

# -PA ——— Environment Digest

*An Update on  
Environmental  
Issues in  
Pennsylvania*

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Edited By David E. Hess, Crisci Associates

October 22, 2007

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[PA Environment Digest Video Blog](#)

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## Alliance Urges Higher Priority for Energy Efficiency, Conservation – Video Blog



The [Keystone Energy Efficiency Alliance](#) this week recommended the General Assembly and the Rendell Administration give a much higher priority to programs that promote energy efficiency and conservation in homes and businesses in the debate over energy policies for the Commonwealth.

“We are here today to share our concern for the cost of home heating and cooling costs,” stated Helen Perrine, executive director of Affordable Comfort, Inc. and a leader of the KEEA group. “We believe

that it’s possible to be very bold and instead of saving our homeowners five, or ten or 15 dollars a year on energy bills, that it’s possible to save 30 percent on your annual bill.”

Liz Robinson, Energy Coordinating Agency of Philadelphia, told the press conference and [in testimony before](#) the House Environmental Resources and Energy Committee in February 2006, “Pennsylvania is allocating almost 90 percent of all current funding to treat the symptoms of this problem: high bills, and only 11 percent in ways that can actually reduce the size of the problem.

“There simply is not enough money to span the affordability gap (in energy costs) with cash,” said Robinson. “In fact, the longer we try to do so, the more time and money we will waste.”

Energy costs are expected to go up by at least 6 percent a year, which Robinson said means over the next 20 years heating costs for low income families will increase to \$8,000 a year if demand is not reduced.

**Video Blog:** [Liz Robinson Outlines Key Parts of Keystone Proposal](#)

KEEA, a new alliance of energy and environmental professionals, was formed to focus attention on the benefits of investing in efficient buildings, in part because buildings account for 30 percent of Pennsylvanian’s energy consumption.

The key elements of the Keystone Energy Action Agenda include:

- Research and planning on the best energy efficiency and renewable energy options;
- Statewide energy education program for all sectors;
- Support for Home Performance with EnergyStar and EnergyStar for Homes, including pilot programs such as the PA Home Energy program;

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- State-wide low-interest loans for energy improvements, expanding on the Keystone Home Energy Loan program;
- Training of building science professionals and technicians;
- Community-wide goals for energy conservation;
- Technical assistance and incentives for commercial and industrial buildings owners; and
- Creation of an independent organization, Efficiency PA, under the PUC, to administer energy conservation programs.

**Video Blog:** [Kathy Greely, PEC, Outlines Potential of Home Energy Savings.](#)

Other Northeast states have adopted these and other aggressive energy policies, including requiring utilities to offer more education and assistance and promoting [EnergyStar for Homes](#).

Pennsylvania utilities spend only 28 cents per capita on energy efficiency, while New Jersey spends \$10.29 and New York spends \$12.55. Investing in energy efficiency will create jobs in every community, and help Pennsylvania reach its goal to reduce consumption and costs and improve environmental impacts, particularly if it's linked to renewable energy incentives, such as solar rebates, that are targeted directly to building owners.

**Video Blog:** [Rep. Ross Proposes Energy Conservation Legislation.](#)

Participants in the press conference included: Helen Perrine, ACI, Liz Robinson, Energy Coordinating Agency, Rep. Chris Ross (R-Chester), Kathy Greely, PEC – Commonwealth Community Energy Program, Peg Finnegan, local homeowner, Peter Krajsa, AFC/Keystone Home Loan, Ben Adams, MaGrann Associates on EnergyStar for Homes, Ron Clentario, Clentano Energy Services, solar construction and Keven Warren, Warren Energy Engineering.

For more information, visit the [Keystone Energy Efficiency Alliance website](#).

The presentations in their entirety can be seen on the Pennsylvania Cable Network. For a schedule, visit [www.PCNTV.com](http://www.PCNTV.com).

**Link:** [House Committee Told Conservation Most Cost Effective Help on Energy Problems](#)

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### Session Schedule

The Senate and House will return to session October 22.

### PA Environment Digest Video Blog

#### On the Hill

- On the Senate/House Agenda/Bills Introduced
- Senate Committee Advances Alternative Energy Investment Act in Special Session
- Senate Committee OKs Waste, Detergent, Brownfields and Other Bills
- House Environmental Committee Approves Coal Miner's Day Resolution
- Environmental Forum Features Climate Roadmap for PA, Energy Conservation
- Climate Action Plan Legislation Subject of Senate Committee Meeting

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- House Committee to Consider Waste Fee, Green Building Legislation

### Other News

- Northeast Environmental Partners Recognize Local Environmental Achievements
- Penn State Scientists Part of Nobel Peace Prize-Winning UN Climate Change Panel
- Audubon PA & Penn State Team Up for International Solar Home Competition
- DEP Announces \$10 Million in Alternative Fuels Incentives Grants
- Energy Use-Reduction Grants, Workshops Sponsored by DEP
- PA Benefits From Sale of Environmentally Friendly Locomotives to Mexico
- Coca-Cola/NRC Recycling Bin Grant Program Applications Due October 26
- What Are You Doing for America Recycles Day? November 15
- Plastic Pesticide Recycling Program Reaches Million Pound Milestone
- PROP to Host 2008 National Recycling Conference, Reviews State Conference
- DEP Awards \$5.5 Million in Recycling Performance Grants
- Metal Heat Treatment Company Saves \$185,000 in Energy, Waste Costs
- EPA Honors 4 Philadelphia-Area Hospitals with Pollution Prevention Awards
- Nominations Being Accepted for the 2008 Karl Mason Award
- Application Deadline Extended for Governor's Environmental Excellence Awards
- EPA Proposes to Add Chem-Fab Site in PA to Superfund List
- Rural Water Association Now Offering Online Training
- Land Conservation Celebrated by DCNR, Conservancy, Adams County Officials
- Pennsylvania, Berks County Achieve Farmland Preservation Milestones
- Lackawanna Environmental Institute Presents Gary Alt October 25
- Game Commission 2008 Calendar on Sale Now
- Spaces Still Available for October 30 Outdoor Lighting Workshop
- Environmental Education Update Available From PA Center for Environmental Ed
- Help Wanted: Nature Conservancy, Small Business Development Centers

### Spotlight

- Service Learning Initiative Wins Governor's Environmental Award, You Can Too!

### Feature

- Halloween Special – Season of the Bat – Online Video

### Grants & Awards – **NEW SECTION!**

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

## On the Hill

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### On the Senate/House Agenda/Bills Introduced

The Senate and House have the following committee meetings scheduled next week and published voting Calendars for October 22—

### Calendars

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**House:** [House Bill 1649](#) (Barrar-R-Chester) requiring the fluoridation of public water supplies; [House Bill 1281](#) (Freeman-D-Lehigh) requiring municipalities to protect the Appalachian Trail; [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;

**Special Energy Session:** [Special Session House Bill 8](#) (Leach-D-Montgomery) providing an exclusions from Sales Tax for fluorescent light bulbs; [Special Session House Bill 11](#) (Parker-D-Philadelphia) providing an exclusion from Sales Tax for EnergyStar appliances.

**Senate:** [House Bill 43](#) (Rubley-R-Chester) providing for uniform environmental covenants for brownfields projects; [Senate Bill 1068](#) (M.White-R-Venango) requiring fines and penalties to be deposited in the Hazardous Sites Cleanup Act; [Senate Bill 1069](#) (M.White-R-Venango) requiring an annual report on the Keystone Recreation, Park and Conservation Fund; [Senate Bill 305](#) (Rafferty-R-Montgomery) amending the Solid Waste Management Act relating to repeat violations; [Senate Bill 1017](#) (Brubaker-R-Lancaster) removing the exemption for dishwasher detergent in the Phosphate Detergent Act.

