

— PA — Environment Digest

*An Update on
Environmental
Issues in
Pennsylvania*

Edited By David E. Hess, Holston & Crisci

October 17, 2005

Fall Season Reaching Its Peak In Pennsylvania

The [Fall leaf season](#) is reaching its peak in many parts of Pennsylvania, with most areas now expected to display their most vivid colors between October 15 and 21.

Northern areas are already at 80 percent of peak, and the Central and Southern regions are at 30 percent or less.

For lists of special Fall activities in your area, visit the [Fall In PA website Events page](#).

Among many activities this Fall, the Western Pennsylvania Conservancy is sponsoring an interpretive fall hike in [Laurel Summit State Park on October 22](#).

Session Schedule

The Senate and House both return to regular and Special session October 17.

On the Hill

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[Sideling Hill Creek](#) Area, Bedford & Fulton Counties. *Photo by Western Pennsylvania Conservancy.*

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On the Hill

House Committee to Hold Energy Policy Informational Meeting

The House Environmental Resources and Energy Committee will hold the first of several planned informational meetings on energy policy on October 18.

Three speakers will be featured at this first meeting-

- Kate Burke, National Conference of State Legislatures, will brief the Committee on what other states are doing on energy issues and the process they used to develop state energy policy;
- Ellen Lutz, U.S. Department of Energy Region 3 Director from Philadelphia, will provide information on the short-term energy outlook; and
- Scott Miller, Executive Director State Government Policy for the PJM Interconnect, will provide an overview of electric and natural gas issues in the region and suggestions on what the General Assembly should be thinking about.

Future meetings are planned on energy efficiency, renewable energy sources and other energy policy issues.

On the Senate/House Agenda

Here's a quick rundown on bills and issues scheduled to be considered when the Senate and House return to session on October 17.

In the Senate, the Agriculture and Rural Affairs Committee is having a hearing on alternative uses for manure and the Local Government Committee has a hearing on changing approval requirements for planned residential developments ([House Bill 102](#)) and providing local taxing options for preserving open space ([House Bill 183](#)).

The House Committee schedule includes the Environmental Resources and Energy Committee informational meeting on energy policy and the Health and Human Services Committee is meeting to consider legislation on fluoridation of public water supplies ([House Bill 1588](#)).

Bills to Increase Environmental Penalties Proposed by Reichley, Attorney General



Attorney General Tom Corbett this week announced his support for proposed amendments to Pennsylvania's Clean Streams Law and Solid Waste Management Act significantly increasing the penalties for those who harm Pennsylvania's land and waterways.

Corbett joined with Rep. Reichley (R-Berks), who is sponsoring the proposed changes.

"It is important that we send a clear message to polluters that Pennsylvania is not a dumping ground for their waste," Corbett said. "These changes will enhance our efforts to investigate and prosecute environmental crimes across our state, and also ensure that the punishment fits their crime."

Corbett explained that the proposed legislation would substantially increase the penalties for violations of the Clean Streams Law and the Solid Waste Management Act to a maximum of seven years imprisonment and a \$50,000 fine. Currently, most violations carry a maximum possible sentence of one-year imprisonment and a \$25,000 fine.

Additionally, the legislation calls for tougher penalties in cases where prosecutors can prove that the pollution was intentional and also increases penalties based on the amount of waste that was dumped.

"Current penalties don't do enough to prevent pollution across the Commonwealth," Rep. Reichley said. "Stronger penalties are needed to discourage reckless or intentional pollution and better enable the Attorney General to go after environmental law violators."

Corbett said current law treats water pollution and dumping cases as third-degree misdemeanors - the lowest level of misdemeanor offense under Pennsylvania law. "We need to make sure that the punishment fits the crime," Corbett said. "It's common sense that large scale polluters should face stiffer fines and longer prison terms, but that's not the case under current state law. Right now, all these crimes are treated the same."

Under [House Bill 2042](#), violations of the Clean Streams Law would be increased to a second-degree misdemeanor for cases involving negligence, punishable by up to two years imprisonment and a \$25,000 fine.

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Intentional violations of the Clean Streams Law would be increased to a third-degree felony, punishable by up to seven years imprisonment and a \$50,000 fine. Corbett said the proposed legislation would also modify the Solid Waste Management Act, adjusting penalties based on the volume of waste.

In [House Bill 2043](#), violations involving more than 100 cubic yards of waste - approximately 50 pickup trucks - would be classified as first-degree misdemeanors, punishable by up to five years imprisonment and a \$50,000 fine. Violations involving more than 500 cubic yards of waste - approximately five large tractor trailers - would be classified as third-degree felonies, punishable by seven years imprisonment and a \$50,000 fine.

Corbett said the current penalties are inadequate to effectively deter pollution, and may actually make Pennsylvania an attractive dumping ground for polluters who face much tougher penalties in neighboring states such as New Jersey, New York and Maryland.

"Pennsylvania should not be a safe haven for out-of-state polluters, who dump their waste here in order to escape harsher penalties in their home states," Corbett said. "These amendments bring our Clean Streams Law and Solid Waste Management Act more closely in line with our neighbors and with federal environmental regulations." Corbett added that the proposed changes to the Clean Steams Law will also better protect Pennsylvania's waterways against biological or chemical attack, allowing for much harsher punishment in those instances.

"Any effort to compromise the safety of our drinking water supply deserves far more than a slap on the wrist, but that is essentially all our current law allows," Corbett said. "It is vital that we take steps now to safeguard Pennsylvania's abundant natural resources, keeping our water and our land clean for future generations."

Corbett said the legislation would also increase the statute of limitations for violations of the Clean Streams Law from two years to five years, giving authorities additional time to investigate pollution, identify violators and prosecute those cases.

Corbett thanked Rep. Reichley for introducing this legislation and encouraged the General Assembly to quickly approve these much needed enhancements to Pennsylvania's environmental protection laws.

NewsClips: [Editorial: Punish Polluters with Better Laws](#)

Bills Introduced

Several environmental bills were introduced in the General Assembly this week ahead of the beginning of session--

Landfill Regulation: [Senate Bill 911](#) (Boscola-D-Lehigh) would expand the definition of "affected municipalities" surrounding landfills and require DEP to do a community health risk study; and [Senate Bill 913](#) (Boscola-D-Lehigh) which requires a referendum in host and affected communities before a landfill permit could be issued.

Waste Truck Penalties: [Senate Bill 914](#) (Boscola-D-Lehigh) providing additional penalties for overweight vehicles carrying solid waste.

