the House Environmental Resources and Energy Committee.

Medical Sharps: [House Bill 1320](#) (Siptroth-D-Monroe) establishing a program for the disposal of home-generated medical sharps was reported from the House Appropriations Committee.

Appalachian Trail Act: [House Bill 1281](#) (Freeman-D-Lehigh) requiring municipalities to protect the Appalachian Trail was referred to the House Appropriations Committee.

Sewage Enforcement Officers: [House Bill 1374](#) (Saylor-R-York) amending the Sewage Facilities Act related to Sewage Enforcement Officers was reported from the House Environmental Resources and Energy Committee.

Illegal Signs: [House Bill 1519](#) (McGeehan-D-Philadelphia) providing penalties for illegal posting of signs and depositing penalties in a new TreeVitalize Program Fund was amended and reported from the House Environmental Resources and Energy Committee and then referred to House Appropriations Committee.

Study of Fragmented Local Government: [House Resolution 180](#) (Freeman-D-Lehigh) establishing a commission to study the Commonwealth's fragmented system of local government was amended and adopted by the House.

Darr Mine Disaster: [House Resolution 401](#) (Gergerly-D-Allegheny) commemorating the 100th anniversary of the Darr Mine Disaster in which more than 200 coal miners lost their lives in Rostraver, Pa was adopted by the House.

Federal BioFuels Mandates Will Eclipse Need for State Mandate Committee Told

The [Senate Environmental Resources and Energy Committee](#) was told this week the federal biofuels mandate will drive production of biofuels and that a state-only mandate as the Governor proposed would unnecessarily complicate delivery of fuel products to consumers.

In this second hearing on setting a biofuels policy for Pennsylvania, the Committee heard from representatives of the petroleum industry, biofuels producers, an environmental group, fuel distributors, an Agriculture Economics Professor from Penn State and retail food merchants.

[John Nikoloff](#), Pennsylvania Energy Resources Group, a company that works with biofuel producers, said they talked to nearly 50 biofuels companies and concluded the market for biofuels, biodiesel in particular, will grow with or without a state mandate. He noted that plants are now being built in the state with private investment.

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Instead, PERG recommended more traditional economic development incentives for the development of production and rail transportation facilities like targeted seed capital, loan guarantees and an increase in the per gallon biofuel subsidy now offered through the Alternative Fuel Incentive Program.

“Pennsylvania’s state economic development programs were designed to create jobs on site, and are not set up to consider jobs created by these firms, and frankly, they don’t currently provide the resources that are essential to financing biofuels operations,” said Nikoloff.

He noted a 100 million gallon per year biodiesel plant would employ less than 40 people and that Pennsylvania could support no more than four or five large biofuels plants.

[Michael Leone](#), Clean Air Council, told the Committee the Governor’s energy plan “is focused more on economic development and energy security than environmental progress. Unfortunately, it falls short on all counts.”

He said the E10 fuel (gasoline with 10 percent ethanol) mandated in the proposal “produces more emissions of key air pollutants, particularly precursors to ozone, than conventional gasoline... (and)... increased use of E10 may therefore make it more difficult for some areas of the Commonwealth to achieve and maintain air quality at the standards set by the EPA.”

The Council recommended mandating E85 fuel (85 percent ethanol), but recognized there would be significant infrastructure challenges to delivering this fuel. They opposed including coal-to-liquid fuels in any biofuel mandate.

[Rolf Hanson](#), Associated Petroleum Industries of PA, said his industry is now under a federal mandate to increase use of biofuels and a dramatic increase in that mandate is now being considered in conference committee by Congress and would be finalized soon.

The federal Renewable Fuels Standard program now requires that at least 7.5 billion gallons of renewable fuel be blended into motor vehicle fuel sold in the United States by 2012. It also requires the use of a minimum volume of renewable fuel each year between 2007 and 2012.

But refiners exceeded the goal for 2006 by over 25 percent using over 5.4 billion gallons of renewable fuels. The U.S. Energy Information Administration predicts that by the end of 2007, refiners will surpass the 2012 goal of 7.5 billion gallons.

Members of the Congressional conference committee are considering an increase from 7.5 billion to 30 billion gallons.

Hanson said the federal mandate is driving investment in biofuels facilities and that a state mandate is not needed and could potentially interfere with and complicate delivery of biofuels to consumers.

[Bob Leidich](#), BP Products of North America, Inc., pointed to the need to address a problem with Pennsylvania’s clean air regulations that could short-circuit efforts to bring biofuels to the 7-county Pittsburgh region.

State regulations require the sale of a special gasoline with a low 7.8 Reid vapor pressure in the Southwest to help reduce ground level ozone pollution. Blending 10 percent ethanol in with gasoline there will increase the RVP above that limit. He noted federal clean air regulations allow a waiver to be issued to allow ethanol in gasoline, but Pennsylvania’s rules do not include a waiver provision.

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Because adopting a 10 percent ethanol content requirement will increase emissions of ozone-causing chemicals, Leidich also cautioned that Pennsylvania may need to reduce emissions from other sources to make up for increases in this area.

[James Dunn](#), Professor of Agricultural Economics at Penn State, told the Committee making ethanol from corn in Pennsylvania “is a bad idea,” primarily because the corn needed for these plants would have to be shipped in from out-of-state. He also noted that in 2006 ethanol was not a profitable business anywhere without the 51 cent per gallon federal subsidy that is due to expire in 2010.

[John Kulik](#), PA Petroleum Marketers and Convenience Store Association, noted his members pioneered the delivery of biodiesel and bio-heating oil to their customers over the last several years and invested in advanced blending equipment and production facilities.

Kulik, however, raised several caution flags for Senators in their efforts to put together a biofuels policy for Pennsylvania.

He noted ethanol has to be handled separately in terminals, storage facilities and by railroad and trucking firms because of its corrosive nature, requiring a significant investment in new distribution facilities.

“Much attention has been given to development of production facilities, but if the network for delivering the product is not adequate to meet demand, the potential for serious disruption in the markets is obvious,” said Kulik.

He said his members were also wary of “high profile government requirements that changed with the political winds, leaving millions of dollars of investments in the dust,” like recent regulations mandating reformulated gasolines in certain areas.

As an example of creating fuel marketing areas by regulation or law, he pointed to Pittsburgh and noted Pennsylvania already is required to have three different kinds of gasoline during the summer months.

[Tim Reardon](#), Giant Food Stores, LLC, said rising corn prices driven by the demand for ethanol have increased beef, pork and poultry prices by from 4.8 to 27.2 percent from May 2006 to May 2007, which tracks corn price increases during the same period.

“While the ethanol boom can be expected to bring higher incomes to farmers and reduce government outlays for farm programs, it will also most likely mean higher food prices for consumers,” said Reardon. “Retail price increases for red meats, poultry and eggs are projected to exceed the general inflation rate in 2008-2010 as the livestock sector adjusts to higher feed costs.”

At the end of the hearing, Sen. Dinniman (D-Chester), prime sponsor of the Governor’s PennFuels Initiative in the Senate, said they were dividing consideration of the biofuels issues looking separately at ethanol and biodiesel since they both have different issues and opportunities for Pennsylvania.

Gov. Rendell's biofuels proposal is included in [House Bill 1202](#) (Gerber-D-Montgomery), [Senate Bill 789](#) (Dinniman-D-Chester), both of which are in the Senate Environmental Resources and Energy Committee, and Special Session [House Bill 2](#) (Gerger-D-Montgomery) that is in the House Environmental Resources and Energy Committee which is scheduled to consider it next week..

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

Copies of testimony and an online video of the hearing are available through the [Senate Environmental Resources and Energy Committee webpage](#).

NewsClips: [Ethanol Demand Raises Corn Prices for Farmers](#)
[Biodiesel Fuel Incentives Essential](#)
[\\$15 Million Biodiesel Facility Opens in Beaver County](#)
[State Subsidy Would Help Biofuel Compete, Makers Say](#)
[Biofuel Options Increase for Home Heating](#)

Link: [September 19 Senate Committee Hearing on Biofuels Policy](#)

\$40-45 Million Needed for Hazardous Sites Cleanup, Senate Requests Audit

At a hearing this week, Sen. Mary Jo White, chair of the [Senate Environmental Resources and Energy Committee](#), requested Auditor General Jack Wagner do an audit of the Hazardous Sites Cleanup Fund to determine how monies in the Fund have been spent.

At the same hearing, Department of Environmental Protection Secretary Kathleen McGinty told the Committee that \$40-45 million is needed annually to properly fund the state's Hazardous Sites Cleanup Program.