**Special Energy Session:** [Special Session Senate Bill 1](#) (MJ White-R-Venango) to invest \$530 million over the next seven years in consumer energy programs, energy conservation, and the development of alternative and renewable energy.

### Committees

**House:** Environmental Resources and Energy Committee meets to consider [House Bill 934](#) (Scavello-R-Monroe) authorizing a county solid waste management fee and [Special Session House Bill 5](#) (M.Smith-D-Allegheny) creating a tax credit for high performance green buildings.

**Senate:** Environmental Resources and Energy Committee meets to consider [Senate Bill 266](#) (Erickson-R-Delaware) requiring DEP to inventory greenhouse gases and create a climate change action plan, Senate Bill 1100 (M.White-R-Venango) providing funding for the Hazardous Sites Cleanup Program (*not yet online*); Communications and Technology Committee meets to consider [House Bill 221](#) (Tangretti-D-Westmoreland) establishing a Historic Preservation Incentive Grant Program.

### Senate/House Bills Moving/Bills Introduced

The following bills saw action in the Senate and House this week--

#### Senate

**Alternative Energy Incentives:** [Special Session Senate Bill 1](#) (M.White-R-Venango) to invest \$530 million over the next seven years in consumer energy programs, energy conservation, and the development of alternative and renewable energy was reported from the Senate Special Session Committee on Energy Policies and is on the Senate Calendar for action.

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**Landfill Violations:** [Senate Bill 305](#) (Rafferty-R-Montgomery) amending the Solid Waste Management Act relating to repeat violations was reported from the Senate Environmental Resources and Energy Committee and is on the Senate Calendar for action.

**Detergent Ban:** [Senate Bill 1017](#) (Brubaker-R-Lancaster) removing the exemption for dishwasher detergent in the Phosphate Detergent Act was reported from the Senate Environmental Resources and Energy Committee and is on the Senate Calendar for action.

**Hazardous Waste Penalties:** [Senate Bill 1068](#) (M.White-R-Venango) requiring fines and penalties to be deposited in the Hazardous Sites Cleanup Act was reported from the Senate Environmental Resources and Energy Committee and is on the Senate Calendar for action.

**Keystone Fund Reporting:** [Senate Bill 1069](#) (M.White-R-Venango) requiring an annual report on the Keystone Recreation, Park and Conservation Fund was reported from the Senate Environmental Resources and Energy Committee and is on the Senate Calendar for action.

**Flood Control:** [Senate Bill 1086](#) (Regola-R-Westmoreland) amending the Flood Control Law to further provide for contracts and acquisition or property was reported from the Senate Environmental Resources and Energy Committee and then referred to Senate Appropriations Committee.

**Brownfield Covenants:** [House Bill 43](#) (Rubley-R-Chester) providing for uniform environmental covenants for brownfields projects was reported from the Senate Environmental Resources and Energy Committee and is on the Senate Calendar for action.

### House

**Signs/TreeVitalize:** [House Bill 1519](#) (McGeehan-D-Philadelphia) providing penalties for illegal posting of signs and depositing penalties in a new TreeVitalize Program Fund was passed by the House and sent to the Senate for consideration.

**Appalachian Trail:** [House Bill 1281](#) (Freeman-D-Lehigh) requiring municipalities to protect the Appalachian Trail was reported from House Appropriations Committee and is on the House Calendar for action.

**Weatherization:** [House Bill 913](#) (Vereb-R-Montgomery) authorizing additional funding for the Low-Income Weatherization Program was referred to the House Appropriations Committee.

**Tax Exclusion:** [House Bill 1186](#) (Levdansky-D-Allegheny) excluding certain EnergyStar compliant appliances from Sales Tax and other Tax Code changes was referred to the House Appropriations Committee.

**Sewage Penalties:** [House Bill 1374](#) (Saylor-R-York) amending the penalty provisions of the Sewage Facilities Act was referred to the House Appropriations Committee.

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**Wind Farms:** [House Bill 656](#) (Bastian-R-Somerset) making it easier to develop wind farms on lands preserved under the Farmland and Forest Land Assessment Act was referred to the House Appropriations Committee.

**Energy Efficient Lights:** [Special Session House Bill 8](#) (Leach-D-Montgomery) providing an exclusions from Sales Tax for fluorescent light bulbs was amended on the House floor and is on the House Calendar for action.

**Energy Efficient Appliances:** [Special Session House Bill 11](#) (Parker-D-Philadelphia) providing an exclusion from Sales Tax for EnergyStar appliances was amended on the House floor and is on the House Calendar for action.

**Plug-In Hybrids:** [House Bill 690](#) (Cohen-D-Philadelphia) establishing a Plug-In Hybrid Task Force was amended and reported from the House Appropriations Committee.

**Curative Amendments:** [House Bill 1787](#) (McIlvaine Smith-D-Montgomery) further providing for curative amendments was reported from the House Local Government Committee.

**Miner’s Day:** [House Resolution 410](#) (DeWeese-D-Greene) that designates December 19 as “Coal Miner’s Day” in Pennsylvania was reported from the House Environmental Resources and Energy Committee.

### Bills Introduced

**HSCA Funding:** [House Bill 1896](#) (Roae-R-Crawford) amending the General Appropriation Act transferring \$40 million to Hazardous Sites Cleanup Fund from certain legislative accounts.

**Landowner Liability:** [House Bill 1908](#) (Rohrer-R-Berks) encouraging landowners to open land and water areas for public recreation.

**Alternative Fuel:** [House Bill 1910](#) (Civera-R-Delaware) tax credit for qualified alternative fuel distribution expenses.

**Xenoestrogens:** [House Bill 1924](#) (Bennington-D-Allegheny) regulating xenoestrogens under the Clean Streams Law.

**Storage Tanks:** [House Bill 1930](#) (Swanger-R-Lebanon) amending the Storage Tank Act providing additional eligibility criteria for prior cleanup claims.

**Landslide Insurance:** [House Bill 1934](#) (DeLuca-D-Allegheny) establishing the Landslide Insurance and Assistance Program.

**Low-Income Weatherization:** [Special Session House Bill 33](#) (Vereb-R-Montgomery) authorizing additional funding for the Low-Income Weatherization Assistance Program.

**Drinking Water:** [Senate Bill 1109](#) (McIllhinney-R-Bucks) setting additional requirements for water systems in designated critical water recharge areas.

**Natural Gas Resources:** [Senate Bill 1127](#) (M.White-R-Venango) establishing procedures for the development of natural gas resources on state land.

**Electric Rate Mitigation:** [Senate Bill 1134](#) (Tomlinson-R-Bucks) providing for rate change mitigation, energy efficiency and demand response measurers and electric procurement. *(This is an alternative to Gov. Rendell's Energy Independence Initiative related to rate caps.)*

**Farmland Preservation:** [Senate Resolution 195](#) (Brubaker-R-Lancaster) directing the Legislative Budget and Finance Committee to review the Agricultural Conservation Easement Purchase Program.

**BioFuels:** [Special Session Senate Bill 21](#) (Dinniman-D-Chester) providing for the sale of alternative transportation fuels containing biodiesel content.

**Alternative Fuels:** [Special Session Senate Bill 22](#) (Tomlinson-R-Bucks) amending the Alternative Fuels Incentive Fund providing funding for consumer education and providing a rebate for biodiesel or other alternative fuel vehicle in addition to hybrids.

**Tax Reduction:** [Special Session Senate Bill 23](#) (Gordner-R-Columbia) reducing the fuel tax on ethanol and biofuels.

**Tax Credit:** [Special Session Senate Bill 24](#) (Gordner-R-Columbia) providing a tax credit for qualified alternative fuel distributors.

**Alternative Energy Portfolio Standards:** [Special Session Senate Bill 25](#) (Waugh-R-York) amending the Alternative Energy Portfolio Standards Act adding sugars and lignins to the definition of biomass energy and deleting generation of electricity from wood byproducts from Tier II standards.