Energy Policy: [House Bill 2048](#) (George-D-Clearfield) establishing the Pennsylvania Energy Office and Advisory Council and providing for an Emergency Energy Assistance Grant; [House Bill 2049](#) (George-D-Clearfield) authorizing the Governor to issue emergency gasoline declarations; and [House Bill 2051](#) (George –D-Clearfield) prohibiting price gouging and authorizing the Attorney General to investigate energy price increases.

In Other News

Appalachian Land & Conservation Donates Viewshed Easements to DCNR

A for-profit real estate company, [Appalachian Land & Conservation Services Co., LLC](#), this week donated conservation easements on 250 acres adjacent to both Bald Eagle State Park and State Game Lands 323 in Howard Township, Centre County to the Department of Conservation and Natural Resources and the Game Commission.

The donation of another conservation easement on an additional 99-acre parcel adjoining the park and State Game Lands is planned pending resolution of an access issue.

The protected land maintains approximately three miles of frontage on the 6,000-acre park, and is nearly all of the remaining private land sandwiched between the park and the 2,500-acre State Game Lands 323, which runs along Bald Eagle Mountain. The protected properties form a substantial portion of the park's viewshed visible from the 1,730-acre Sayer's Lake, which is the park's centerpiece.

Appalachian was also successful in facilitating the donation of a conservation easement by the other private landowner on an adjoining 115-acre property. That land is also, sandwiched between the park and the Game Lands, and adjoins existing public water and a planned public sewer connection.

All of the land is unzoned, meaning that any sort of development - residential, recreational, or commercial - could have occurred. Building lots with scenic views over lakes and other water bodies are in demand, especially in the rapidly growing State College real estate market. Therefore, a significant impact on the park's viewshed and watershed was averted.

By allowing only a handful of homes on hundreds of acres, the donation also averts major impacts, encroachments and the imposition of safety zones by many landowners on the adjoining Game Lands.

These donated development rights mark the first time that DCNR has accepted a conservation easement, with significant implications for future land protection efforts in the Commonwealth, because some areas of Pennsylvania are not yet served by non-profit land trusts, which would naturally be inclined to hold conservation easements.

This transaction also marks the first time that a for-profit real estate development company has actively pursued the acquisition of sensitive and highly valuable development land with the intention of protecting it.

Five parcels from four different owners were acquired over an 18-month period with the express intention of preserving the scenic properties from over-development. The conservation easements allow one large home, a barn, and two outbuildings to be built on each parcel. A pond, pool, horse riding ring, and tennis courts may also be built

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on each parcel, but they must be clustered together. The parcels are 18, 35, 39, 99, and 160 acres in size. Appalachian did not subdivide these heavily forested properties, and no subdivision may ever occur.

The conservation easements, which are perpetual and run with the deed irrespective of who owns the properties, require commercial forestry on each parcel according to best management practices. The forests are on a 100-year rotation and require management at 20-year intervals.

Praise from the conservation community, the Department of Conservation and Natural Resources, and the timber industry for the donation was swift and unanimous:

"The donation of these conservation easements protects the view from Bald Eagle State Park for all of our citizens to enjoy, without any required expenditure of state dollars," Department of Conservation and Natural Resources Secretary Michael DiBerardinis said. "We consider the lands that adjoin our state parks and forests very important for conservation and habitat protection, and we thank Appalachian Land & Conservation Services for their generous donation to the commonwealth."

Andy Loza, Executive Director of the [Pennsylvania Land Trust Association](#), said, "Appalachian demonstrates the power of private conservation tools and the modest tax benefits available for charitable conservation donations. Everyone wins. The public gets important scenic and wildlife areas protected. Private landowners retain land ownership. Sustainable forestry ensures a stable timber supply. The developer makes a profit. I congratulate Appalachian on its thoughtful approach to conservation and making money."

Marci Mowery, president of the [Pennsylvania Parks and Forests Foundation](#) said "The lands surrounding Pennsylvania's beautiful state parks are an increasing magnet for development. Unfortunately, there is not enough money to purchase all of the land necessary to effectively buffer our parks. Fortunately, charity-minded individuals and companies like ALCS exist and these donated conservation easements are a prime example. ALCS has done a wonderful thing at Bald Eagle State Park and I salute and thank them for their generosity and help in protecting the viewshed surrounding the third largest lake in the Pennsylvania Park system."

[Audubon Pennsylvania's](#) Executive Director, Tim Schaeffer, noted that what happens on private land can impact public lands: "Bald Eagle Ridge is a critical flyway for migrating birds of prey -- including Golden Eagles, Northern Goshawks, and Red-tailed Hawks -- and is one of Pennsylvania's 82 Important Bird Areas. In addition, Bald Eagle State Park is a birder's paradise. This donation by Appalachian Land & Conservation Services to DCNR is a wonderful statement about how development can be done responsibly and with wildlife needs in mind. Audubon commends this company for their outstanding action, and we hope that others follow where they are leading."

Paul Lyskava, Executive Director of the [Pennsylvania Forest Products Association](#), said "The Pennsylvania Forest Products Association welcomes this kind of private sector-led conservation of forested open space. The essence of the agreement maintains the land in private ownership while protecting it from future development and providing a guarantee that it will continue to be managed for the sustainable yield of timber and forest products." He concluded, "ALCS has provided a common-sense approach that minimizes government involvement, respects property owner rights,

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ensures future forests, and provides a critical on-going supply of timber to our industry, thus supporting the state's rural economy."

"The conservation easements provided by ALCS represent the use of smart-growth planning that other companies in the land development business would do well to use as an example," said state Rep. Mike Hanna(D-Clinton). "This arrangement will preserve the beautiful scenery found in and around Bald Eagle State Park, protect habitat for area wildlife, reduce stress on local watersheds, and safeguard hundreds of acres from inappropriate or harmful zoning decisions in the future," he said.

Appalachian's president and CEO, Josh First, said "Bald Eagle State Park is a special place, and like all of Pennsylvania's rugged, wide-open special places it is evocative of our nation's frontier and symbolic of our Yankee spirit. Preserving places like this as cultural touchstones is important. We will make a good profit when we sell these lands, not a killing, and a good profit is good enough." First concluded, "Smart growth development and donating conservation easements make good business sense. When conservation pays, it creates incentives to do the right thing. While we currently have the field to ourselves, we'd welcome competition."

Centre County is home to State College and Penn State University (University Park), and is rapidly growing. Bald Eagle State Park is just three minutes from the interchange of interstate highways I-99 and I-80, and takes about 20 minutes to reach from State College. Bald Eagle Creek, a high quality trout stream, runs into the park below the properties, and the Centre County Greenway runs past the properties at the foot of the mountain.