Sen. Mary Jo White (R-Venango) invited Secretary McGinty before the Committee after Senate members expressed concern over apparently conflicting statements on when the Hazardous Sites Cleanup Program would be shut down and because the Secretary refused to answer a letter from the Senator asking for information about the program.

The Hazardous Sites Cleanup Program is responsible for supporting approximately 285 DEP employees, pays the state's share of federal Superfund site cleanups, serves as the Commonwealth's primary tool to respond to toxic spills and releases affecting local residents and helps remediate brownfield sites for reuse.

Secretary McGinty said \$40-45 million is needed to fund the program with about \$6.3 million used to pay the Commonwealth's share federal Superfund site cleanups and maintenance and for emergency response, \$9.3 to \$36 million used for site response and remediation depending on how many active sites are open and about \$12 million went for personnel costs.

Sen. White and Secretary McGinty discussed the reasons behind several announcements at different times since December 2006 the program would shutdown and DEP would furlough employees due to lack of funding.

As a result of the discussion at the hearing, Sen. White wrote to Auditor General Jack Wagner to ask for an audit of the Fund requesting that he focus on these areas:

- Amount of funding necessary to meet federal obligations, such as Superfund;
- Use by the Department of funds held in reserve to meet basic obligations of the fund;
- Carryover of funds from one fiscal year to the next;
- Examining personnel and other programs costs which are "charged" by one DEP program to the HSCA fund;
- Collection and deposit of fees authorized under the HSCA Act; and
- Ensuring uses of fund are generally consistent with those authorized under section 902 of the HSCA Act.

Secretary McGinty supported the audit request.

Senate Majority Leader Dominic Pileggi (R-Delaware) and Sen. White recently [announced their intent](#) to introduce Senate Bill 1100 (*not online yet*), which will provide funding for the Hazardous Sites Cleanup Program.

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Under the proposal, \$15 million would be transferred to the program for the current fiscal year from existing legislative accounts. Additionally, \$40 million annually would be made available for the next three fiscal years from the existing Capital Stock and Franchise Tax, the source of funding for the Hazardous Sites Program for the 12 years prior to 2002.

Senate Bill 1100 would not affect the commitment of Senate Republicans to phase out the Capital Stock and Franchise Tax by the end of 2010.

In February Gov. Rendell proposed a \$2.25 per ton increase in municipal waste disposal fees to fund HSCA that did not gain legislative support in the House or Senate. In fact, [House Bill 1206](#) (Surra-D-Elk) establishing the \$2.25 municipal waste disposal fee was recommitted to the House Rules Committee this week after being on the House Calendar for months.

The Committee is chaired by Sen. Mary Jo White (R-Venango) and Sen. Ray Musto (D-Luzerne).

An online video of the hearing is available on the [Senate Environmental Resources and Energy Committee webpage](#).

NewsClip: [Hazardous Site Program Barely Going Official Says Legislators Work on Funding for Hazardous Waste Cleanup](#)

House Sets Meeting Farm Discharges, PennFuels Initiative, Hearing on Energy

The House Environmental Resources and Energy Committee has scheduled a meeting to consider legislation prohibiting discharges of agricultural waste containing arsenic and legislation adopting the Governor's PennFuels initiative as well as a hearing on all aspects of the Governor's Energy Independence Initiative.

The bills include:

- [House Bill 1380](#) (Bennington-D-Allegheny) amending the Clean Streams Law prohibiting the release of untreated agricultural waste that contains more than 10 parts per million of arsenic; and
- Special Session [House Bill 2](#) (Gerger-D-Montgomery) PennFuels renewable fuels mandate as proposed by Gov. Rendell (this is the same legislation the House already passed in June as [House Bill 1202](#) (Gerber-D-Montgomery)).

On October 3 the Committee will hold a hearing on the Governor's Energy Independence Initiative.

The chairmen of the House Environmental Resources and Energy Committee is Rep. Bud George (D-Clearfield) and the Republican Chair is Rep. Scott Hutchinson (R-Venango).

Other News

Rendell Links PA War Deaths to Need for Energy Independence

[In his formal address](#) to the General Assembly opening the Special Session on Energy this week Gov. Rendell linked the 189 Pennsylvanians who have died in Iraq and Afghanistan to the need to make our nation energy independent.

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“We owe it to the people of Pennsylvania to work together to build an energy policy that works for our citizens and puts more of our citizens to work ... a policy that allows us to reduce our dependence on foreign oil and makes our nation safe ... and most of all, an energy policy that helps us create a better world for our children by ensuring a supply of energy for generations to come that is clean, reliable and home grown,” said Gov. Rendell.

“With our 189 fallen citizens in mind, we begin our work together in this Special Session to address what Pennsylvania can do to help make our nation safer, and not only safer, but more prosperous,” said Gov. Rendell.

The Governor again laid out the elements of the [Energy Independence Strategy](#) he unveiled in February and asked legislators to focus on two specific issues this session: the PennSecurity Fuels Initiative to boost homegrown, renewable fuels; and the \$850 million Energy Independence Fund to invest in new technologies, businesses and products that either reduce energy use or produce clean, renewable energy.

“As you consider the specific elements of my Energy Independence Strategy, I hope you will keep in mind these key realities: the opportunity we have to gain economically by becoming an energy leader; the cost we will bear if we don’t diversify our energy supplies; and the escalating price our nation and our fellow citizens are paying for an energy policy that leaves us in the grip of forces beyond our control,” Gov. Rendell said.

“My goal is to ensure that to the greatest degree possible, energy consumed in Pennsylvania is produced in Pennsylvania, by Pennsylvanians,” the Governor said.

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

Senators Mary Jo White (R-Venango) and Robert Tomlinson (R-Bucks announced their intent to introduce the “[Alternative Energy Investment Act](#).”

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

House Republicans announced their [tax-free Energy PA Plan](#) plan last week that includes a series of tax credits aimed at encouraging private investment in Pennsylvania’s energy and conservation sectors. The plan also includes investments to develop the next generation of energy technology. Instead of a new tax, Energy for PA relies on existing state revenues.

The Senate just completed two days of testimony on the Governor’s PennFuels initiative (*See separate story this Digest*) and the House Environmental Resources and Energy Committee is set to consider Special Session [House Bill 2](#) (Gerger-D-Montgomery) that includes the PennFuels initiative next week. The House already adopted the initiative in the form of [House Bill 1202](#) (Gerber-D-Montgomery) earlier in the year.

Gov. Rendell’s Energy Independence Initiative is included in: [Senate Bill 716](#) (Musto-D-Luzerne) making changes to Title 66 to include the system benefit charge to fund the proposed \$850 million bond issue and making other changes to help deal with

electric rate caps ending, [Senate Bill 661](#) (Wozniak-D-Cambria) giving additional responsibilities to the PA Energy Development Authority and [Senate Bill 789](#) (Dinniman-D-Chester) establishing the PennFuels Program to require renewable content in transportation fuels.

And in the House, [House Bill 1200](#) (DePasquale-D-York) making changes to the responsibilities of the PA Energy Development Authority and [House Bill 1202](#) (Gerger-D-Montgomery) establishing the PennFuels Program to require renewable content in transportation fuels were given final approval and sent to the Senate, but [House Bill 1201](#) (George-D-Clearfield) making changes to Title 66 to include the system benefit charge to fund the proposed \$850 million bond issue and making other changes to help deal with electric rate caps ending has not see a full vote by the House and was referred back to the Rules Committee this week.

Although not related to the Governor’s primary Energy Independence Initiative, but connected by rehetoric at times, [House Bill 1588](#) (Evans-D-Philadelphia), authorizing an oil company gross profits tax supported by Gov. Rendell, was recommitted to the House Rules Committee after spending weeks on the House Calendar.

One part of the Governor’s package, [House Bill 1203](#) (Hornaman-D-Erie) amending the Alternative Energy Portfolio Standards Act to provide for some longer term electricity contracts and increasing the share of photovoltaic renewable energy required, was signed into law as Act 35 in July. Sen. Musto (D-Luzerne) sponsored this legislation in the Senate as [Senate Bill 715](#).

NewsClips: [Rendell Submits Energy Program to Legislature](#)
[Rendell Pitches Energy Plan](#)
[Rendell Calls Energy Independence Key to Jobs, Security](#)
[Rendell Links Energy Plan with Defense](#)
[Energy Savings Plan May Spare Cash](#)
[Editorial: Well-Spent Energy, Rendell Talks Up Progressive Plan](#)
[Editorial: Compromise Will Be Necessary on Energy](#)
[Editorial: Fast Eddie’s Farce](#)
[Op-Ed: Build on Strengths for an Energy Policy, Barr](#)
[John Baer: Guv’s Big Speech Suffers an Energy Crisis](#)
[Ethanol Demand Raises Corn Prices for Farmers](#)
[Biodiesel Fuel Incentives Essential](#)
[\\$15 Million Biodiesel Facility Opens in Beaver County](#)
[State Subsidy Would Help Biofuel Compete, Makers Say](#)
[Biofuel Options Increase for Home Heating](#)

Delaware Estuary Celebration Attracts More Than 370

This week the [Partnership for the Delaware Estuary](#), a tri-state National Estuary Program, held its annual “Experience the Estuary Celebration” at Turbine Hall in Chester, Pa attracting more than 370 supporters from local businesses, government agencies, and nonprofit organizations.