### **Senate Committee Advances Alternative Energy Investment Act in Special Session**

The Senate Special Session [Committee on Energy Policies](#) this week reported out [Special Session Senate Bill 1](#) (M.White-R-Venango) to invest \$530 million over the next seven years in consumer energy programs, energy conservation, and the development of alternative and renewable energy.

The Alternative Energy Investment Act, introduced by Sen. Mary Jo White (R-Venango) and Sen. Robert M. Tomlinson (R-Bucks), provides funding for grants and loans to projects geared at improving energy supply and efficiency, improved conservation and reduced demand for energy – with no tax increases.

It was reported out of committee by a vote of 13-1 (Sen. Ferlo, D-Allegheny, voted no.).

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"Our focus needs to be on helping energy consumers," said Sen. Tomlinson. "Energy costs are going up, and the state should support energy conservation and alternative energy development as a long-term way to reduce the impact those rates have on Pennsylvania families."

"This package is both aggressive and balanced," said Sen. White. "We're providing a fiscally responsible approach to encouraging the development of alternative and renewable energy and energy conservation."

The senators noted that much work lies ahead to reach a consensus on legislation creating a fund to promote energy conservation and alternative energy.

Special Session Senate Bill 1 would provide:

- \$20 million annually for consumer/home energy efficiency programs.
- \$20 million annually in tax credits for investments in alternative energy production projects; and
- \$20 million annually to finance a \$250 million bond for alternative and renewable energy development, clean energy and energy conservation, and pollution control technology.

For consumers, \$20 million would be available for grants, rebates and reimbursements for:

- Purchasing energy-efficient heating and cooling units and appliances; and
- Residential energy conservation projects, including purchasing and installing:
- Solar or solar photovoltaic panels;
- Energy efficient windows and doors; and
- Insulation, air-sealing and other energy saving projects.

Tax credits totaling \$20 million would be available to facilities which:

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

Bond proceeds would be allocated in the amount of \$50 million per year over a five-year period for:

- Development of alternative and renewable energy technologies and venture capital;
- Pollution control technology projects to assist existing electric generating units meet enhanced state and federal pollution emission reduction requirements; and
- Clean energy and energy conservation projects.

Sen. Dinniman (D-Chester) expressed concern the Committee was moving such a complex piece of legislation so quickly without having hearings first, but Sen. Mary Jo White assured the Senator the Committee would have hearings on issues requested by Committee members. She did note, however, the Senate Environmental Resources and Energy Committee had numerous hearings on energy issues over the last year.

Special Session Senate Bill 1 is now on the Senate Calendar for action.

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

A summary and online video of the meeting are available on the [Senate Committee on Energy Policy webpage](#).



## Senate Committee OKs Waste, Detergent, Brownfields and Other Bills

The [Senate Environmental Resources and Energy Committee](#) this week reported out six bills on a variety of subjects including--

- [Senate Bill 305](#) (Rafferty-R-Montgomery) amending the Solid Waste Management Act relating to repeat violations, and is on the Senate Calendar for action;
- [Senate Bill 1017](#) (Brubaker-R-Lancaster) removing the exemption for dishwasher detergent in the Phosphate Detergent Act, and is on the Senate Calendar for action;
- [Senate Bill 1068](#) (M.White-R-Venango) requiring fines and penalties to be deposited in the Hazardous Sites Cleanup Act, and is on the Senate Calendar for action;
- [Senate Bill 1069](#) (M.White-R-Venango) requiring an annual report on the Keystone Recreation, Park and Conservation Fund, and is on the Senate Calendar for action;
- [Senate Bill 1086](#) (Regola-R-Westmoreland) amending the Flood Control Law to further provide for contracts and acquisition or property and was then referred to Senate Appropriations Committee; and
- [House Bill 43](#) (Rubley-R-Chester) providing for uniform environmental covenants for brownfields projects, and is on the Senate Calendar for action.

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

Sen. White said the panel will soon hold a meeting soon to vote on Senate Bill 1100, to provide a new funding stream for HSCA. Funding for HSCA was not included in the state budget approved in July, and the bill.

## House Environmental Committee Approves Coal Miner’s Day Resolution

The House Environmental Resources and Energy Committee this week reported out [House Resolution 410](#) (DeWeese-D-Greene) that designates December 19 as “Coal Miner’s Day” in Pennsylvania.

The Committee is Chaired by Rep. Bud George (D-Clearfield) and Rep. Scott Hutchinson (R-Venango) serves as the Republican Chair.

## Environmental Forum Features Climate Roadmap for PA, Energy Conservation

The October 15 Environmental Issues Forum sponsored by [Joint Legislative Air & Water Pollution Control and Conservation Committee](#) featured a presentation by Brian Hill and Kathy Greely, Pennsylvania Environmental Council, on the [Climate Roadmap for Pennsylvania](#) and the benefits of home energy conservation efforts.

Brian Hill, president and CEO of PEC, told the Joint Conservation Committee that one percent of the world’s greenhouse gas emissions comes from Pennsylvania, which would rank us 25th among all the nations of the world.

“It is clear from recent discussions in Congress and at the recent international climate change forum in Amsterdam that federal action is coming, that there is no longer any debate even in the highest political circles about whether global warming is a real and present danger to the world’s future,” Hill told the Committee.



“Pennsylvania needs to get ahead of the curve both in addressing climate change and in seizing the economic opportunities that will come from being a global leader on this issue.”

Hill praised the Committee and their colleagues for recognizing biofuel development and energy conservation as key issues that they have place atop the agenda in Harrisburg.

“We certainly need to move aggressively to make Pennsylvania a leader in biofuel development, and there’s no cheaper way to meet growing demand for energy than to conserve the energy we’re already using every day,” he said. “You’re right on in making both efforts a priority, but the opportunities for Pennsylvania go far, far beyond that.”

The Climate Change Roadmap for Pennsylvania was authored by PEC based on the input from a broad group of stakeholders from industry and agriculture to environmental advocates. That consensus-driven report contains 38 specific recommendations for what Pennsylvania needs to do to reduce its carbon emissions enough to have real impact.

Nearly 40 recommendations for reducing climate-changing greenhouse gas emissions were included in the Climate Change Roadmap, which was developed by PEC with the help of business, farm, energy generation and environmental stakeholders.

Specifically, the Roadmap:

- Sets a goal of reducing greenhouse gas emissions by 25 percent by 2025, from 2000 levels;
- Recommends capping greenhouse gas emissions and joining a nationwide system that allows the trading of credits to promote least-cost solutions to reducing greenhouse gas emissions;
- Updates the state’s 2003 inventory of greenhouse gas emissions so we have a good foundation to work from;
- Establishes a model, based on the inventory, that will help us look at the impact of alternatives for reducing greenhouse gases and their impact on achieving our goal;
- Makes 38 specific recommendations on reducing greenhouse gas emissions in several sectors: energy supply, transportation, residential, commercial and industrial buildings, agriculture, forestry, land use, on carbon sequestration and more.

“We can’t adequately address climate change in Pennsylvania unless we have a broad agenda that looks at all of these sectors – ranging from energy supply and efficiency to reforestation and carbon sequestration. And in each of these sectors, there are numerous economic opportunities if Pennsylvania can get ahead of the other states in developing solutions,” Hill said.

Kathy Greely, PEC’s [Commonwealth Community Energy Program](#), outlined the practical experience the Program has in making cost-effective energy conservation recommendations to homeowners in Northeast Pennsylvania to reduce energy costs and help combat climate change.

Rep. Scott Hutchinson (R-Venango) serves as chair of the Committee and Sen. Ray Musto (D-Luzerne) as vice-chair.