For more information contact, Josh First, [Appalachian Land & Conservation Services Co., LLC](http://AppalachianLand&ConservationServicesCo.,LLC) 717-232-8335 or send email to: jfirst1044@aol.com .

Conservation By Design Workshop Set for October 25 in Lancaster County

"[Putting Conservation in Local Codes](#)" is the theme of a Conservation By Design workshop to be held October 25 in Manheim, Lancaster County.

The [Pennsylvania Land Trust Association](#) and the [Natural Lands Trust](#) are collaborating with the [Lancaster County Planning Commission](#) to invite local officials, planning commission members, environmental advisory council members, developers and engineers to learn how communities can achieve their conservation goals through good local planning and land use controls.

Randall Arendt, a Senior Conservation Advisor to the Natural Lands Trust, will be the featured speaker.

A free copy of the 312-page Growing Greener workbook with model ordinances will be available at the workshop and, thanks to a grant from the Department of Community and Economic Development, workshop registration is \$20.

For more information, [download the workshop brochure](#) or call the Pennsylvania Land Trust Association at 717-230-8560 or send email to: nfaraguna@conserveland.org .

Middle Susquehanna River Conservation Plan Public Review Continues

Public review of the [Middle West Branch Susquehanna River Conservation Plan](#), developed by a partnership between the [Pennsylvania Environmental Council](#) and the

[Northcentral Pennsylvania Conservancy](#), continued this week in the last of several public meetings in Lock Haven.

The draft Plan covers Centre, Clearfield and Clinton counties and the stretch of the river from Moshannon Creek to Farrandsville on the West Branch of the Susquehanna River, the “missing link” area between the Upper West Branch Rivers Conservation Plan and the Lower West Branch Rivers Conservation Plan.

The Plan was put together with the help of a special steering committee that included local and county officials, watershed groups and other residents of the area to help identify resources and opportunities in the study area.

[Rivers Conservation Plans](#) inventory the environmental, cultural and economic features of a watershed to identify problems and opportunities related to a watershed as an environmental and economic resource. The plan does not affect private property rights.

When half of the 13 municipalities in the Plan area adopt resolutions of support for the Plan, the Middle West Branch will be placed on the Rivers Registry maintained by the Department of Conservation and Natural Resources. Listing on the Registry will also make the area eligible for grants to implement recommendations in the Plan.

Public comments are due by November 1.

Another round of public meetings is planned for January on the final plan, after recommendations and changes are considered from the initial public review.

A copy of the [draft Conservation Plan](#) is available online. For more information contact Leanne Beck, Pennsylvania Environmental Council at 717-230-8044, ext. 15 or send email to: lbeck@pecpa.org.

NewsClip: [Ambitious Study of Susquehanna River Unveiled River Plan Outlines Potential for Region](#)

Public Meetings Set on Conewago Creek Watershed Conservation Plan

The steering committee for the Conewago Creek Watershed Conservation Plan has scheduled a round of meetings in November to gather public comments as part of the process to develop a draft Rivers Conservation Plan for the watershed.

[The Conewago](#) covers almost half of both Adams and York counties and includes 50 municipalities.

The meetings will be held November 8 in Biglerville, November 15 in Hanover and November 22 in Dover. ([Click here for details.](#))

The Plan is being put together with the help of a special steering committee that includes local and county officials, watershed groups and other residents of the area to help identify resources and opportunities in the study area. The plan will not affect private property rights.

Residents are also being given the opportunity to submit their own ideas and comments on a [special survey form](#).

The project is sponsored by [Watershed Alliance of York County](#), [Watershed Alliance of Adams County](#), [York](#) and [Adams](#) County Conservation Districts, [York](#) and [Adams](#) County Planning Commissions, the Greater Hanover Alliance, the Departments of Environmental Protection and Conservation and Natural Resources.

The [Pennsylvania Environmental Council](#) is acting as the project manager.

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[Rivers Conservation Plans](#) inventory the environmental, cultural and economic features of a watershed to identify problems and opportunities related to a watershed as an environmental and economic resource.

When half of the 50 municipalities in the Plan area adopt resolutions of support for the final Plan, the Conewago will be placed on the Rivers Registry maintained by the Department of Conservation and Natural Resources. Listing on the Registry will make the area eligible for grants to implement recommendations in the Plan.

The [next meeting](#) of the Conewago steering committee will be held on October 24 in the East Berlin Community Center. A [timeline of planning activities](#) is also available online.

For more information contact Leanne Beck, Pennsylvania Environmental Council at 717-230-8044, ext. 15 or send email to: lbeck@pecpa.org.

PA Watersheds Data System Workshop October 29

The [Pennsylvania Organization for Watersheds and Rivers](#) will hold workshops to introduce the [PA Watersheds Data System](#) to watershed groups across the state in the coming months.

The first workshop will be held October 29 at Boyce Park in Allegheny County following a Passing Go workshop in the morning. The workshop will last from 1:30 p.m. - 3:30 p.m. at the Ski Lodge.

The PA Watersheds Data System is a project that POWR started last November with the help of the Keystone Watershed Monitoring Network Database Subcommittee.

The data system serves several functions, including providing groups who do not currently store their own data the ability to do so, and allowing groups to analyze their data in order to move forward and take action with the data. Also, because the data system is online, groups can have access to their data at all times. Groups will still maintain control over who views their data, however, through security functions built into the data system.

POWR has spent the last few months performing beta-testing on the system. This beta-testing consisted of working with 21 watershed groups and service providers from across the state to learn what needed fixed within the system and to gather ideas for future upgrades to the data system.

POWR's Program Coordinator Angie King will be on hand to walk users through the data system, demonstrating how to enter monitoring data, extract data, and analyze data with graphs and maps.

Any volunteer monitor, educator or service provider who is interested in learning more about data management is encouraged to attend the presentation.

For more information contact King at amccracken@pawatersheds.org or call 717-234-7910 by October 27 if you plan to attend.

Lebanon/Lancaster County Watershed Forum October 29

The Third Annual Lebanon/Lancaster County Watershed Forum will be held on October 29 at the Acorn Farms Banquet and Reception Hall, Mount Joy, Lancaster County.

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Featured presentations include: Watershed Management at Fort Indiantown Gap, the Economic Benefits of Limiting Livestock Exposure to Streams, Float Your Boat- the Story of the Swatara Creek Water Trail, Bog Turtles – Muck, Man and Management and How Historic Dams Have Shaped Our Local Streams Today.

Financial support for this program is provided by the Pennsylvania Association of Conservation Districts through a Section 319 grant from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.