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The theme of this year's event was "The Delaware...A Living River, A Working River," a fitting title given that Turbine Hall is housed within The Wharf at Rivertown, an early 20th Century power plant that has since been redeveloped from a riverside brownfield into a modern-day office complex.

Highlights of the evening included dinner by Max Hansen Caterer and silent and live auctions featuring merchandise contributed by dozens of businesses from throughout the tri-state region. Guests, meanwhile, were able to socialize between bids as they familiarized themselves with some of the environmental initiatives underway in the Delaware Estuary, or the tidal portion of the Delaware River and its watershed.

"The support and excitement generated by this event is a testament to the wide variety of people and institutions with a shared interest in a healthy and thriving watershed," said Jennifer Adkins, interim executive director of the Partnership for the Delaware Estuary. "It's only with their support that we can continue to work toward important benchmarks for clean water, flourishing wildlife, and strong communities."

Since its inception in 1997, the Experience the Estuary Celebration has played an important role in raising both awareness and funding for the Partnership for the Delaware Estuary. Over the years, this support has helped the Wilmington-based nonprofit maintain its research, habitat restoration, and education and outreach programs throughout the tidal Delaware River Basin in Del., N.J. and Pa.

This year's sponsors included: Exelon Corp., BP America, Inc., DuPont, Rohm and Haas, AKRF, the Delaware Department of Natural Resources and Environmental Control, PSEG's Estuary Enhancement Program, and Wawa, Inc., among many others.

For more information, visit the [Partnership for the Delaware Estuary webpage](#).

Fish & Boat Commission Seeking Nominations for Conservation, Recreation Awards

The Fish and Boat Commission is seeking nominations for two awards it presents in recognition of those making outstanding contributions to furthering conservation or facilitating recreational access to the state's waterways.

Nominations are due October 31.

The [Ralph W. Abele Conservation Heritage Award](#) is the highest recognition the PFBC confers. The PFBC established the Abele Award to recognize citizens of Pennsylvania who have made outstanding contributions to the protection, conservation and enhancement of the aquatic resources of the Commonwealth.

The award serves as a memorial to Ralph Abele, longtime Commission Executive Director, for his steadfast and courageous work in protecting and conserving our natural resources.

The Abele Award is presented to a Pennsylvanian who has dedicated his or her time and energy to the conservation of the state's natural resources, specifically the aquatic resources, through one or more of the following accomplishments:

- Personally invested heavily in the long-term education of Pennsylvania's youth on conservation issues vital to an improved aquatic environment;
- Put at risk their person and livelihood to undertake public activities and positions on behalf of improving and protecting the aquatic resources of Pennsylvania;
- Led a regional or statewide environmental effort that has been recognized for its duration and success in protecting and enhancing the aquatic resources of Pennsylvania;

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- Played a leading role in reclaiming and enhancing a major significant natural water resource within the Commonwealth;
- Led an effort to pass major environmental legislation for the protection, conservation and enhancement of the natural environment of Pennsylvania; and
- Brought national recognition to Pennsylvania through personal activities, actions and contributions to the aquatic resources.

The [Paul J. Mahon Access for All Award Program](#) was created earlier this year to recognize the outstanding efforts of former Commissioner Paul Mahon to ensure accessibility to the state's waterways for all individuals interested in fishing and boating, regardless of physical ability. The award is intended to recognize Pennsylvania citizens or organizations who have made outstanding contributions, above and beyond legal requirements, to improving fishing and boat access to the resource for the disabled.

Nominees should meet one or more of the following requirements:

- Been personally involved in the provision of angling or boating activities that directly support the recreational needs of the disabled;
- Led a regional or statewide effort to improve access to angling and boating resources by the disabled;
- Played a lead role in the development and construction of a major facility for disabled anglers and/or boaters;
- Significantly improved or enhanced the quality of the angling and boating experience in ways that make a substantial difference for persons with a disability; and
- Worked passionately and selflessly, over an extended period of time, to improve recreational use of Pennsylvania waters on behalf of the disabled angler and boater.

The nominations for either award should describe, in a maximum of three typewritten pages, the following: biographical information, how the nominee meets the categories for recognition, specific accomplishments of the nominee, affiliations of the nominee, additional information to warrant award of this honor.

Submission of letters supporting the nomination or other endorsements of a nominee is not part of the nomination process for either award.

Employees and active Commissioners of the Fish and Boat Commission are not eligible for this award, but they are encouraged to submit nominations.

Nominations should be submitted to Executive Office, Fish and Boat Commission, PO Box 67000, Harrisburg, PA 17106-7000.

Caren Glotfelty to Keynote 3 Rivers Wet Weather Conference October 3-4

Caren Glotfelty, Director for the [Environment Program at The Heinz Endowments](#), will share her thoughts on wastewater infrastructure issues as the keynote speaker for the [3 Rivers Wet Weather Ninth Annual Sewer Conference](#), October 3-4 at the Four Points by Sheraton Pittsburgh North in Cranberry Township.

Ms. Glotfelty previously served as the [Maurice K. Goddard Chair](#) in Forestry and Environmental Resource Conservation at Penn State University and as Deputy Secretary for Water Management in the Department of Environmental Protection.

Ms. Glotfelty will address more than 300 municipal officials, engineers, managers, public works directors and wastewater industry professionals from the perspective of a

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local foundation investing in environmental quality, economic prosperity and sustainable development for the region.

She will ask tough questions such as “How should the region set priorities to achieve the best outcomes with the investment of the fewest resources?” and “What are the opportunities to achieve multiple objectives through comprehensive watershed management and regionally based solutions?”

Untreated sewage and polluted stormwater flowing into the Pittsburgh region’s waterways during rainstorms is no longer an “out of sight, out of mind” problem. With the ALCOSAN consent decree released earlier this year and the 2004 municipal consent orders mandating that municipalities assess and repair their sewage infrastructure, the wet weather overflow issue is at the top of municipal agendas.

The two-day conference also will feature experts who will cover topics, such as expectations for water quality improvement in Allegheny County, municipal coordination with the ALCOSAN consent decree, developing a long-term wet weather control plan, regional flow monitoring, high-rate treatment in an urban environment and inflow/infiltration problems on private property.

More than 50 exhibitors will display and demonstrate technologies to help communities find new, cost-effective ways of assessing, restoring, operating and maintaining their sewer systems.

For more information or to register, click on the registration link on the [3 Rivers Wet Weather website](#) or call at 412-237-3139.

Funds To Be Used to Protect the Shenango River from Agricultural Runoff

The [Western Pennsylvania Conservancy](#) will enhance programs that restore and protect the Shenango River watershed as a result of a \$10,000 grant from Pennsylvania American Water.

During a recent event at the Loren Elder Farm in New Castle, WPC representatives described the critical importance of this watershed as a drinking water source and a home to fragile ecosystems. The [American Water Environmental Grant](#) will be used by WPC to bolster programs that protect this important natural resource from agricultural runoff.

“We are grateful to Pennsylvania American Water for selecting us to receive their 2007 Environmental Grant,” said Jennifer Bennett, Watershed Scientist for WPC’s Freshwater Conservation Program. “The Western Pennsylvania Conservancy is working collaboratively with area farmers to improve the water quality of the Shenango River basin, having recently constructed 20 miles of streambank fencing along the river. These funds will support our efforts to protect this important waterway.”

Agriculture, despite its value to Pennsylvania as an industry, can negatively impact the state’s waterways due to farm runoff that contributes to an excess of nitrates, phosphates and other organic pollutants. Best practices in farming, however, can correct or significantly improve these problems. The Western Pennsylvania Conservancy is a leader in the growing effort to sustain farm economies in ways that protect natural resources for future generations.

“Through American Water’s Environmental Grant Program, we’re investing in organizations like the Western Pennsylvania Conservancy and supporting the people behind their projects who are looking to the future by improving the sustainability of our water resources today,” said Kathy Pape, President of Pennsylvania American Water.

Since piloting the grant in 2005 in Pennsylvania, the American Water Environmental Grant program has supported or is supporting projects that protect or restore drinking water sources and surrounding watersheds. Grants are now offered in 13 states and, to date, over \$76,000 has funded watershed protection/improvement projects.