The presentations in their entirety can be seen on the Pennsylvania Cable Network. For a schedule, visit [www.PCNTV.com](http://www.PCNTV.com).

**Video Blog:** [Kathy Greely, PEC, Outlines Potential of Home Energy Savings.](#)

**Video Blog:** [PA Environmental Council Unveils Climate Roadmap](#)

## Climate Action Plan Legislation Subject of Senate Committee Meeting

The Senate Environmental Resources and Energy Committee meets next week to consider [Senate Bill 266](#) (Erickson-R-Delaware) that would require the Department of Environmental Protection to inventory greenhouse gases and create a climate change action plan through a stakeholder process.

A summary of the bill and a copy of the amendment to be considered by the Committee are available on the [Senate Environmental Resources and Energy Committee webpage](#).

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

Sen. White said the panel would also consider Senate Bill 1100, to provide a new funding stream for HSCA. Funding for HSCA was not included in the state budget approved in July.



## House Committee to Consider Waste Fee, Green Building Legislation

The House Environmental Resources and Energy Committee meets next week to consider [House Bill 934](#) (Scavello-R-Monroe) authorizing a county solid waste management fee and [Special Session House Bill 5](#) (M.Smith-D-Allegheny) creating a tax credit for high performance green buildings.

Rep. Bud George (D-Clearfield) and Rep. Scott Hutchinson (R-Venango) chair the House Environmental Resources and Energy Committee.

## Other News

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### Northeast Environmental Partners Recognize Local Environmental Achievements

The Northeast Pennsylvania Environmental Partners this week recognized local groups and individuals for their environmental achievements at their annual awards dinner.

The Partners include: Wilkes University, [Pennsylvania Environmental Council's](#) NE Office, Northeast Pennsylvania Alliance, Procter & Gamble Paper Products Company, PPL Corporation and the departments of Environmental Protection and Conservation and Natural Resources.

The winners of the Environmental Partnership Awards included:

- **Alan Gregory**, Luzerne County for his promotion through writing, of conservation and environmental issues and partnering with Hawk Mountain Sanctuary, Hawk Migration Association of North American, North Branch Bird Club, Greater Wyoming Audubon Society, Nature Conservancy and the North Branch Land Trust.
- **Bradford/Sullivan Forest Landowner's Association**, Bradford & Sullivan Counties, for its partnership efforts to educate forest landowners to manage their forest land for its highest economic, silvicultural, recreational and aesthetic uses; to encourage and to help woodlot owners find solutions to their individual problems; and to be recognized as an organized voice of forest landowners.

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- [Earth Conservancy's Leaf & Yard Waste Composting Facility](#), Luzerne County, for their five acre Leaf and Yard Waste Composting Facility located in Newport Township. During the course of the last eleven years, the Compost Facility has produced over 81,000 tons of compost from all types of yard waste, including tree branches, leaf material, grasses and brush.
- **Robert Hughes**, Luzerne County, for his work in partnering activities related to numerous environmental issues in his home community of Plymouth Township for over 10 years as well as the Northeast Region through his volunteer efforts and as his profession with the Luzerne Conservation District and the [Eastern Coalition for Abandon Mine Reclamation](#).
- **Dan Kunkle & the Lehigh Gap Nature Center**, Carbon County, for its partnering efforts which reclaimed the contaminated landscape at the Lehigh Gap and enhanced the habitat and created a new wildlife refuge
- **Gordon Wildermuth & Tom Zeterberg**, Pike County, for their partnership efforts and as strong advocates of green infrastructure planning, resource conservation, smart growth and innovative planning implementation tools have worked to address the tremendous growth pressures facing Pike County and their local municipal officials.

The Thirteenth Annual Thomas P. Shelburne Environmental Leadership Award will be presented this year to: **Professor Howard Jennings**, Lackawanna County.

Howard Jennings has been an instructor and professor of biology and environmental science at Keystone College since 1968. Professor Jennings is also Coordinator of Environmental Science and Forestry at the College, and sits on the Board of Trustees as a representative of the faculty.

He was instrumental in the establishment and operation of the [Pocono Environmental Education Center](#) and spearheaded the development of the extensive system of unpaved trails, located throughout the campus of Keystone College. This trail system promotes the forested “Woodland Campus” located along the banks of the South Branch of the Tunkhannock Creek.

In partnership with local conservation districts and non-profit organizations he coordinated the development of the [Tunkhannock Creek Watershed Atlas](#). He was heavily involved in the creation of the [Keystone College Environmental Education Institute](#), a teacher–training initiative launched in 2004.

Since 1998 Professor Jennings has served as Director of the Countryside Conservancy, a local non-profit organization devoted to land and water conservation. Professor Jennings was also instrumental in the creation of the South Branch of the [Tunkhannock Creek Watershed Coalition](#).

This year's Keynote address was given by Nancy Cole of the Union of Concerned Scientists. Nancy Cole keeps the Union of Concerned Scientists' Sound Science Initiative tuned up and running well. Sound Science Initiative is a special project designed to help scientists present accurate, credible information about global warming and other issues to policymakers and the media.

**NewsClip:** [Northeast Environmental Partners Give Out Environmental Awards](#)

**Penn State Scientists Part of Nobel Peace Prize-Winning UN Climate Change Panel**

The [U.N. Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change](#), which shares the Nobel Peace Prize with Al Gore, involves several Penn State earth scientists as members of the core Working Groups or as expert reviewers.



IPCC is a network of more than 2,000 scientists who assessed on a comprehensive and objective basis the scientific, technical and socioeconomic information relevant to understanding the scientific basis of risk of human-induced climate change, its potential impacts and options for adaptation and mitigation.

The Fourth Assessment Report "Climate Change 2007," which provide a comprehensive and up-to-date assessment of the current state of knowledge on climate change, is expected to be released soon.

There are at least four Penn State scientists on the IPCC. Confirmed so far are:

- **Richard Alley**, the Evan Pugh Professor of Geosciences, is a member of Working Group 1 (The Physical Science Basis of Climate Change) and is lead author on Chapter 4 of the Fourth Assessment Report and a contributing author on Chapter 10. He also served on the writing team for the Summary for Policymakers and the Technical Summary. His testimony to the U.S. House of Representatives Science Committee is [available online](#).
- **William Easterling**, dean of the College of Earth and Mineral Sciences and professor of geography and earth system science, is a lead author for the Working Group 2 (Impacts and Adaptation) chapter on implications of climate change for food (agriculture), forestry and fisheries. His 2007 testimony to the House Committee on Science and Technology as a representative of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change is at [available online](#).
- **Michael Mann**, associate professor of meteorology, is lead author of the 2001 Third Assessment Report for IPCC and an expert reviewer for the upcoming report.
- **Klaus Keller**, assistant professor of geosciences, is a contributing author on Chapter 19, "Assessing Key Vulnerabilities and the Risk from Climate Change," in the Fourth Assessment Report, Working Group 2, and an expert reviewer for Working Group I.

These important reports are produced every five to six years to provide a comprehensive and up-to-date assessment of the current state of knowledge on climate change. They describe progress in understanding the human and natural drivers of climate change, observed climate change, climate processes and attribution, and estimates of projected future climate change.

For more Information, visit the [U.N. Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change website](#).

### **Audubon PA & Penn State Team Up for International Solar Home Competition**

From October 12-20, [Audubon PA](#) and Penn State have teamed up to help create one of two Pennsylvania entries for the Solar Decathlon on the National Mall in Washington D.C. to help create a "solar village" where solar energy, energy efficiency, and the best of in-home design are on public display.



Twenty universities from around the globe are

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competing to win the third biennial Solar Decathlon, a week long design competition organized by the Department of Energy, with the prize going to the student team who can design, build, and operate the most attractive, effective, and energy-efficient solar-powered house.