For more information contact Matt Kofroth at 717-299-5361 ext. 5 or send email to: matt.kofroth@pa.nacdnet.net .

WREN Workshops on Protecting Drinking Water November 1, 3



The Water Resources Education Network has scheduled free [Source Water Protection Workshops](#) on November 1 in Hawley, Pike County and November 3 in Gettysburg to help drinking water suppliers, local officials, watershed groups, planners, and residents find out how to safeguard their sources of drinking water.

Protection of existing sources of water is the most cost-effective way to protect public health and control treatment costs, and recommended as an integral part of the multiple barrier approach.

Assistance and grants are available from both the Department of Environmental Protection and the Pennsylvania League of Women Voters WREN Project to help public water systems and communities develop and carry out protection and education programs.

Organizations that attend will receive a free Source Water Protection Toolkit developed by WREN.

For more information and to register online, visit the [Source Water Protection Workshop webpage](#). For questions, please call 267-468-0555 or send email to juliek@voicenet.com .

Organizational Development Workshops Available to Watershed Groups

The [Pennsylvania Organization for Watersheds and Rivers](#) announced this week a new series of workshops on organizational development will be held in November in Eastern and Central Pennsylvania.

The workshops are part of a larger leadership training initiative coordinated by POWR and funded by the Department of Environmental Protection.

The workshops are intended to address issues that confront watershed groups on a regular basis. Watershed groups, specialists, managers, and other nonprofit organization affiliated with Pennsylvania watersheds are encouraged to participate in the workshop series.

For a complete list of workshops now scheduled, visit [POWR's Watershed Weekly webpage](#).

Wildlands Conservancy Office Suffers Flood Damage, Relief Fund Created

The [Wildlands Conservancy](#) in Lehigh County has established a flood relief and office restoration campaign after its headquarters at the Pool Wildlife Sanctuary in Emmaus was flooded by recent heavy rains and overflow from the neighboring Little Lehigh Creek.

Staff and volunteers hustled to relocate the animals and birds to higher ground during the rainstorm on October 8.

Others worked in the Wildlands Conservancy's administrative offices on the lower level of the farmhouse to remove computers, desks, office supplies, and many fragile items to be used in the upcoming dinner auction, the organization's largest fund-raising event on November 18.

The power of rushing water upended animal enclosures, overturned native-plant cold frames and potting tables, and carried tons of stone, gravel, soil, and potted plants away. The Conservancy's heavily used pick-up truck was swamped and ruined.

“We’ve had floods before, but never this bad – and it happened so quickly,” Conservancy President Tom Kerr said. “Our property damage sustained by the effects of this storm is estimated to be tens of thousands of dollars.”

Contributions will be used to cover the expenses of permanently relocating the education-animal menagerie yard and the native-plant nursery to higher ground at the Pool Wildlife Sanctuary, and to cover costs of office cleaning, carpet restoration, mold remediation, and replacement of damaged stationery and office supplies.

Wildlands Conservancy is accepting donations for flood relief by mail at 3701 Orchid Place, Emmaus, PA 18049. Please make checks payable to “Wildlands Conservancy,” marked “flood relief,” and send to the attention of the Advancement Department.



EPA Awards Grant to Encourage Reduction in Pesticide Use

Region 3 of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency awarded a \$39,272 Strategic Agricultural Initiative grant to the [Pennsylvania Association of Sustainable Agriculture](#) for a project designed to encourage organic fruit production.

The project, “Toward Pesticide-Free Fruit Production: Educating Pennsylvania Producers on Organic and Sustainable Practices,” has several objectives: reducing pesticide use in crops displaying some of the highest pesticide residues; helping farmers transition to organic production in fruits with high consumer demand; and strengthening PASA's ability to serve organic and transitioning fruit producers in Pennsylvania.

Deadline for Governor’s Award for Environmental Excellence October 31

Just a reminder, the deadline to apply for the [2005 Governor’s Award for Environmental Excellence](#) is October 31.

The awards will honor Pennsylvania organizations and businesses that put in place projects that take on environmental problems in ways that build new businesses, enhance the bottom line and engage residents in a renewed commitment to investing in their communities.

Any Pennsylvania business, governmental agency, educational institution, nonprofit organization, individual or farms that has created or participated in the development of a project that promotes environmental stewardship and economic development in the state is eligible to apply.

Eligible projects must have been implemented between August 1, 2004 and July 31, 2005. Examples of projects and the categories for consideration include, but are not limited to: Environmental Technology Innovation, Pollution Prevention and Resource Efficiency, Community Revitalization, Environmental Education and Outreach, Watershed Stewardship, Mine Safety and Clean Energy Innovations and Environmental Market Development.

Winning projects will be showcased in DEP publications and articles and highlighted on the department’s website. Each winner will receive a commemorative award to display at the selected facility or site.

For more information or to download an application, visit the [2005 Governor’s Award for Environmental Excellence webpage](#).

Contractors, Construction Managers To Learn About Building Green at Workshop

Contractors and construction managers are invited to attend a December 1 workshop in Summerdale, Cumberland County to learn about LEED green building techniques.

The workshop is sponsored by the Green Building Association of Central Pennsylvania and the U.S. Green Building Council.

The half-day workshop will introduce attendees to the Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) approach to green construction.

For more information, [download the workshop brochure](#) or to register go online to the [Green Building Council website](#) (*select workshops, then modules, then the December 1 workshop*).

Central PA Churches Invited to Energy Cost Reduction Workshop

Churches in Central Pennsylvania are invited to attend a workshop on December 3 in Harrisburg on how institutions of worship can reduce their energy costs.

Andrew Rudin, experienced energy management consultant, will present specific, concrete approaches at the workshop which will be held from 10 a.m.-2 p.m. at St. Stephen’s Episcopal Cathedral, 221 North Front St., Harrisburg.

This is an ecumenical workshop open to all faiths. It will include a discussion of the universality of belief in stewardship of God’s creation.

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An optional tour of [St. Stephen's energy-efficient green school building](#) will follow the workshop.

Please RSVP by November 28 by sending e-mail to Sandy Schultz at the Diocese of Central Pennsylvania at sschultz@diocesecpa.org or call 717-236-5959 ext. 108. Please bring \$15 to cover lunch and expenses.

Wanted: Clean Energy Projects for Funding, Agricultural Energy Council Formed

The [Pennsylvania Energy Development Authority](#) now has available \$3.5 million in funding for clean energy projects. [Applications are due November 15.](#)

In addition, Gov. Rendell this week announced the formation of a [Renewable Agricultural Energy Council](#) to recommend policies, regulations and legislation that would aid in the development of renewable energy from the agriculture community.