Pennsylvania American Water is a public, regulated water utility in the state providing quality water and/or wastewater services to over two million people in 378 communities across the state.

To date, the Western Pennsylvania Conservancy has protected more than 214,000 acres of natural lands in Pennsylvania, which represent more than 50 percent of the total land protected by land trust organizations in Pennsylvania. Now in its 75th year, Pennsylvania's first conservancy continues to partner with grassroots organizations to protect land, restore watersheds and save natural habitats.

New Book: Floodplain Restoration Improves Water Quality, Reduces Flood Damage



Science and history have combined to find another tool—floodplain restoration-- to help solve stream bank erosion, nutrient runoff and stormwater problems, according to Mark Gutshall, LandStudies, Inc., publisher of a new book outlining the technique.

“Floodplain Restoration” describes how a previously undocumented source of watershed pollution was discovered by an unusual combination of history and science and how the technique provides a variety of benefits to communities and the environment.

“We developed the floodplain restoration technique based on studies we conducted in numerous watersheds over the last several years,” said Gutshall. “These studies pointed to a previously unrecognized major source of pollution – stream banks – but it wasn’t until we talked to colleagues at Franklin & Marshall College that we put our science and their understanding of land-use history together.”

Watershed assessments in the Susquehanna River Watershed demonstrated that 50 to 80 percent of the sediment loads in certain watersheds were coming from streambanks, along with the nutrient pollution they carry. Measured rates of bank erosion in the field were often exponentially greater than the commonly used models show.

“Drs. Dorothy Merritts and Robert Walter at F&M showed us their research that identified hundreds of mill dams built in the 18th and 19th centuries and behind each dam was up to 20 feet of sediment sometimes stretching hundreds of yards,” said Gutshall. “When the dams collapsed or were removed, the sediment was still there, but the stream began cutting its way down through that legacy sediment to the original floodplain and in the process carried away huge amounts of soil.

“Our floodplain restoration technique is designed to restore a stream to its original floodplain by removing the legacy sediment that would otherwise find its way downstream,” explained Gutshall. “Once we knew to look for old mill dams, we could accurately locate the old stream bed level and essentially put the stream back the way it was, with natural meanders but without the eroded stream banks.”

The book describes the multiple benefits of floodplain restoration, including:

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- eliminating a major source of sediment and nutrients;
- reducing downstream nuisance flooding;
- providing an area for groundwater recharge and stormwater filtration;
- generating water quality credits for nutrient and sediment reduction to help wastewater plants comply with nutrient reduction requirements; and
- providing opportunities for carbon sequestration through the planting of riparian corridors.

“Looking for legacy sediments as part of a watershed assessment is critical because time and money invested in planting riparian buffers, for example, could be completely wasted if they are planted on top of these sediments, high above local groundwater and streambeds,” said Gutshall. “The discovery of legacy sediments has dramatically changed the way we look at water quality problems in our watersheds.”

Since the documentation of legacy sediments as a pollution source, the floodplain restoration technique has been recognized by the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection in its Stormwater Best Practices Manual and as part of its Nutrient Trading Program for the Chesapeake Bay Tributary Strategy.

The agency is also in the process of developing a formal floodplain restoration Best Management Practice and is studying how to incorporate this technique into local sewage facilities planning.

The 11 x 17, 30-page “Floodplain Restoration” guide is available for \$30 (tax and shipping included) by sending your request to LandStudies, Inc., 315 North St., Lititz, PA 17543, by contacting LandStudies at 717-27-4440 or by sending email to: land@landstudies.com for an order form.

Nominations Wanted for PA Land Trust Association Government Leadership Award

The [Pennsylvania Land Trust Association](#) is now accepting nominations for its the 2nd [Annual Government Leadership Awards](#).

The deadline for entries is February 1, 2008.

PALTA is soliciting nominations to honor Pennsylvania municipalities and counties that have demonstrated leadership and success in the conservation of special places and landscapes.

Any municipal or county government that has demonstrated leadership and vision in a process that has resulted or will result in the conservation of open space is eligible. Recognition may be based on the work of a government, multi-government partnership, commission or board, but must be sanctioned by the governing body or bodies.

Awards will be based on the ability to demonstrate successful efforts through one of the following categories:

- Land Conservation Through Innovative Land Use Planning & Regulations;
- Exemplary development and use of natural resource protection-based land use tools in order to conserve land. Examples include adopted, enacted, or (ideally) implemented/ applied: zoning, subdivision and land development and other land use ordinances; open space plans; and comprehensive plans. Applicants should illustrate how these tools have been or will be implemented;
- Land Conservation Through Acquisition; and/or

- Successful endeavors that have resulted in the permanent protection of natural resources. Examples include: innovative protection strategies; strategic land acquisition or easement programs; and open space referenda.

More information is available on the PLTA [Government Leadership Award webpage](#).

Conference Celebrates, Perpetuates Pennsylvania Wilds Initiative

Nearly 300 people turned out for the first-ever [Pennsylvania Wilds](#) conference—Natural Assets, Natural Opportunities: Planning, Protecting and Investing in Rural Pennsylvania—to learn more about the initiative, glean new ideas, celebrate success stories, and share insights to benefit the region.



Federal, state, and local government officials; tourism professionals; planners; business owners; representatives of trail, conservation, and sportsmen’s groups; and the many others in attendance relished the exchange of information and the chance to network with such a diverse audience. Participants came from all over the 12-county area and from across the state for the two-day event held September 13 and 14 at the Genetti Hotel in Williamsport.

“We’ll know we will have been successful, when in 100 years, someone can still fish the clean, clear waters of Pine Creek and catch big, abundant trout or continue to view majestic elk at Hicks Run,” said DCNR Secretary Michael DiBerardinis in an emotional kickoff speech to the conference crowd.

Ed McMahon, a national expert on community planning and design, and renowned nature –based tourism and recreation consultant, Ted Eubanks, delivered thought-provoking plenary presentations that emphasized conserving and appropriately-promoting the many unique cultural and natural attributes of the Pennsylvania Wilds to maximize economic return to the region. In breakout sessions, a variety of speakers highlighted relevant programs, best practices, and case studies aimed to enlighten along specific conference tracks: community and rural issues, recreation and stewardship, and business and economic development.

In the spirit of the Pennsylvania Wilds vision, facilitated feedback sessions were held the final morning of the conference generating a wealth of recommendations to achieve long-term success in the region. These recommendations will be posted here in the near future.

A “Taste of the Wilds” dinner reception provided gastronomical enlightenment and offered a midway break from the conference work. Held at the neighboring Community Arts Center, this special event featured authentic foods of the region prepared by the Pennsylvania College of Technology. The wares of local artisans were on display to further enhance the evening.

The conference was sponsored by the Department of Conservation and Natural Resources, the Department of Community and Economic Development, the Pennsylvania Rural Development Council, and the Appalachian Regional Commission with additional support from Mackin Engineering, Larsen Design Group, and First Energy.

For more information, visit the [Pennsylvania Wilds webpage](#).

Annual Harvest Tour Features Visit to Ernst Conservation Seeds

As part of the fifth annual Harvest Tour, Agriculture Secretary Dennis Wolff this week visited [Ernst Conservation Seeds](#) in northwestern Pennsylvania to learn about switchgrass as an alternative energy resource.

Ernst Seeds is working to perfect a process that will turn switchgrass into pellets, which can then be burned as fuel or, potentially, used for cellulosic ethanol production. If used for biofuel production, Secretary Wolff said switchgrass could create new economic opportunities for Pennsylvania and help protect national security.

“Pennsylvania is situated to benefit greatly from ethanol production using crops such as corn, soybeans and switchgrass,” said Secretary Wolff. “Our growing dependence on fossil fuels from countries that are politically unstable or controlled by regimes hostile to America’s interests is a danger to our national security, and biofuels present a strong alternative.”

Secretary Wolff said that the United States imports 60 percent of its oil, with Pennsylvania spending \$30 billion annually on liquid fuels produced beyond the state’s borders.

“We need to take steps now to reduce this dependence, and keep more of that \$30 billion here at home, and invest it in our farmers, our communities and our companies. With the strength of our agricultural industry, farmers can play a leading role in Pennsylvania’s drive towards energy independence.”

Switchgrass can grow on marginal ground and adapts to a wide range of soil and climate conditions. Compared to corn, switchgrass also requires less energy to plant, manage and harvest over a number of years.

The annual Harvest Tour includes visits to each of the seven regions in Pennsylvania. He shares the information gathered during the Harvest Tour with Gov. Rendell, who uses it to fine-tune existing programs and establish new initiatives to keep Pennsylvania agriculture growing.