Penn State's entry - [MorningStar](#) - incorporates a native plant garden designed by Audubon Pennsylvania to provide habitat for birds, butterflies, and other beneficial animals.

Spread throughout the site, the native plant garden is intended to attract and provide food and habitat for many Northeastern wildlife and insects, a critical component of healthy ecosystems. Plants were selected for their autumnal seasonal appeal and include native dogwoods, sunflowers, asters, and viburnum.

While the garden will not be judged in the competition, native plant species are key to a sustainable landscape because they: reduce energy expenditure (maintenance), reduce usage of municipal water, protect (or eliminate) runoff, reduce waste (e.g. grass clippings) and support birds, insects and wildlife.

In addition to the garden, MorningStar will feature John James Audubon prints, like the Ruffed Grouse (Pennsylvania's state bird). The prints will serve to connect the outdoors to the indoors, and to pay tribute to Audubon who first began drawing birds at eighteen years old while living in Mill Grove, near Philadelphia.

Following the competition, MorningStar will become a permanent exhibit at Penn State's Center for Sustainability in State College, PA. Audubon Pennsylvania will continue to collaborate with the University to create a permanent, expanded backyard habitat in close vicinity to the house.

For more information on what plant species will provide a healthy habitat in your backyard, visit Audubon At Home.

The American Institute of Architects, BP, Sprint, the American Society of Heating, Refrigerating and Air-Conditioning Engineers, and the National Association of Home Builders are title sponsors of the Solar Decathlon.

**NewsClip:** [Audubon PA & Penn State Team Up on Solar Home PSU Solar Home Debuts in D.C.](#)

**Online Video:** [Penn State's New Solar Energy Project Subject of Video Link: Two Pennsylvania Teams to Compete in 2007 Solar Decathlon](#)

### DEP Announces \$10 Million in Alternative Fuels Incentives Grants

The Department of Environmental Protection announced \$10 million in [Alternative Fuels Incentive Grants](#) to support 24 new projects that will replace nearly 95 million gallons of conventional diesel fuel with homegrown biodiesel and spur innovation in alternative fuel technologies.

The grants will leverage another \$108 million in private investment.

In addition to supporting technology advancements, the alternative fuel grants will also expand the market for homegrown fuels by providing financial incentives to producers. The program awards 5-cents-per-gallon to Pennsylvania biodiesel and ethanol producers, up to 12.5 million gallons in 12-month periods.

The grants also provide \$1.6 million in incentives for early adopters of homegrown fuels. AFIG grants reimburse municipal and nonprofit fleet operators for the added cost of

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purchasing biofuels. Because there are no mechanical changes needed for vehicle fleets to operate on the cleaner-burning biodiesel, the switch to this fuel is relatively simple. It has been shown that biodiesel reduces wear on engines and helps to cut down on maintenance expenses.

Since the grant program's inception in 1992, DEP has invested nearly \$42 million through AFIG for more than 1,000 projects in almost every county of the commonwealth. Those funds have leveraged more than \$225 million from public and private fleet operators, fuel providers and the federal government.

[A list of projects funded is available online.](#)

### Energy Use-Reduction Grants, Workshops Sponsored by DEP

The Department of Environmental Protection [this week announced](#) the opportunity for industrial and commercial businesses, institutions and municipal drinking water and wastewater treatment operations located with this Commonwealth.

The Department's Office of Energy and Technology Deployment annually co-sponsors energy-saving "Best Practices" workshops in cooperation with other sponsoring Commonwealth organizations and the Department of Energy's Industrial Technology Program. *(No list of workshop dates was included in the notice.)*

The Energy Use-Reduction Grant project will provide up to ten--\$1,000 grants to organizations of the Commonwealth that participate in the Department's co-sponsored DOE workshops and reduce energy consumption through the development and implementation of a project that applies workshop "Best Practices."

Project applications judged "best in class" by OETD staff will receive a grant. Applications will be evaluated on multiple criteria including: sustainable energy and economic benefits, technical merit, the application of workshop "Best Practices" and completeness. Applicants will have a 4-month application window following each workshop to design, implement and report project results.

Organizations participating in a workshop may only file a single project application for each workshop attended. Third party applications will not be accepted. Applications may not be faxed or electronically submitted to the Department. Postmarks will not be accepted.

DEP said applications will be available following each Department co-sponsored workshop, [will be available online](#), or by direct request to Richard Illing, Program Specialist, OETD, 717-772-5834 or [rilling@state.pa.us](mailto:rilling@state.pa.us) . Questions submitted by e-mail should include "Energy Use-Reduction Grant Project" in the title line.

### PA Benefits From Sale of Environmentally Friendly Locomotives to Mexico

The jobs of hundreds of workers at General Electric-Transportation facilities in Erie and Grove City, Pa. are being supported by the company's sale of 40 GE Evolution Series (EVO) 44AC diesel electric locomotives to Mexico, backed by an \$80.4 million loan guarantee from the Export-Import Bank of the United States.

Mexico's Grupo Ferroviario Mexicano (GFM) will lease the locomotives to its wholly-owned subsidiary, Ferrocarril Mexicano, S.A. de C.V. (Ferromex), one of the largest privately-owned railways in Mexico.

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The sale is part of GFM's order of 100 of the EVO locomotives which, according to GE, offer 40 percent reduced emissions, improved fuel economy and lower operating costs. The locomotives were the first to meet the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Tier II emissions standards.

"We are very pleased that this transaction furthers two important Ex-Im Bank missions -- to sustain U.S. jobs at companies like GE and its sub-suppliers throughout the country, and to support environmentally beneficial exports," said Ex-Im Bank Chairman and President James H. Lambright.

David Tucker, vice president of sales for GE-Transportation, said, "This transaction, assisted by Ex-Im Bank's guarantee, contributes to the sustainability of hundreds of manufacturing jobs at GE-Transportation facilities in Erie and Grove City, Pennsylvania."

"GE-Transportation is an anchor in this community, and represents our largest labor workforce," said Erie Mayor Joseph E. Sinnott. "A big part of their work is filling orders from buyers in Mexico, Kazakhstan and other global markets, and Ex-Im Bank helps make that possible." The GE locomotives for the Mexico contract are assembled in Erie, and the engines are manufactured in Grove City.

### **Coca-Cola/NRC Recycling Bin Grant Program Applications Due October 26**

The [Coca-Cola/NRC Recycling Bin Grant Program](#) supports local community recycling programs by providing bins to selected grant recipients for the collection of beverage container recyclables in public settings.

The deadline for applications is October 26.

Grants will be provided to a limited number of applicants who can demonstrate how their proposals will lead to sustainable recycling opportunities. The grant program is open to government, civic, school, non-profit groups and for-profit companies.

Applications are available only online. The awards will be announced on [America Recycles Day-- November 15](#).

### **What Are You Doing for America Recycles Day? November 15**

The National Recycling Coalition this year is celebrating [America Recycles Day](#) on November 15 as a way to remind the public of the valuable role recycling plays in conserving resources and energy.

In Pennsylvania, the largest state to require curbside recycling, we collected a record 4.86 million tons of municipal waste for recycling or composting in 2005, saving consumers and industries nearly \$263 million in waste disposal costs and providing businesses with materials valued at \$577 million.

Local recycling program income from recycling aluminum and plastic beverage containers alone is estimated at about \$55 million annually.

And Pennsylvania's community-based, curbside recycling programs are expanding by using concepts like those pioneered by [RecycleBank](#).

RecycleBank has already helped neighborhoods in Philadelphia triple the participation and the amount of material they recycle resulting in significant savings in landfill disposal costs to the city.



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The RecycleBank idea is simple, it provides people with an incentive for recycling more their waste by giving them up to \$25 per month in redeemable coupons they choose. The more they recycle, the more coupons they get.

Learn more by going to the [America Recycles Day webpage](#), try out the [Recycling Calculator](#) to help determine how recycling contributes to protecting the environment and take the [Recycling Pledge](#).