Funding for clean energy projects is available in the form of grants, loans or loan guarantees for a variety of electric power projects, including wind, solar, biomass, waste coal, coal gasification and others. Applied research projects related to electric power also are eligible to apply.

Proposed projects will be evaluated on a variety of criteria, including their ability to promote Pennsylvania's indigenous energy resources, encourage energy diversity and enhance energy security. Projects will be judged on their potential to create jobs and stimulate investment in the Commonwealth. Potential environmental benefits, as well as technical feasibility and cost-effectiveness, also will be considered.

Legislation signed into law in July implementing the Growing Greener bond issue approved by voters provides up to \$10 million annually to the Energy Development Authority to fund projects.

For more information, go to the [PA Energy Development Authority webpage](#).

The Renewable Agriculture Energy Council was formed on September 20 when Gov. Rendell signed [Executive Order 2005-8](#).

The secretaries of Agriculture and Environmental Protection will serve as co-chairs of the Renewable Agricultural Energy Council, with the Secretary of Agriculture serving the first term, and the 23 other members will be drawn from state agencies, the agriculture community and individuals with expertise in renewable energy.

In addition to making recommendations, the Council is to serve as the Governor's liaison to the agriculture community on issues affecting the production of renewable energy, serve as a resource to all state agencies involved in this issue and provide guidance to help the industry establish the infrastructure necessary to deliver renewable energy sources to consumers in Pennsylvania.

For more information on agriculture related energy assistance, visit the www.PaGrows.com website.

NewsClips: [Gov. Rendell Creates Renewable Agricultural Energy Council](#)

EPA 2006 Vehicle Fuel Economy Guide Now Available

The [2006 Vehicle Fuel Economy Guide](#) produced by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency is now available online to help consumers make informed decisions on choosing fuel efficient vehicles.

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The Guide not only includes gas mileage comparisons, but also greenhouse gas emissions, air pollution ratings, safety information for new and many used cars and trucks.

NewsClips: [Hybrids, Diesels Rule Fuel Economy List](#)

PRC’s “Environment, Education, Energy and Economics” Awards Dinner

“Environment, Education, Energy and Economics: The 4 Es” is the theme of the Pennsylvania Resources Council’s annual fundraising and awards dinner on November 17 in West Conshohocken.

The honorary dinner chair this year is Howard B. Stoeckel, CEO of Wawa, Inc. and the keynote speaker will be Senator Mary Jo White, Majority Chair of the Senate Environmental Resources and Energy Committee.

In recognition of their achievements PRC, has selected leaders in the environment, education, energy and economics from across the Commonwealth to receive awards this year.

The award winners are Giant Eagle for its leadership in environmental programs; Waste Management for its leadership in environmental education programs; former Rep. Ellen Bard for her leadership in energy; and, Judy Wickes, from the Business Alliance for Local Living Economics, for her leadership in economics. A special award is being presented to Wallace Roberts & Todd, LLC for its leadership in sustainability.

For 66 years, PRC has been working with leaders like these to create solutions to environmental challenges and to reach out to the community through its educational programs. These programs serve to inform and encourage future leaders to take an active role in conserving our natural resources and promoting sustainable living.

Established in 1939 to reduce roadside litter and fight unsightly billboards, PRC is one of the Commonwealth’s first grassroots environmental organizations. PRC’s headquarters is in Ridley Creek State Park in suburban Philadelphia. It also has a regional office in Pittsburgh and is starting satellite operations in the Harrisburg-Lancaster region.

PRC’s programs have expanded to include resource conservation, environmental summer camps, recycling, composting, environmental lifestyle choices, watershed and air quality education, and a variety of litter prevention programs.

For information about PRC or the dinner, contact Rosemary Kesling at 610-353-1555 ext. 228, or visit the organization’s website at www.prc.org.

Annual Faraday Lecture Puts Focus on Science November 1

At the [18th Annual Faraday Lecture](#) on November 1 in Pittsburgh, you’ll see a “whiz-pop-bang” fun and educational science show for the entire family.

The presenters of this SCIENCE EXTRAVAGANZA are local educators who have been involved in science education and outreach for several years. They include Greg Gould and Clyde Clendaniel, Professors at California University of Pennsylvania, who have the ability to make science come alive!

The Faraday Lecture is named after Michael Faraday, a famous British scientist who established much of what we know today regarding the physics and chemistry of

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electricity. Faraday loved to share his enthusiasm for science with others through lectures or demonstration programs for young students.

In this spirit, the Faraday Lecture was founded by two local volunteer organizations, the Spectroscopy Society of Pittsburgh and the Society of Analytical Chemists of Pittsburgh .

In addition to this public session there will be two demonstrations for school students. For tickets for the school presentations only, contact Doris Zimmerman at 330-847-2284 or zimdoris@aol.com .

For more information on the lecture, visit the [Faraday Lecture webpage](#).

Professor Honored For Work on Microbial Fuel Cells Powered by Wastewater

[Bruce Logan](#), Kappe professor of environmental engineering, was named one of the winners of the Popular Mechanics 2005 Breakthrough Award at a ceremony recently in New York City.

He is being honored for his work with [microbial fuel cells](#), an environmentally friendly method of producing electricity or hydrogen. In addition to producing energy, Logan's method also cleans the wastewater. The award-winners and their work will be featured in the magazine's November issue.

Logan is one of only eight individuals to receive the inaugural award from the magazine.

Seven PA Students Receive NOAA Hollings Scholarships

[Hollings Scholarships](#) were awarded to seven Pennsylvania students who major in oceanic and atmospheric science programs related to the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration.

The winners are:

James P. Cipriani	Kulpmont	PA	Millersville University
Andrew L. Collier	Ft. Washington	PA	Cornell University
Steven J. Gaik	Clifton	PA	Pennsylvania State University
Holland A. Hager	New Hope	PA	Salisbury University
Alyse L. Katz	Pittsburgh	PA	Emory University
Eric C. Meyers	Ottsville	PA	Millersville University
David B. Nagle	Pine Grove	PA	Eckerd College

Hollings Scholarships were awarded to 110 students from 72 colleges and universities.

The Hollings Scholarships provide over \$28,000 to college juniors to be used during their junior and senior years. Recipients major in a discipline area related to oceanic and atmospheric science, research, technology, and education, supportive of the purposes of NOAA's programs and mission, (i.e. biological, life, and agricultural sciences; physical sciences; mathematics; engineering; computer and information sciences; social and behavioral sciences; and teacher education).

Want to apply next year? For more information go to the [NOAA Hollings Scholarships webpage](#).