NewsClip: [Looking for Renewable Energy? Try Grass](#)

Workshops on How You Can Be Paid to Save Electricity in Periods of Peak Demand

Industrial, institutional and large commercial electricity users are invited to attend one of six free half-day workshops about the benefits of saving electricity during periods of peak demand hosted by the [West Penn Power Sustainable Energy Fund](#).

Demand response programs pay participants to reduce electricity use during times of high wholesale spot prices or transmission system congestion. Two programs will be covered, one offered by [PJM Interconnection LLC](#) (the wholesale power grid operator) and the [West Penn Power’s Generation Buy-Back Program](#).

PJM paid out over \$16 million last year for demand response participation. Of that total, over \$3 million was paid for demand response in Allegheny Energy’s territory. All of the programs that will be covered by the workshops are voluntary. There is no obligation to enroll in any demand response program. The workshops are strictly educational.

All industrial, institutional and large commercial electricity users that are able to shift or shed at least 300 kW of demand are invited. There are no other pre-requisites.

The workshops will be held:

- October 17, 1:30-4:30 pm, St. Marys Public Library, 127 Center St., St. Marys;

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- October 18, 9 am–12 noon, Days Inn Penn State, 240 S. Pugh St., State College;
- October 24, 1:30-4:30 pm, Coyle Free Library, 102 N. Main St., Chambersburg;
- November 1, 1:30-4:30 pm, Comfort Inn Kittanning, 13 Hilltop Plaza, Kittanning;
- November 2, 9am-12 noon, Arnold Palmer Regional Airport, Community Room, 148 Aviation Lane, Latrobe; and
- November 7, 9am-12 noon, Days Inn Washington, 1370 W. Chestnut St., Washington

All workshops will last three hours, including ample time for questions and discussion. Seating is limited, so please register by emailing the name of your company, attendees and selected workshop location to chris@pfaweb.org.

Request a DOE Targeted Energy Assessment to Save Energy Now

The U. S. Department of Energy is [accepting applications](#) for a third round of 250 Save Energy Now targeted energy assessments in 2008.

Save Energy Now - the industrial portion of DOE's Easy Ways To Save Energy program - was introduced during late 2005 to help reduce natural gas consumption and stabilize market prices and supply. Over 450 industrial operations will have received assessments through 2007.

Companies can [apply for a 2008 assessment online](#).

Save Energy Now provides support for large industrial operations. Program participation requires facility-wide energy consumption to approach or exceed 0.3 trillion Btu (300,000,000,000Btu) annually. Applicants select the energy system to be assessed. Options include process heating, compressed air, steam, motor, pump, or fan systems.

Eligible businesses can receive one free assessment. Cost-sharing is required for companies requesting additional assessment support. Requests from ineligible industrial operations will be automatically referred to the Industrial Assessment Center nearest the applicant's location. DOE's 26 [university-based IAC's](#) provide no cost full-facility energy assessments for mid-sized manufacturers nationwide.

Businesses that participate in the assessment program report energy savings between 10 and 15 percent within the assessed system. Perhaps a more valuable benefit, the assessment process focuses on training plant staff to apply DOE's Industrial Technology Program software tools to similar plant systems or in sister operations. This facet of the program provides opportunities to enhance energy savings several times over.

Results from 200 industrial assessments conducted in 2006 include energy saving recommendations exceeding \$500 million in annual cost savings. Individual industries, on average, received recommendations for savings exceeding \$2 million or nearly 250 billion Btu per year. Implemented savings from 265 completed assessments to date totals \$75 million with another \$180 million in energy savings planned or under construction.

DOE's [Save Energy Now webpage](#) provides a full report on 2006 assessment results. All industries assessed in 2006 are listed as well as public summary reports for each assessment. Webpage links provide direct access to DOE's Industrial Technology Program Best Practices resources.

Families Can Save Money and Conserve Energy With KeystoneHELP

While the means of achieving cleaner and cheaper energy is up for debate in the Capitol, there is a



proven method for Pennsylvania families to reduce energy costs and conserve energy, according to Treasurer Robin L. Wiessmann, and that is to apply for a [KeystoneHELP loan](#).

"As legislators debate the various methods to make energy cleaner and cheaper for Pennsylvanians, I am proud that we will have provided \$10 million in loans through KeystoneHELP by the end of this month to help consumers affordably improve the energy efficiency of their homes and save money on their utility bills," Wiessmann said. "I encourage all Pennsylvania homeowners to take a look, today, at KeystoneHELP."

With the arrival of autumn, KeystoneHELP loans can help families stave off high heating costs by providing low-interest, unsecured loans for [EnergyStar](#) home improvements, such as furnaces, boilers, heat pumps, insulation, siding, insulated doors and thermostats. Improvements such as these can make any home more efficient by reducing heating costs and conserving energy.

"The KeystoneHELP program is truly a win-win for Pennsylvania homeowners looking to save money and have a positive impact on our environment," Wiessmann said.

In 2006, the Pennsylvania Treasury Department partnered with AFC First Financial Corporation of Allentown, and agreed to invest up to \$30 million over three years to expand KeystoneHELP statewide. Treasury's investment in KeystoneHELP provides AFC First, which specializes in consumer loans for energy efficient home improvements, with the working capital to offer below market, 8.99% unsecured financing with a 10-year repayment period.

Low-income homeowners are currently able to obtain loans at an even lower interest rate of 6.99 percent. The combination of low rates and long repayment terms means that for some borrowers, the monthly savings they realize in fuel costs can approximate their monthly repayment for the KeystoneHELP loan.

Homeowners from 60 of Pennsylvania's 67 counties have already applied for and received more than \$9 million in KeystoneHELP loans since the program's statewide expansion.

"Smart investors are beginning to think of global and local factors when considering where to invest their money. And firms that embrace or develop clean, green technology are least likely to suffer from the convergence of key factors such as climate change, volatile pricing for fuels and looming carbon regulations," said Wiessmann.

The KeystoneHELP Program was set up with the help of the Pennsylvania Environmental Council.

For more information and to apply, visit the [KeystoneHELP website](#).
NewsClips: [State Offers Energy Efficient Home Improvement Loans](#)

Link: [Treasurer Funds Low-Rate Loans for Homeowner Energy Savings](#)

Volunteers Wanted for Homewood, Squirrel Hill, Point Breeze Fall Cleanup

A national award-winning litter cleanup program led by the United Jewish Federation and Homewood's Operation Better Block will tackle the trash problem in five Pittsburgh neighborhoods from October 12-14.

The [Homewood/Squirrel Hill/Point Breeze Redd Up Coalition](#) is again sponsoring this fall's Cleanup, which will be the Coalition's third such event. In addition, 80 city neighborhoods, four other municipalities in Allegheny County and seven in Beaver

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County, have scheduled their cleanups to coincide with the dates chosen by the Coalition for its Fall Cleanup.

Aliya Durham, the executive director of Operation Better Block, and Boris Weinstein are the Coalition's co-chairs.

The Cleanup was initially conceived last year by the United Jewish Federation during the tenure of the late Mayor Bob O'Connor as a litter cleanup in Squirrel Hill. But the program quickly expanded into a partnership with Homewood.

The term "Redd Up" was incorporated into the Coalition's name as a tribute to the memory of Mayor O'Connor.

The Coalition rapidly grew to include the leaders of six Homewood neighborhood organizations, the two Jewish groups, two secular environmental organizations, the main Squirrel Hill neighborhood organization, the offices of three City Council members, and the mayor's office.

The first Coalition cleanup in 2006 exceeded expectations. Well over 800 adults, teens and school children converged on targeted streets in five neighborhoods, picking up every piece of litter in sight (and out of sight) during the April 27-28-29 Redd Up weekend. The massive volunteer effort included students from a total of 14 schools in Homewood and Squirrel Hill.

The October 12-14 Homewood/Squirrel Hill/Point Breeze Fall Cleanup will follow the same format, but even more volunteers are expected to participate this time.

Litter pickup will proceed, rain or shine.

In addition to the UJF, participating organizations include the East Side Community Collaborative, the Rosedale Block Cluster, the Tacoma Street Block Association, the 5Cs Corporation, Operation Better Block, the Homewood- Brushton Family Support Center, the Jewish Community Center, the South Point Breeze Organization, the Greater Park Place Neighborhood Association, the Squirrel Hill Urban Coalition, PA Cleanways of Allegheny County and Nine Mile Run Watershed Association, as well as Giant Eagle and UPMC.

Also, the Homewood/Squirrel Hill/Point Breeze Redd Up Coalition has received the support of late Mayor Bob O'Connor's Operation Redd Up, the city Department of Public Works, the city Police Bureau's Adopt-a-Block program, and City Council members Shields, Peduto and Carlisle.