For more information on recycling in Pennsylvania, visit the [DEP Recycling webpage](#) or checkout what's being [recycled in your municipality](#).

**Links:** [RecycleBank Triples Recycling in Philadelphia Neighborhoods](#)  
[Controller Recommends RecycleBank to Boost Recycling in Philadelphia](#)

### **Plastic Pesticide Recycling Program Reaches Million Pound Milestone**

The Department of Agriculture's [Plastic Pesticide Container Recycling Program](#) has reached a milestone, recycling 1 million pounds of plastic the agency announced this week.

"This milestone represents a significant achievement in our efforts to help preserve Pennsylvania's environment and improve pesticide stewardship in the agricultural community," Agriculture Secretary Dennis Wolff said. "The recycling program offers pesticide applicators and businesses a free, easy and responsible way of disposal; currently averaging more than 130,000 pounds of recycled material annually."

Launched in 1994, the program collects plastic pesticide containers from all categories of licensed pesticide applicators and custom application businesses. A total of 161 recycling partners in 55 counties statewide serve as pick-up stations for empty, triple-rinsed containers.

Among the uses for the recycled plastic are fence posts, pallets, speed bumps, marine pilings, and field drain tiles.

In 2004, the program was presented the stewardship award for program innovation by The Pesticide Stewardship Alliance, an organization of state and federal agencies, pesticide manufacturers, pesticide disposal and recycling contractors, container manufacturers and end-users, serving international stewardship needs in all phases of the pesticide life cycle.

Deputy Secretary Cheryl Cook and local officials celebrated the milestone at the Union Mill division of Chemgro Fertilizer Co. Inc. in Mifflin County. Union Mill has been a participant in the plastic pesticide container recycling program since it became available in Mifflin County in 1995 and averages 2,000 pounds recycled per year.

For more information visit the [Plastic Pesticide Container Recycling Program webpage](#).

### **PROP to Host 2008 National Recycling Conference, Reviews State Conference**

The [Professional Recyclers of Pennsylvania](#) announced this week they will be Recycling Organization Host for the [2008 National Recycling Coalition Congress & Expo](#) in Pittsburgh on September 21-24, 2008.

PROP also announced their 18th Annual Conference in Gettysburg from July 30 - August 1, 2008 at the newly completed Wyndham Hotel, Gettysburg.

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As always, PROP, in conjunction with The Pennsylvania State University, will conduct Professional Certification classes for recycling professional continuing education credits. Other educational sessions will be offered during this well-attended event.

PROP's 17th Annual conference held in late July 2007 at the Radisson Hotel Valley Forge was a success, having been attended by over 300 recycling professionals and state dignitaries.

During the three day event, Rep. Carole Rubley (R-Chester) spoke about current legislation regarding recycling funding.

Bill Heenan, President of The Steel Recycling Institute addressed the PROP attendees. Heenan demonstrated the importance of recycling for many reasons, and stressed that using recycled materials for new products saves billions of dollars in energy. This energy savings affects citizens in many aspects of daily life from budget challenges to homeland security.

Department of Environmental Protection Secretary Kathleen McGinty spoke at the PROP Annual Meeting and Banquet. Her comments included the need to reduce greenhouse gas emissions. She noted the importance of educating the public about how recycling helps to lower GHGs.

PROP was pleased to welcome Gov. Rendell to the closing day Brunch. The Governor continues to speak on PROP's stance regarding recycling being key to Pennsylvania's future.

Representing Pennsylvania's recycling and solid waste professionals as a nonprofit organization dedicated to the promotion and enhancement of recycling and recycling programs across the state through education, information exchange, technical support, applied research and coordination of recycling industry and market development initiatives, PROP is the state's affiliate to the National Recycling Coalition with a current membership of nearly 700 recycling, composting and solid waste professionals representing both the private and public sectors. PROP has been recognized nationally for their educational and legislative efforts and expertise in the recycling field.

For more information, visit the [Professional Recyclers of Pennsylvania webpage](#).

### **DEP Awards \$5.5 Million in Recycling Performance Grants**

The Department of Environmental Protection this week awarded more than \$5.5 million in recycling performance grants to 267 municipal recycling programs across the state.

The Commonwealth's commitment to recycling has helped lead to record collection levels. In 2005, Pennsylvanians recycled a record 4.86 million tons of municipal waste, saving consumers and industries nearly \$263 million in waste disposal costs and providing businesses with materials valued at \$577 million. The grants awarded reflect 2005 collections.

DEP has approved 552 of the 800 performance grant applications received for calendar year 2005 recycling. The remaining applications are being reviewed and additional grant awards may be announced in the coming months.

[A list of grant award winners is available online.](#)

### **Metal Heat Treatment Company Saves \$185,000 in Energy, Waste Costs**

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[Metlab Potero](#), Montgomery County, realized a savings of \$185,000 including an increase in production in the three years since implementing energy saving and waste reduction projects.

The company received a \$35,700 loan from the [Small Business Pollution Prevention Assistance Account](#) to install a new high-efficiency compressed air system to replace their inefficient system. The system has helped the business save money by reducing the amount of lubricating oil used, the amount of oily condensate waste generated as well the amount of electricity consumed.

Metlab Potero uses heat treatment to change the characteristics of metals, for example hardening them.

During the last three years, Metlab has reported saving 2,200 gallons of lubricating oil, 40,000 gallons of oily condensate and 1,016,400 kilowatts of electricity. In addition, the company has reported lower maintenance costs, reduced labor costs as well as lower waste disposal costs.

The company has realized a savings of \$185,000.00 including an increase in production in the three years since implementing their project.

The company has achieved its projected payback timeframe and the savings have already paid for the cost of the project. This was the first of two projects that were financed through the loan program by Metlab. The first project involved the installation of a new cooling water collection and recovery system.

For more information, visit DEP's [Small Business Pollution Prevention Assistance Account webpage](#) or contact Gene DeVecchio at 717-772-8951 or send e-mail to: [gdelvecchi@state.pa.us](mailto:gdelvecchi@state.pa.us).

### **EPA Honors 4 Philadelphia-Area Hospitals with Pollution Prevention Awards**

In a ceremony this week at the annual meeting of the Delaware Valley Healthcare Council, EPA Regional Administrator Donald S. Welsh presented Trailblazer Awards to Abington Memorial Hospital, Albert Einstein Healthcare Network, Holy Redeemer Health System, and Thomas Jefferson University Hospital for their environmental leadership.

“As its name implies, this new award recognizes hospitals, that are truly blazing the trail so that other hospitals may build on their success and implement similar programs a bit more easily,” Welsh said.

“These Philadelphia-area hospitals deserve credit for taking positive steps to reduce waste, improve indoor air quality, and invest in reusable rather than disposable products,” Welsh added.

The four winners are participants in EPA’s [Partnership for Sustainable Healthcare](#), a voluntary program focusing on pollution prevention and waste reduction at health care facilities. By becoming a PSH partner, a hospital commits to setting priorities and goals to reduce its environmental impact on patients, workers and the surrounding community.

At Albert Einstein Healthcare Network, a plastic material in intravenous tubing, blood bags and other products used in neonatal intensive care units is being eliminated. The plastic, DEHP or di(2-ethylhexyl) phthalate, can leach a hormone-like chemical that has been linked to reproductive problems.

Abington Memorial Hospital has brought together manufacturers, suppliers, group purchasing organizations and hospital executives to take advantage of their combined buying power in developing environmentally-preferable purchasing.

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Holy Redeemer Health System is implementing innovative waste reduction practices, including food composting and its reuse in landscaping.

Thomas Jefferson University Hospital is in the process of implementing sustainable food practices throughout its patient and staff food operations.