School District Joins EPA’s Tools for Schools Indoor Air Quality Program

The [Governor Mifflin Schools](#) in Berks County have joined the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency’s [Tools for Schools Program](#) to help improve indoor air quality.

The District will be working with EPA Region 3 in Philadelphia to develop a plan to address poor indoor air quality by providing its staff with basic training, outreach and education.

The school district has had problems with poor indoor air quality, lack of ventilation, lack of maintenance and mold. EPA will assist with indoor air quality building assessments and technical assistance to help them develop a long term plan to address these issues.

The Governor Mifflin School District educates approximately 4,192 students and is comprised of two elementary schools, two middle schools and one high school with a total of 504 staff serving the district.

HELP WANTED – Rachel Carson Homestead Executive Director

The [Rachel Carson Homestead Association](#) in Springdale, Allegheny County is seeking an Executive Director. Resumes and salary requirements should be submitted by October 28.

The Association manages the birthplace and childhood home of ecologist Rachel Carson whose 1962 book *Silent Spring* launched the modern environmental movement.

The mission of the Association is to preserve, restore and interpret Rachel Carson’s legacy, design and implement education programs and develop resources in keeping with her environmental ethic.

Special celebrations are planned for May 2007 to celebrate [Rachel Carson’s 100th birthday](#).

To apply, send information to Rachel Carson Executive Search, Att: Amy Stiffey, 64 South 14th Street, Pittsburgh, PA 15203 or email to: AmyS@HealthyHomeResources.org

Feature

Heartland Coalition Works to Heal Middle/Upper Susquehanna Watershed

Six universities, the [Geisinger Center for Health Research and Rural Advocacy](#) and the Central Pennsylvania Forum for the Future at SEDA-COG have joined forces to form the Susquehanna River Heartland Coalition to address environmental and health problems in an area of the state they feel has been under served.

The goal is simple—to focus more attention and get more resources to solve the environmental problems in the Middle and Upper Susquehanna



Confluence of West and North Branches of the Susquehanna River at Sunbury.

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River Watershed, the area from Lock Haven and the New York border to the confluence at Sunbury.

"Two years ago we knew colleges were doing things in the Middle Susquehanna, but they weren't talking to each other," said H.W. "Skip" Wieder of Geisinger Health Systems in Danville and chair of the Coalition. "Now we're collaborating on projects, attracting funding and taking advantage of the strengths and expertise we have in this region."

The Coalition includes Bloomsburg, Bucknell, Susquehanna and Lock Haven universities and Kings and Lycoming colleges.

"We got involved at Geisinger because there is a link between health and the environment and we have a strong environmental epidemiology program," said Wieder. "We are particularly interested in the impacts of acid mine drainage and metals on water quality, drinking water, ground water and health."

The mission of the Coalition is broad, to --

- Promote collaborative community-based research opportunities between local organizations and colleges and universities;
- Create multi-disciplinary educational opportunities for undergraduates interested in the natural and cultural resources of the Susquehanna River;
- Develop shared environmental education curriculums that would involve the partner colleges and universities;
- Design and promote a Susquehanna River website to be used by the college and university partners, area K-12 teachers, and other community partners that would act as a resource for current and historical educational and community-based research projects;
- Design and implement K-12 teacher-training programs using local community-based organizations and colleges and universities; and
- Create a model for other states by creating a multi-institution and multi-disciplinary education collaboration that connects undergraduates attending institutions in the Upper and Middle Susquehanna region with local communities and environmental organizations.

Start-up funding for the Coalition came from the Central Pennsylvania Forum for the Future, the Department of Environmental Protection Growing Greener Program, the Degenstein Foundation in Sunbury and the educational institutions themselves.

Water quality problems in the Upper Susquehanna have been getting an increasing amount of attention, but only in the last few years through watershed assessments and projects funded under the Growing Greener Program starting in 2000.

There is also a growing understanding of the potential for restoration projects in the West and North Branches of the Susquehanna River to reduce sediment loads and pollution to the Chesapeake Bay and of the economic value of cleaning up this part of the watershed to promote tourism and recreation.

"A lot of people here want to solve sediment and nutrient problems in their own backyard, but didn't realize the connection to improving water quality in the Chesapeake Bay," said Dr. Mel Zimmerman, a Professor of Biology at Lycoming College. "In reality, this region is where the problems of the Bay will be solved."

Collaboration and partnership have been keys to the success of the Coalition.

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"Each school may have only one or two aquatic biologists, limited equipment and only a few students to do projects," said Zimmerman. "But by pooling our resources and faculty, we can do bigger projects and help local groups in ways that benefit the entire region."

The cooperative efforts of the Coalition have resulted in several major projects so far—

- Monitoring water quality in the lower West Branch from Lock Haven to Sunbury at 17 sites involving Lycoming and Bucknell; and
- An assessment of the effectiveness of riparian buffers to reduce nonpoint source pollution in the Chillisquaque Creek at PPL's Montour Preserve that involves planting about 60 acres by students and faculty from Lycoming, Bucknell, Susquehanna and Bloomsburg.

"Each institution brings its strengths to projects, one group does algae sampling, another plants stream buffers and shares its expertise on water quality modeling," said Zimmerman. "Students learn how sharing expertise fits into solving a common problem."

The Coalition is also looking to expand existing programs, like one at Kings College that trains K-12 teachers to integrate the Susquehanna River into their environmental education programs.

Other future projects include developing the region's first "BioBlitz" to identify local biological resources; a project pending with the National Science Foundation to teach companies sustainable business practices and an Environmental Heritage Project cataloging the environmental and cultural resources of the region

The Coalition meets monthly to update progress on projects, plan for the future and compare notes on research.

John Dawes, Administrator of the [Western Pennsylvania Watershed Program](#), said his group is looking to members of the Coalition to provide information on how best to target mine drainage cleanup projects in the region.

"We support community-based restoration projects and having the Coalition as allies and using their resources to help develop local projects is critical," said Dawes. "It's great to be able to draw on this pool of brain power."

Dawes pointed to groundbreaking research being done by Bucknell and the [Stroud Water Resource Center](#) that shows restoration of headwaters areas, like in the Middle and Upper Susquehanna River, is an effective way to dramatically reduce pollution to the Chesapeake Bay.

"Many parts of these headwaters areas do not have fully functioning streams because of the damage caused by abandoned mines," said Dawes. "Research is beginning to show that restoring these headwaters ecosystems so they can retain nitrogen and metals will prevent thousands of pounds of these pollutants from getting to the Chesapeake Bay."