As did the Spring Cleanup, the Fall Cleanup will kickoff with students participating in a Friday campus cleanup. On October 12, the participating schools will include Helen Faison Intermediate School, the Student Achievement Center's middle and high schools, Lincoln Primary School, the Homewood Early Childhood Center, Westinghouse High School, Colfax Accelerated Learning Academy, Community Day, Ellis Middle School, Linden School, St. Edmunds, Allderdice High School, and Yeshiva School. More schools are expected to join the effort.

Squirrel Hill is encouraging volunteers to register in advance.

To register in Squirrel Hill, call 412-992-5214. Or [register online](#) or on-site registration is also available during cleanup hours at these locations:

October 13--

- Homewood: PNC Bank parking lot at 618 N. Homewood Avenue. Cleanup is from 9:00 a.m. – noon;
- Park Place: Corner of Forbes and South Braddock avenues. Cleanup is from 9:00 a.m. – noon;

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- North Point Breeze: Westinghouse Park. Cleanup is from 9:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m; and
- South Point Breeze: The Mellon Park parking lot, located near the playground, basketball courts and tennis bubble, on Fifth Avenue across from Beechwood Boulevard. Cleanup is from 10:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.

October 14--

- Squirrel Hill: The corner of Forbes and Murray avenues, in front of the library. Cleanup is from 9:00 a.m. - noon.

Applications Now Available for PA Conservation Corps Grants

Applications for [Pennsylvania Conservation Corps](#) grants related to conservation, recreation, historical preservation, graffiti removal and the repair of institutional vandalism are now being accepted by the Department of Labor and Industry.

Political subdivisions and state agencies are eligible for these grants and applications are due January 4, 2008.

For more information, visit the [Pennsylvania Conservation Corps webpage](#).

Springside 4th Grader Wins “Green Award” in the Great Green America Program



Miranda Levingston, a fourth grader at [Springside School for Girls](#) in Philadelphia, won a \$300 Green Award by turning trash into treasure.

Levingston won first place in the [Great Green America Fest science competition](#) sponsored by York College of Pennsylvania.

Miranda Levingston, now in 5th grade, went home after hearing of the environmental competition from her science teacher, and fashioned a dog from old garden twine. As time went on, she added trash she came across that would enhance her design - tissue paper, tin foil, bottle caps, discarded magnets, and keychain rings.

The judges determined the winner based on overall creativity, quantity of recyclable materials used, usefulness in simplifying a task for a tool or machine, enhancing the beauty of the earth for artwork or decorations, complexity, and design.

Besides winning her own cash prize, Levingston’s grand prize winnings mean that Springside will also receive a generous science equipment grant to be used in support of science education. (Submitted by Gretchen Harrison, Springside School, send email to: gharrison@springside.org)

Six Luncheon Programs on Using Recycled Glass in Septic Systems Set

The [Pennsylvania Recycling Markets Center](#) will host a series of six luncheons around the state to present methods of construction for onlot sand mounds that utilize manufactured sand made from recycled glass.

This 90-minute program will be presented by experts in both onlot septage management and recycling.

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The luncheon series is targeted to those who design and construct onlot septic systems, sewage enforcement officers, and municipalities regionally located near recycling processors that manufacture glass sand. Others interested in learning more about marketing opportunities for this material are welcome.

Attendees will be presented with construction techniques, the specifications required for use of manufactured glass sand as an alternative aggregate, and Pennsylvania processors that manufacture glass sand. Construction techniques will be presented by contractors or sewage enforcement officers that have successfully used manufactured glass sand. Attendees will also receive a free copy of an 18 minute DVD, produced by the Pennsylvania Recycling Markets Center, that details the construction process.

“People do not realize manufactured recycled glass sand is sharp-free, has been used in many other states, and can be less expensive than traditional options,” said Wayne Bowen, Municipal Services Consultant with Ludgate Engineering Corp.

Each of the luncheon programs will be held from 11:30 – 1:00 on the following dates: October 12 or 15 - Hamburg; October 11- Lehigh Valley; October 25 Greensburg; October 24 - Port Alleghany; and October 18 - Wilkes-Barre/Scranton Area.

“This affordable, yet green construction practice retains competitive edge for contracting and excavation jobs at a time when the building market is slowing,” RMC Executive Director Robert J. Bylone said. “The program is important to the RMC as part of our role to expand new glass uses and manufacturing innovations.”

The Pennsylvania Recycling Markets Center is a non-profit organization charged with reducing barriers to development of markets for recyclable materials in the Commonwealth. Headquartered at Penn State Harrisburg, the RMC is supported in part by grant funds from the Department of Environmental Protection.

For more information or to register for a meeting, contact the [Pennsylvania Recycling Markets Center](#) at 717-948-6660 or send email to: info@parmc.org . There is a \$25 registration fee and lunch will be provided.

Fish & Boat Commission Announces \$1.1 Million in State Wildlife Grants

The Fish and Boat Commission this week announced that it will use more than \$1.1 million from the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service’s [State Wildlife Grants Program](#) to support nine projects that will study and manage rare or declining species and their habitats.

These funds will be used to leverage an additional \$982,577 of non-federal matching funds.

“The State Wildlife Grant Program is critical to conserving and protecting the fish, mussels, turtles and other non-game species managed by the Commission,” said PFBC Executive Director Doug Austen. “The condition of these species and their habitats reflects the overall health of the environment and often serves as an early indicator of disease and pollution which affect us all. Austen also noted that conserving the diversity of fish and wildlife provides a great opportunity to support our natural heritage for future generations.

“Preventing species from becoming threatened or endangered is fiscally responsible as it is generally less costly than attempting to restore them once they are nearly gone,” noted Austen.

Pending approval from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, the PFBC will be awarding grants to facilitate the following nine projects:

Habitat Enhancement at Four State Park Lakes-Pennsylvania: Lakes are vital habitats for fish and other aquatic life, and the PFBC has a long history of lake habitat enhancement work. To further advance this work, a collaborative effort between the Fish and Boat Commission and Department of Conservation and Natural Resources will assess the quality of existing habitat and implement habitat activities on four lakes owned and managed by DCNR. The lakes on which this work will be conducted are to be selected based on current and potential habitat value for fish, amphibians, reptiles and other wildlife (including the presence of Species of Greatest Conservation Need, as identified in Pennsylvania’s Wildlife Action Plan). PFBC staff will study the response of the habitats and fishes to evaluate project impacts and will also engage the public to assist through a citizen-monitoring program. This three-year, \$186,000 project will be supported with a \$93,000 SWG grant.

Stream Restoration and Watershed Stabilization: This project will provide a collaborative, low-cost approach to stream restoration and watershed stabilization that encourages direct participation by local watershed groups. Working with the [Northcentral Pennsylvania Conservancy](#), the PFBC will provide technical and financial support for the design, permitting, construction, monitoring, and maintenance of stream restoration projects in the upper Ohio, Genesee, and upper Susquehanna watersheds. This three-year project will be supported with \$301,806 of SWG funds and an equal amount of non-federal matching funds.

Freshwater Mussels: Freshwater mussels are among the most imperiled groups of animals in North America. Their status in Pennsylvania is no exception: 17 species are considered extirpated and another 24 species are considered threatened or endangered by the [Pennsylvania Biological Survey](#). Mussels are often long-lived and thus are good indicators of water quality and habitat conditions. Two separate research projects will help the PFBC maintain records on these animals in Pennsylvania and contribute to our understanding their distribution in the Susquehanna River Basin. Both projects will be conducted by the [Western Pennsylvania Conservancy](#).

Mussel Sampling Protocol Development and Enhancement of the Pennsylvania Aquatic Community Classification Database: This two-year project will develop a database to provide a common format for storage and retrieval of information about mussels, including distribution and population trends. It also will provide for consistent sampling methods and more efficient long-term use of the data. This \$21,333 project will be supported with a \$16,000 grant of SWG funds.

Distribution of Yellow Lampmussel in the Susquehanna River Watershed: This three-year project will sample approximately 85 locations on the Susquehanna River and major tributaries to assess freshwater mussels, especially the yellow lampmussel. The conservation of the yellow lampmussel in Pennsylvania is especially critical since Pennsylvania contains a significant portion of the global range for the species. This survey will add tremendously to our knowledge of the distribution, abundance, and recruitment of the yellow lampmussel and other mussels associated with this species. The project will also provide much-needed data for determining if this species, or other mussel species, should merit listing as state-threatened or endangered. This \$247,677 project will be supported with \$123,838 of SWG funds.