The EPA also recognized 20 hospitals in the Philadelphia-area that are actively working to reduce pollution through the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection's Green Hospitals Initiative, which also includes the Health Care Improvement Foundation and the Women's Health and Environmental Network as partners. This partnership was funded by a \$78,500 EPA grant in 2006.

Medical care in the U.S. is one-seventh of the nation's economy. Working with hospitals, to find solutions for reducing pollution can make a difference in environmental health and their financial bottom line.

The 20 hospitals participating in the Green Hospitals Initiative include: Abington Memorial Hospital, Albert Einstein Healthcare Network, Bryn Mawr Hospital, Central Montgomery Medical Center, Chestnut Hill Hospital, The Children's Hospital of Philadelphia, Doylestown Hospital, Eastern Regional Medical Center, Fox Chase Cancer Center, Holy Redeemer Health System, Lankenau Hospital, Lower Bucks Hospital, Mercy Suburban Hospital, Methodist Hospital, Nazareth Hospital, Paoli Hospital, Pennsylvania Hospital, Presbyterian Medical Center, St. Mary Medical Center and Thomas Jefferson University Hospital

### Nominations Being Accepted for the 2008 Karl Mason Award



The [Pennsylvania Association of Environmental Professionals](#) are now accepting nominations for the [2008 Karl Mason Award](#). Nominations are due March 31.

Each year, at the PAEP Annual Meeting and Conference, the Karl Mason Award is presented to meritorious nominees selected by the Board from two general categories: an individual who has demonstrated exemplary leadership in the field of environmental management and an organization, project or program that has made a significant contribution toward maintenance or restoration of Pennsylvania's environmental quality.

Nominations should include a complete concise description of the individual, organization, project or program, specifically outlining the accomplishments and/or attributes warranting this prestigious recognition.

Please forward entries (e-mail preferred) to: PAEP 174 Crestview Drive, Bellefonte, PA 16823 or send email to: [info@paep.org](mailto:info@paep.org).

For more information, visit the [2008 Karl Mason Award webpage](#).

### Application Deadline Extended for Governor's Environmental Excellence Awards

The deadline to submit applications for the 2008 [Governor's Award for Environmental Excellence](#) has been extended to November 2.

The award is open to any Pennsylvania business, governmental agency, educational institution, nonprofit organization, individual or farm that has created or participated in the

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development of a project that promotes environmental stewardship and economic development in the state.

"Businesses and organizations are taking on environmental challenges in innovative ways that create new economic opportunities for our people, enhance the bottom line, and engage residents in a renewed commitment to community revitalization," said Environmental Protection Secretary Kathleen A. McGinty. "These groups are improving the quality of life in Pennsylvania, and are helping to make clean energy the cornerstone of our 'new energy economy.' We want to recognize that leadership."

Eligible projects for the 2008 Governor's Award for Environmental Excellence must have been completed between August 1, 2006, and July 31, 2007.

The project 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.

Projects will be evaluated based on environmental protection, teamwork, public service, environmental education and outreach, pollution prevention, economic impact and innovative technology.

Recipients of the 2008 Governor's Award for Environmental Excellence will be presented with a unique award at a press event at the winner's location. In addition, the winning projects will be showcased in numerous DEP publications and editorials and highlighted on the department's Web site.

Visit the [2008 Governor's Award for Environmental Excellence webpage](#).

### **EPA Proposes to Add Chem-Fab Site in PA to Superfund List**

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency this week proposed the addition of the former Chem-Fab plant site to the Superfund National Priorities List. The site is located on North Broad Street in Doylestown, Bucks County, Pa.

The NPL is a national list of sites where hazardous contaminants could impact public health and/or the environment. NPL sites undergo a thorough investigation to determine the full nature and extent of the contamination. EPA or the parties responsible for the contamination will then address whatever risks the site poses to human health or the environment.

Once a site is proposed for inclusion on the NPL, there is a 60-day comment period. A final decision on listing will be made after EPA has evaluated and responded to all the public comments in writing.

Chem-Fab operated an electroplating facility on the site from 1965 to 1978 and a metal processing plant there from 1965 to 1994. Ground water beneath the former Chem-Fab facility and adjacent properties is contaminated with trichloroethane and hexavalent chromium. TCE was used as an industrial solvent and is considered to be a probable human carcinogen. Concentrations of TCE exceeding federal drinking water standards were detected in residential and municipal wells within one-half mile of the site.

In 1991, EPA connected eight residential wells and two businesses to a public water supply due to contamination of their wells. A public water supply well was also closed due to the presence of contamination. From 1994 to 1995, EPA removed and disposed of 117 drums of wastes and an additional 8,400 gallons of liquid waste under the Superfund removal program.

For more information, visit the [EPA Superfund Sites in PA webpage](#).

### **Rural Water Association Now Offering Online Training**

The Pennsylvania Rural Water Association is [offering online courses](#) in conjunction with SunCoast Learning Systems Inc. to make it easier for water and wastewater operators to complete their training requirements.

Through PRWA Online Learning, operators have the freedom to learn from home, the office or local library. Training can be accessed directly from a personal computer using an Internet connection. The association currently has five online courses worth 10 DEP Contact Hours each.

In addition, the association continues to offer its specialized classroom training sessions. Visit the [Pennsylvania Rural Water Association website](#) to learn about both classroom and online learning opportunities.

### **Land Conservation Celebrated by DCNR, Conservancy, Adams County Officials**

Department of Conservation and Natural Resources Secretary Michael DiBerardinis this week presented \$214,000 in grants toward the conservation easement acquisition of land in Adams County.

The grants were presented to the [Land Conservancy of Adams County](#) for the purchase of the 383-acre Penn Forestry Conservation easement in Franklin Township, Adams County.

"This is exactly what our community conservation partnerships program grants are designed to promote — people working together toward a shared goal," said Secretary DiBerardinis. "Here we have land owners, county and township officials, and a conservancy all united to preserve a tract of land that stands as a keystone in the county's bid to foster open space preservation, watershed protection and passive recreation."

The DCNR secretary was joined by conservancy and local officials at a ceremony on the Penn Forestry tract off Bottom Road in the village of Orrtanna, Franklin Township. The tract is part of a 500-acre parcel earmarked for open space preservation.

"Three generations of owners have worked with the Land Conservancy of Adams County to permanently preserve more than 500 acres in Franklin Township," Secretary DiBerardinis said. "The owners wanted to make sure that the land that has been owned by the Bennett family since 1987 would remain essentially the way it is."

The easement would protect a watershed that extends to the Chesapeake Bay while continuing to afford limited public access to the property for hiking, bird watching and other passive recreation.

"The 400,000-acre-South Mountain region in Adams, Cumberland, Franklin and York counties is truly blessed, but it is a fragile environment that must be protected," said Secretary DiBerardinis. "I commend the land conservancies and county and local officials in the four counties who are demonstrating a coordinated commitment to preserve open land and enrich lifestyles for all residents."

### **Pennsylvania, Berks County Achieve Farmland Preservation Milestones**

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The [Farmland Preservation Board](#) set a new record this week by permanently preserving 7,122 acres on 75 farms, the most ever approved in a single meeting. The approved farmland included 14 Berks County farms, which gives the county a statewide high of 50,000 acres preserved.

The 75 farms preserved this week are located in 22 counties: Adams, Berks, Bucks, Carbon, Chester, Columbia, Cumberland, Dauphin, Erie, Fayette, Franklin, Lackawanna, Lancaster, Lehigh, Luzerne, Lycoming, Montgomery, Northampton, Northumberland, Schuylkill, Susquehanna and York.

"We are extremely proud to announce the preservation of more than 50,000 acres of Pennsylvania farmland in Berks County," said Agriculture Secretary Dennis Wolff. "The Commonwealth's longstanding history of leadership in agriculture is evident with our continued success of the farmland preservation program. Today's milestone strengthens that reputation, ensuring that agricultural land will be available for future farmers."