More attention will be focused on this part of the Susquehanna River Watershed, courtesy of the Heartland Coalition, when "Looking to the River," a documentary by WVIA television in Pittston, will premier on November 4 at the Campus Theater in Lewisburg.

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"This is the first step in a series of programs on WVIA that will advocate the importance of the river to the quality of life in our region and the health of the Chesapeake Bay," said Wieder. "One objective of the project is to reintroduce the river to residents in the region to connect them to this great resource."

The documentary will be the first to examine issues in the Middle basin of the Susquehanna River—economic development, environmental protection and cultural preservation—through their connection to the history and heritage of the river.

This region of the state is also getting more attention from Harrisburg as well.

This year the West Branch was designated as [Pennsylvania's River of the Year](#) and the [West Branch Task Force](#) was formed to focus attention on the environmental problems and opportunities in that portion of the region.

In addition, the region has played a critical leadership role in the [Susquehanna Greenway](#)—an effort to connect natural, cultural, historic, and recreational resources along the 500-mile corridor of the Susquehanna River in Pennsylvania.

"It's amazing this bunch of biologists and geologists stuck together this long," said Zimmerman. "But we all realize pooling resources is a way to do more for our students and our communities."

For more information on the Susquehanna River Heartland Coalition, contact H.W. "Skip" Wieder, Geisinger Health System, 570-214-9392 or send email to: hwieder@geisinger.edu; Dr. Mel Zimmerman, Lycoming College, 570-321-4185 or send email to: zimmer@lycoming.edu or Scott Duncan, SEDA-COG, 570-524-4491 or send email to sduncan@seda-cog.org .

Guide to Your Good Health

Clearing Your Home of Asthma Triggers

by Donald S. Welsh

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency

Region 3 Administrator

Asthma is a serious lung disease. During an asthma attack, the airways get narrow, making it difficult to breathe. Symptoms of asthma include wheezing, shortness of breath, and coughing. Asthma can even cause death.

If you have asthma or a child with asthma, you are not alone. About 17 million Americans have asthma. Asthma is the leading cause of long-term illness in children.

The air that children breathe can make a difference. Asthma may be triggered by allergens and irritants that are common in homes. To help your child breathe easier, consult a doctor and take precautions to reduce asthma triggers in your home.

Here are some common triggers:

Secondhand smoke. Asthma can be triggered by the smoke from the burning end of a cigarette, pipe, or cigar and the smoke breathed out by a smoker. Choose not to smoke in your home or car and do not allow others to do so either.

Dust mites. Dust mites are too small to be seen but are found in every home. Dust mites live in mattresses, pillows, carpets, fabric-covered furniture, bedcovers, clothes, and

stuffed toys. Wash sheets and blankets once a week in hot water. Choose washable stuffed toys, wash them often in hot water, and dry thoroughly. Keep stuffed toys off beds. Cover mattresses and pillows in dust-proof (allergen-impermeable) zippered covers.

Pets. Your pet's skin flakes, urine, and saliva can be asthma triggers. Consider keeping pets outdoors or even finding a new home for your pets, if necessary. Keep pets out of the bedroom and other sleeping areas at all times, and keep the door closed. Keep pets away from fabric-covered furniture, carpets, and stuffed toys.

Molds. Molds grow on damp materials. The key to mold control is moisture control. If mold is a problem in your home, clean up the mold and get rid of excess water or moisture. Lowering the moisture also helps reduce other triggers, such as dust mites and cockroaches. Wash mold off hard surfaces and dry completely. Absorbent materials, such as ceiling tiles and carpet, with mold may need to be replaced. Fix leaky plumbing or other sources of water. Keep drip pans in your air conditioner, refrigerator, and dehumidifier clean and dry. Use exhaust fans or open windows in kitchens and bathrooms when showering, cooking, or using the dishwasher. Vent clothes dryers to the outside. Maintain low indoor humidity, ideally between 30-50% relative humidity. Humidity levels can be measured by hygrometers which are available at local hardware stores.

Pests. Droppings or body parts of pests such as cockroaches or rodents can be asthma triggers. Do not leave food or garbage out. Store food in airtight containers. Clean all food crumbs or spilled liquids right away. Try using poison baits, boric acid (for cockroaches), or traps first before using pesticidal sprays. If sprays are used, limit the spray to infested area. Carefully follow instructions on the label. Make sure there is plenty of fresh air when you spray, and keep the person with asthma out of the room.

Not all of the asthma triggers addressed here affect every person with asthma. Not all asthma triggers are listed here. See your doctor or health care provider for more information.

Also, house dust may contain asthma triggers. Remove dust often with a damp cloth, and vacuum carpet and fabric-covered furniture to reduce dust build-up. Allergic people should leave the area being vacuumed. Using vacuums with high efficiency filters or central vacuums may be helpful. When your local weather forecast announces an ozone action day, stay indoors as much as possible.

For more information, visit the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's [asthma webpage](#), or call EPA Indoor Air Quality Information Clearinghouse at 800-438-4318 or the National Asthma Education and Prevention Program Guidelines for the Diagnosis and Management of Asthma at 301-592-8573.

Quick Clips

[Editorial: New Fuels
Green Mountain Energy Firm Gives Up in PA
Gamesa is Planning Region's Largest Wind Farm](#)

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[Editorial: State Regulators Must Increase Energy Competition](#)
[Bucks County Considers Natural Gas Stations](#)
[DEP Awards Small Business Energy Efficiency Grants](#)
[Gas Prices Drive Commuters to the Bus](#)
[Gas and Oil Heating Costs to Soar This Winter](#)
[Saving Heat, Saving Money](#)
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[Berlin Continues to Explore Green Energy](#)
[Pittsburgh Wants Environment Friendly Casinos](#)
[Farming Alongside Suburbs](#)
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[Agreement Results in Cleaning Up 92 Contaminated Sites](#)
[Landfill Rates Encourage Frackville to Return to Recycling](#)
[PA Cleanways Tackles Biggest Cleanup Yet in Queens Run Area](#)
[Coal Lands Cleanup Means Business, Tourism](#)
[After \\$75 Million, Nuclear Site Clean](#)
[It's Easy Being Green At Rostraver Elementary School](#)
[Leave Nothing Behind But Footprints](#)
[Clarion County PennDOT Facility Wins National Environmental Award](#)
[Biologist Working to Save Rare Western PA Rattlesnake](#)
[Stewards Pass Along Passion for Wildlife](#)
[My Backyard: Meet Some Native Beauties](#)
[Op-Ed: Ballard's Unfinished Dream](#)