Eastern Spadefoot Toad Assessment: The eastern spadefoot toad is a well-camouflaged animal, with only two known reproducing populations in Pennsylvania. This species is listed as state-endangered (PFBC 2005) and is considered a high-priority species in the [Pennsylvania Wildlife Action Plan](#). Both within the northeastern United States and in Pennsylvania, little is known about its life-history and distribution. The lack of important information about the distribution of this species makes appropriate conservation, planning, and management decisions difficult for state agencies, land planners, and conservation organizations. This project will provide data for a management plan for the species in Pennsylvania and will compile much-needed information on habitat and other features at sites where the toads are found which may be especially important for identifying other potential locations for this species. This three-year project will be conducted by East Stroudsburg University with a \$220,771 grant of SWG funds and equal matching funds from East Stroudsburg University for a total project cost of \$441,542.

Planning for the Protection of the Eastern Massasauga: The eastern massasauga snake is listed as a state-endangered species in Pennsylvania. Across its range, populations of this reptile are similarly in decline, making it a candidate species for federal listing. To protect the remaining Pennsylvania populations, the Western Pennsylvania Conservancy will develop a Massasauga Protection Plan that prioritizes critical habitats for this species. This plan will include a timeline and identify specific conservation efforts such as the placement of conservation easements and habitat management, to ensure effective and efficient protection of the massasauga. This species conservation plan will serve as an important reference document for ongoing conservation efforts. This four-month project will be funded with \$10,898 from SWG and equal matching funds from the Western Pennsylvania Conservancy.

Assessing the Genetic Status of Timber Rattlesnake Populations in Pennsylvania: The study of conservation genetics is important for the management of many species, especially for populations that are widely distributed, such as timber rattlesnakes in Pennsylvania. Ranked in the highest priority conservation tier, “Immediate Concern,” in the Pennsylvania Wildlife Action Plan, this project will provide genetic information for the timber rattlesnake from the western and southcentral regions of the state. The research will expand on previous work conducted in eastern and central Pennsylvania and will provide the baseline information necessary for long-term monitoring. This \$187,082 project will be conducted by Arcadia University with \$93,541 grant of SWG funds and an equal match provided by Arcadia University.

Fishes of the Ohio River: The PFBC has approved funding for an additional year of sampling the deep waters of the Ohio River in order to more fully understand the distribution of fish species and their habitats. The survey methods will collect smaller and potentially little-known fish species which are not easily detected in deeper habitats. The results of this intensive sampling will assist the Commission in determining if any of these species should be considered for designation as threatened or endangered in Pennsylvania. This additional year of the original one-year study will be conducted by The Pennsylvania State University with a SWG grant of \$66,908 and matching funds provided by PSU, for a total project cost of \$133,817.

Understanding Habitat and Species Associations with Geographic Information Systems (Conservation Planning Polygons): Resource managers and planners will be greatly assisted by this project which will use geographic information systems to map critical habitats used by high-priority Species of Greatest Conservation Need listed in the Pennsylvania Wildlife Action Plan. These mapped habitats called “conservation planning polygons”, will provide information on areas for wildlife protection and management. These conservation planning polygons will be used for environmental review, planning and decision-making and to help further conservation efforts in priority areas of Pennsylvania. With a \$204,000 grant of SWG funds provided by the Fish and Boat Commission and the Game Commission, this three-year, \$272,000 project to be conducted by [Western Pennsylvania Conservancy](#) will define the core habitats and supporting landscape features and develop a database for this information.

Link: [Game Commission State Wildlife Grant Program](#)

Ozone-Causing Emissions Reduced by 60% Since 2000 Over Eastern U.S.

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency reported this week that ozone-causing nitrogen oxide emissions from power plants and industry have been reduced 60 percent from 2000 to 2006 in 19 eastern states and the District of Columbia.

The reductions were included in the [NOx Budget Trading Program annual report](#).

"The proof is in the numbers. By cutting smog-forming emissions, 55 million Americans in the eastern United States are breathing easier thanks to President Bush's clean air policies," said EPA Administrator Stephen L. Johnson. "NOx reductions are not just good news for the health of our environment and the health of our residents, they are good news for the health of our economy."

The reduction of NOx – a precursor to ground-level ozone, or "smog" – has helped reduce ground-level ozone concentrations an average of 5-8 percent in the eastern United States in the last three years. Four out of five eastern ozone non-attainment areas now meet the current standard.

The EPA report tracks summertime emission reductions from 1990 to 2006 and assesses the impact of these reductions on ozone air quality in the eastern region. The largest NOx reductions occurred in the mid-central area of the eastern United States including Illinois, Indiana, Kentucky, Ohio, and West Virginia.

The NOx Budget Trading Program is flexible and lets electric generating units choose the best options to reduce NOx emissions during ozone season for their facilities. Options include adding NOx emission-control technologies, replacing existing controls with more advanced technologies or optimizing existing controls. This flexibility, and an active NOx allowance market, has helped lead to an over 99 percent compliance rate with the program's requirements.

The 2006 NOx Budget [report is available online](#).

EcoArtFest October 14 at the Abington Art Center

Enjoy an afternoon of art, environmental tours and workshops in the Abington Art Center's Sculpture Park in Jenkintown, Pa.

Enjoy programs like composting and organic gardening, birding, backyard conservation, smart car previews, environmental sculpture garden tours, the Glenside Farmers Market and presentations by local artists.

For more information, visit www.AbingtonArtCenter.org or send email to: hrutledge@abingtonartcenter.org.

Opinion

No Child Left Inside

By Don Baugh

Chesapeake Bay Foundation

There's a committed effort taking place in Washington right now that could change the face of how we get kids outside and teach them about the environment in this country. First the background: Environmental education began to emerge in the 1970s as landmark environmental steps were being taken. Over several decades, interest in and support for the topic grew.

In the past few years, though, we have seen an unfortunate reversal of that trend as many schools are devoting fewer resources and less time to the environment. We believe much of this is due to the effects of the No Child Left Behind law, passed five years ago. With so much riding on high-stakes tests, schools are spending more time on subjects that are formally tested, and less on others, including environmental education.

At the same time, federal resources to help states teach about the natural world have been woefully inadequate.

Today, a potent coalition is working to change that through the No Child Left Inside Act of 2007.

The bill (H.R. 3036 and S. 1981) would provide federal funding to states to train teachers in environmental education and to operate model environmental education programs, which include outdoor learning. The bill would also provide funding to states that create environmental literacy plans to ensure that high school graduates are environmentally literate. And it provides new funding through an environmental education grant program to build state and national capacity.

I am convinced that these steps will revolutionize environmental education in this country, and create a new awareness of environmental issues, improve children's health and contribute to a healthier, more sustainable society. And given the enormous challenges facing the environment, it is critical that we improve environmental instruction now.

One of the most exciting aspects of our work is our success in developing an unprecedented coalition of support. It includes major environmental groups, educational groups such as the National Education Association and health-related organizations, including the Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health.

We also have strong support in Pennsylvania, from groups such as Pennsylvania Association of Environmental Educators, the Strawberry Hill Nature Center and Preserve and Delaware Valley Earth Force. This support grows out of Pennsylvania's commitment to the issue, as evidenced by its adoption of excellent environment and ecology standards.

Certainly, Pennsylvania is poised to be a national leader in environmental education and we hope Pennsylvania's large environmental community will actively support our effort in Washington.

Right now is a critical time for the legislation as Congress begins to consider a reauthorization of the No Child Left Behind law, which our bill would amend. In particular, we need more co-sponsors for the bill and more support, particularly among Republicans.

If you believe that children should be spending more time outside, learning and playing, please tell Congress. If you believe that children should be better prepared to address increasingly complex environmental issues, let your representatives know. We believe that the nation's public schools have a critical role ensuring that both of these goals are met.

Don Baugh is director of education at the Chesapeake Bay Foundation, which is spearheading the No Child Left Inside Coalition.

Note: "No Child Left Inside" is used with permission from the Connecticut Department of Environmental Protection. For more information about the No Child Left Inside Act visit the [No Child Left Inside Coalition website](#).

Quick Clips

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

[Rep. George: Funding Sought for PA Senior Environment Corps](#)

[CMU's Solar House a Glimpse of the Future](#)

[Three Projects AIM to LEED the Way to Green Neighborhoods](#)

[Green MBAs Balance Profit, Planet](#)

[It's Not Easy Building Green](#)

[Families Turning Green](#)

[Rendell Submits Energy Program to Legislature](#)

[Rendell Pitches Energy Plan](#)

[Rendell Calls Energy Independence Key to Jobs, Security](#)

[Rendell Links Energy Plan with Defense](#)

[Energy Savings Plan May Spare Cash](#)

[Editorial: Well-Spent Energy, Rendell Talks Up Progressive Plan](#)

[Editorial: Compromise Will Be Necessary on Energy](#)

[Editorial: Fast Eddie's Farce](#)

[Op-Ed: Build on Strengths for an Energy Policy, Barr](#)

[John Baer: Guv's Big Speech Suffers an Energy Crisis](#)

[Duquesne Light CEO Lauds Clean Coal](#)

[Hazardous Site Program Barely Going Official Says](#)

[Legislators Work on Funding for Hazardous Waste Cleanup](#)

[Ethanol Demand Raises Corn Prices for Farmers](#)

[Biodiesel Fuel Incentives Essential](#)

[SEPTA Plans to Buy 400 Hybrid Buses](#)

[\\$15 Million Biodiesel Facility Opens in Beaver County](#)

[State Subsidy Would Help Biofuel Compete, Makers Say](#)
[Biofuel Options Increase for Home Heating](#)
[Prof. Tests Salt Water Energy](#)
[New Group formed to Defend Shaffer Mountain](#)
[Blowing Both Ways](#)
[Montco Poised to Buy Wind Power](#)
[Group Turns to Lawmakers to Control Wind Farms](#)
[Green Meetings Discover Enviro-Friendly Pittsburgh](#)
[Opportunities Abound for Local Waste Reduction](#)
[Monastery's Recycling Program 37 Years Old and Still Going Strong](#)
[PENNCREST Tire Cleanup an Educational Effort](#)
[Editorial: Try Breaking the Litter Cycle](#)
[PA CleanWays May Come to Luzerne County](#)
[Bill Seeks to Reduce Diesel Idling Emissions](#)
[Schuylkill EAC Gets Broad Recognition](#)
[Greenway Project Requires Cooperation](#)
[Walk on This Trail Finds Many Tracks](#)
[Allegheny County Seeks Private Money, Help for Parks](#)
[Butterflies Aren't Free](#)
[Fall's for the Birds at Applejam](#)
[Seminars Simplify Planning for Growth in Adams County](#)
[Easton Putting Urban in Urban Development](#)
[Townships Take on Climate Action](#)

Watershed NewsClips

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

[Restoring Our Waters, Cleaning Up Acid Mine Drainage](#)
[Watershed Success: Treatment System Dedicated](#)
[Pottstown Community Invited to Celebrate the River at Schuylkill River Festival](#)
[Metro Wilderness Canoe Race](#)
[Editorial: Delaware Riverfront Plan](#)
[Commissioners Review LeTort Trail Expansion Plan](#)
[State College Borough Considers Green Curbs](#)
[Firms Finding Other Uses for Material from Reclamation Site](#)
[Roof Design Change Will Alter Stormwater Flow](#)
[Editorial: Help! We're Running Out of Water](#)
[Taking Drinking Water for Granted](#)

Regulations

The Game Commission [published a final regulation](#) covering special agricultural deer control permits

[Pennsylvania Bulletin – September 29, 2007](#)

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

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

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

Technical Guidance & Permits

The Department of Environmental Protection [published guidance](#) on environmental education grants and rescinded a policy on confined space safety (*details below*). The State Conservation Commission [published notice](#) of interim guidelines for [Facility Odor Management](#).

Final: DEP ID: 012-5500-001. 2008 Environmental Education Grants Program Manual and Forms. The 2008 Environmental Education Grants Program Manual and Forms is a guide for eligible organizations interested in applying for the Department's Environmental Education (EE) grants program.

Rescind Guidance: DEP ID: 400-5900-115. Confined Space Safety. This guidance document was formerly issued in 1997 by the Department to provide personnel with the appropriate procedures for conducting job duties involving work near confined space openings.

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

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

Calendar of Upcoming Events

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

- **October 2 – NEW.** House Environmental Resources and Energy Committee meets to consider [House Bill 1380](#) (Bennington-D-Allegheny) amending the Clean Streams Law prohibiting the release of untreated agricultural waste that contains more than 10 parts per million of arsenic and Special Session [House Bill 2](#) (Gerger-D-Montgomery) PennFuels renewable fuels mandate as proposed by Gov. Rendell. Room G-50 Irvis Building. 9:00.
- **October 3 – NEW.** House Environmental Resources and Energy Committee hearing on the Governor's Special Session Energy Proposals. Room 140. 9:00.
- **October 3 – NEW.** House Local Government Committee information meeting on [House Bill 1525](#) (Steil-R-Bucks) providing for greenways, stormwater and other green infrastructure improvements and [House Bill 1787](#) (McIlvain-Smithe-D-Montgomery)

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amending the Municipalities Planning Code related to curative amendments. Room 205 Ryan Building. 9:30.

- **October 3** – **NEW**. Joint Legislative Budget & Finance Committee meeting to release a report on a review of Pennsylvania’s Homeland Security Program pursuant to [Senate Resolution 366](#) (D.White-R-Indiana). Hearing Room 2, North Office Building. 10:00.
- **October 3** – **CANCELLED**. [DEP Oil and Gas Technical Advisory Board](#).
- **October 4** – [Joint Legislative Air & Water Pollution Control and Conservation Committee](#) hearing on electronic waste recycling. Room 8E-A, East Wing. 9:00.
- **October 4** – House Urban Affairs, Subcommittee on Third Class Cities hearing on revitalizing the Commonwealth’s smaller cities. Room G-5- Irvis Building. 9:30.
- **October 9** – **NEW**. House Consumer Affairs Committee hearing on House Bill 824 (Preston-D-Allegheny) relating to procedures for utility shutdowns. University of Pittsburgh, William Pitt Union Building. Pittsburgh. 1:00.
- **October 10-11** – [DEP Citizens Advisory Council](#) meeting on on October 10 from 7-9 p.m. and October 11 from 9:30 to 12 p.m. at the Best Western Inn.
- **October 12** – **NEW**. House Local Government Committee hearing on [House Bill 904](#) (Freeman-D-Lehigh) providing for temporary moratoriums on development. Buckingham Township Offices, Buckingham, Pa. 10:00.
- **October 13** – Schuylkill River Festival. Pottstown. Contact: Carolyn Brunschwyler, Montgomery County Community College, 610-718-1847, or send email to: cbrunsch@mc3.edu
- **October 15** – **NEW**. [Pennsylvania Energy Development Authority](#) meeting. Room 105 Rachel Carson Building. 10:00.
- **October 15** – **NEW**. Environmental Issues Forum by [Joint Legislative Air & Water Pollution Control and Conservation Committee](#) to hear a presentation by Brian Hill, Pennsylvania Environmental Council, on its stakeholder-driven [Climate Roadmap for Pennsylvania](#). Room 205 Ryan Building. Noon.
- **October 16** – **CANCELLED**. [DEP Citizens Advisory Council](#) meeting on October 16 was cancelled in favor of a regional meeting in Bedford on October 10 from 7-9 p.m. and October 11 from 9:30 to 12 p.m. at the Best Western Inn.
- **October 16** – [DEP Laboratory Accreditation Advisory Committee](#) meeting. Room 206 Bureau of Laboratories building, 2575 Interstate Dr., Harrisburg. 10:00.
- **October 18** – **NEW**. House Commerce Committee hearing on [House Bill 1742](#) (Pashinski-D-Luzerne) requiring scap and recycling facility operators to collect information on scrap material.
- **October 23** – DEP [Nonpoint Source Liaison Workshop](#) meeting. Room 105 Rachel Carson Building, Harrisburg. 10:00. Contact: Steven Lathrop, 717-772-5618 or send email to: slathrop@state.pa.us .
- **October 25** – Sewage Task Force, [Joint Legislative Air and Water Pollution Control and Conservation Committee](#). Penn Stater Conference Hotel, State College. 10:00.
- **October 25** – [DEP Mining and Reclamation Advisory Board](#) meeting. DEP Cambria District Mining Office, Ebensburg.
- **October 27** – [Global Warming: Rising to the Challenge by Acting Locally](#). Gwynedd Mercy College, Gwynedd Valley, Montgomery County. 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.
- **November 1** – DEP [Low-Level Waste Advisory Committee](#) meeting. Room 105 Rachel Carson Building. 10:00.

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- **November 2 – NEW.** House State Government Committee hearing on [House Bill 397](#) (Petri-R-Bucks) providing for development impact fees. (LTA). 10:00.
- **February 22-23** – 2008 [Keystone Coldwater Conference](#). State College.

[DEP Calendar of Events](#)

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

[Environmental Education Workshop/Training Calendar](#)
(courtesy [PA Center for Environmental Education](#))

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

Helpful Web Links

[PA Environment Digest Video Blog](#)

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

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

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

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

Stories Invited

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

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

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