Watershed NewsClips

[Beaver Creek Gets Watershed Protection Funds](#)
[Editorial: A Hopeless Goal Has Been Met](#)
[Watershed Seeks Bidders for Projects – Lake Wallenpaupack](#)
[Drought Kept Deluge From Being Worse](#)
[Editorial: Don't Let the Well Run Dry](#)
[Editorial: Weekend Floods Proved Need for Water Management](#)
[Water Awareness First Step to Keep Well from Going Dry](#)
[Upper Delaware Council – Dry Summer Diminished River Levels](#)
[Paddle Fish Making Comeback in Area Rivers](#)
[Problematic Rusty Crayfish Invaded Little Juniata River](#)
[What's Killing Our Fish?](#)
[Op-Ed: Threats to East Coast Forests Are Also Threats to Water Supply](#)

Regulations

The Environmental Quality Board [meets on October 18](#) to consider a proposed rule adopting new California car standards, a petition to redesignate Tannery Hollow Run, Cameron County and a final rule delisting certain hazardous wastes ([more information](#)) and the Fish and Boat Commission adds Lehigh County Stream to Wild Trout Waters.

The Fish and Boat Commission approved the [addition of an unnamed tributary to Ontelaunee Creek](#), Lehigh County to the Class A Wild Trout Waters list.

DEP Holds First Work Group Meeting on Mercury Rule

The Department of Environmental Protection this week convened a [special work group](#) it will use to help develop a Pennsylvania-specific rule limiting mercury emissions from coal-fired power plants.

The DEP Citizens Advisory Council and Air Quality Technical Advisory Committee will also be involved in developing the rule.

As outlined by Tom Fidler, DEP's Deputy Secretary for Air, Recycling and Radiation Protection, the agency is looking to the group to provide comments from the individual members, but not a formal group report, consensus or group recommendations.

DEP's objective is to have a final rule in place by November 2006.

Twenty-three members attended the meeting including representatives of electric generators, environmental groups, labor organizations, business groups, two universities, the coal industry, generators using waste coal, the Fish and Boat Commission, Allegheny County Department of Health and the state Health Department. *(A complete list of members will be posted on DEP's [Mercury Rule webpage](#).)*

The group heard from four presenters—

- Dr. James Lynch, Penn State, gave an overview of mercury disposition in Pennsylvania measured by DEP's mercury monitoring network;
- Dr. Leonard Levin, Electric Power Research Institute, provided information on atmospheric fate and transport of mercury around the world and across the United States;
- Ray Chalmers, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Region 3, gave an overview of the federal mercury reduction rule; and
- Robert Reiley, DEP Attorney, gave a status report on mercury litigation and other state mercury legislation and regulations.

Dr. Lynch reported that Pennsylvania's mercury monitoring has demonstrated a generally declining trend in wet deposition of mercury since monitoring began in 1995. This was due in part to additional controls placed on power plants to limit sulfur dioxide emissions which also helped reduce mercury.

The pattern of deposition is also directly related to the pattern of precipitation in the state, varying dramatically not only from year to year, but from season to season. Dr. Lynch is expected to have the most recent report on mercury monitoring compiled by next month.

Dr. Lynch's presentation and the other presentations will be posted on DEP's Mercury Rule webpage in the near future.

There is a federal mercury reduction rule in place now that will reduce mercury emissions from power plants by at least 86 percent in Pennsylvania. However, the [Environmental Quality Board](#) in August voted to move ahead in developing a Pennsylvania-specific rule. DEP has called for a rule that would reduce emissions by 90 percent.

The public health threat from mercury in the air does not come from breathing it in like with smog or other air pollutants. It comes from eating fish that are contaminated

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by mercury through the contact fish have with mercury deposited from the air into water, from mercury in the water itself or from naturally occurring sources.

Pennsylvania, like other states, has issued fish advisories limiting the consumption of sport fish to help deal with the public health threat posed by mercury; that limit is [one-half pound per week](#) of sport fish caught in the state's waterways.

A tentative work group schedule discussed by DEP has the group gathering background information and commenting on a proposed rule through February, a proposed rule going to the Environmental Quality Board for consideration in March, additional consideration of public comments by the work group and then returning to the EQB in September 2006 for action on a final rule.

The next meeting of the work group is tentatively set for October 28.

For more information on the mercury rulemaking process, visit [DEP's Mercury Rule webpage](#).

[Pennsylvania Bulletin – October 15, 2005](#)

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

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

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

Technical Guidance & Permits

No new technical guidance was published this week.

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

- **October 17** – Senate Agriculture & Rural Affairs Committee hearing on alternative uses for manure and Farms to Schools Program, part of the Farmers First Agenda.
- **October 18** - House Environmental Resources & Energy Committee informational meeting on future long-term energy strategy for Pennsylvania focusing on energy supply and needs issues, and the types of energy policy activities being undertaken by other states.
- **October 18** – Senate Local Government Committee meeting on [House Bill 102](#) (Grucela-D-Northampton) relating to the approval of planned residential

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developments and [House Bill 183](#) (Ross-R-Chester) providing more local taxing options for preserving open space.

- **October 19** – House Health and Human Services Committee meeting to consider [House Bill 1588](#) (Tigue-D-Luzerne) providing for the fluoridation of public water supplies.
- **October 20** – [State Water Planning Critical Water Planning Area Subcommittee](#) meeting.
- **October 22** – [Global Warming 2005 – An Activist’s Primer](#). Paoli.
- **October 24** – Environmental Issues Forum – Joint Senate-House Conservation Committee presentation by PA Recreation & Parks Society and DCNR on implementing the State Recreation Plan.
- **October 26** – [DCNR Citizens Advisory Council](#) meeting.
- **November 4-5** – [Mid-Atlantic Volunteer Water Monitoring Conference](#). West Virginia.
- **November 16** – PA Environmental Council Awards Dinner. Harrisburg
- **November 17** – PA Resources Council Awards Dinner. West Conchohocken.
- **November 17** – House Health & Human Services Committee hearing on [House Bill 1369](#) (Sturla-D-Lancaster) relating to powers and responsibilities during a public health emergency.
- **November 18** – [Wildlands Conservancy Annual Dinner/Auction](#). Macungie.

[DEP Calendar of Events](#)

[Watershed Events](#)

(courtesy [PA Organizations for Watersheds & Rivers](#))

[Environmental Education Workshop/Training Calendar](#)

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

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

Helpful Web Links

[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@HolstonCrisci.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 Holston & Crisci and the public. Holston & Crisci is a Harrisburg-based government and public affairs firm whose clients include Fortune 500 companies and non-profit organizations. For more information on Holston & Crisci call 717-234-1716.

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