Pennsylvania is the national leader in farmland preservation, with 3,348 farms and 372,676 acres preserved. Under the department's farmland preservation program, Berks County leads the state in the number of acres preserved and ranks second in farms preserved with 52,509 acres and 484 farms. Since 1989, the state has committed more than \$60 million to Berks County's farmland preservation efforts, supplementing the county's \$61.8 million contribution.

The state's farmland preservation program works through the Pennsylvania Agricultural Conservation Easement Purchase Program, which was developed 18 years ago to help slow the loss of prime farmland to non-agricultural uses. The program enables state, county and local governments to purchase conservation easements, also called development rights, from owners of quality farmland.

### **Lackawanna Environmental Institute Presents Gary Alt October 25**

Internationally known wildlife biologist Dr. Gary Alt will give a local and global perspective on how our wildlife and human communities have changed during an October 25 program called, "Our Environment, Our Community, and Our Future."

The program is sponsored by the Lackawanna College Environmental Institute and will be held starting at 7:00 p.m. at the North Pocono High School Auditorium, Moscow, Pa.

Dr. Alt will give an informative and entertaining program on how his home town of North Pocono has changed over the years and how wildlife management played positive and negative roles in how we shaped our community. He will also talk about trends and the direction of wildlife and human communities and how they can work best together for the benefit of all.

Contact Joyce Hatala, Director of the Lackawanna College Environmental Institute, for more information by sending email to: [HatalaJ@lackawanna.edu](mailto:HatalaJ@lackawanna.edu) .

### **Game Commission 2008 Calendar on Sale Now**

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As Pennsylvanians plan for the holiday gift-giving season, the Game Commission unveiled its 2008 calendar, priced at \$8.95 (plus tax and shipping), available in "[The Outdoor Shop](#)" on the agency's website and at all Game Commission offices.

The 2008 calendar provides a listing of approved season dates from January 1-June 30, and tentative season dates for July 1-December 31, as well as a reminder about National Hunting and Fishing Day in September.

The 2008 calendar features a year's worth of dramatic wildlife photos taken by current and retired agency employees, including: Willard C. Hill, retired Game Lands Management Supervisor in the Southcentral Region; Timothy C. Flanigan, retired Bedford County Wildlife Conservation Officer; Jacob Dingel, radio dispatcher in the Northwest Region Office; Coy D. Hill, retired Deputy Wildlife Conservation Officer from Fulton County; and Lori Richardson, Wildlife Conservation Education Specialist in the Harrisburg headquarters.

Each month features a full-color photo of a different wildlife species. This year's subjects are: a gray squirrel; a redhead duck; a common snipe; a great blue heron; a ruffed grouse; a beaver; a trio of barn owls; a groundhog; a bugling male elk silhouetted against a cloudy sky; a white-tailed buck rubbing its antlers; a Canada goose preparing to land; and a flying bald eagle.

The calendar also provides a brief overview of the Game Commission and a list of contact information for the agency's Harrisburg headquarters and six region offices.

### **Spaces Still Available for October 30 Outdoor Lighting Workshop**

The [Pennsylvania Outdoor Lighting Council](#) and the Department of Environmental Protection said this week there are still spaces available for the October 30 Outdoor Lighting Workshop.

The event begins at 7 p.m. at the West Goshen Township Building, 1025 Paoli Pike in West Chester.

The program will help define good and bad outdoor lighting, showcasing equipment to help reduce glare and light pollution, and provide tools for communities to protect themselves against irresponsible lighting practices. There will also be an important discussion on the elements of an effective lighting ordinance and the process of getting such an ordinance enacted and enforced in your community.

Participants will be provided information on energy waste, light trespass and ways to save on utility bills.

Although the program will focus mainly on the needs of municipal officials, it is open to interested members of the general public as well. To register, contact DEP's Jim McTish at 484-250-5180 or by email at [jmctish@state.pa.us](mailto:jmctish@state.pa.us).

### **Environmental Education Update Available From PA Center for Environmental Ed**

The Pennsylvania Center for Environmental Education this week provided Senate and House members with its quarterly newsletter, [Environmental Education Update](#).

PCEE reported that its website received over 3.5 million visits over the last year, 11,500 people subscribe to its monthly EE Connections newsletter and more than 450 environmental education providers were served by PCEE over the last year.



The Center noted legislation that would establish the Center in law—[Senate Bill 356](#) (M.White-R-Venango)—passed the Senate unanimously and was reported out of the House Environmental Resources and Energy Committee and now awaits action by the House Appropriations Committee.

[The entire newsletter is available online.](#)

For more information on environmental education, visit the [PCEE website](#).

### **Help Wanted: Nature Conservancy, Small Business Development Centers**

The Nature Conservancy is seeking a Director of Government Relations and the Small Business Development Center at The Wharton School seeks an Environmental Consultant to provide environmental consulting assistance to small businesses statewide through the Pennsylvania SBDC Environmental Management Assistance Program.

[More information is available online.](#)

## **Spotlight**

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### **Service Learning Initiative Wins Governor’s Environmental Award, You Can Too!**

Earth Force Inc. won the Governor’s 2007 Environmental Excellence Award for its work to educate and engage students and help teachers better understand environmental matters.

“From the [Delaware Valley](#) to [Lake Erie](#), Earth Force is making a difference,” said Environmental Protection Secretary Kathleen McGinty. “Its innovative service learning program nurtures environmental interest in young people. By instilling a sense of environmental awareness among our children, we’re raising a new generation of stewards who will protect our natural resources. And by helping teachers better understand environmental issues, the group is making sure future generations will receive the same valuable lessons.”

From August 1, 2005, to July 30, 2006, Earth Force engaged 4,000 young Pennsylvanians in environmental problem solving, generated 84 youth-driven environmental action projects, and prepared 350 Pennsylvania teachers to improve environmental literacy in 70 schools and after-school sites from Philadelphia to Erie.

Through its community action and problem solving program, Earth Force educators guide students in implementing environmental action projects that benefit Pennsylvania’s communities. Projects include urban greening efforts, water quality improvements, community waste management and recycling, habitat restoration and energy conservation.

The Earth Force program aims to foster critical thinking skills among young people by interacting with experts, exploring different points of view and balancing costs and benefits. Young people are encouraged to look for long-term solutions by evaluating public policies and community practices, and examining the combined human activities that impact the environment.

During the 2005-2006 school year, about 55 percent of Earth Force students came from economically disadvantaged families.

“The Earth Force approach is unique because it gets young people to think like scientists and act like citizens,” said Secretary McGinty.

The Governor’s Award for Environmental Excellence honors Pennsylvania organizations and businesses that put in place projects to tackle environmental problems,

help build new businesses, enhance the bottom line and engage residents in a renewed commitment to investing in communities.

For more information, visit the Earth Force webpages for [Delaware Valley](#) and [Lake Erie](#) chapters.

The deadline to submit applications for the 2008 [Governor's Award for Environmental Excellence](#) has been extended to November 2.

## Feature

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### Halloween Special – Season of the Bat – Online Video

This Halloween learn the real story behind bats and their benefits in this special “[Season of the Bat](#)” webpage by the GreenTreks Network.

[An online video](#) dispels the myths and explains the facts behind one of nature’s most interesting creatures.



## Grants & Awards

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

- **October 22** – DEP [Coastal Zone Management Grants](#).
- **October 26** – [Coca-Cola/NRC Recycling Bin Grant Program](#).
- **October 31** – Fish & Boat Commission [Valley Creek Trustee Council Grants](#).
- **October 31** – Fish & Boat Commission [Nominations for Abele and Mahon Awards](#).
- **October 31** – NOAA [Open Rivers Initiative Grants](#).
- **November 1** – DEP [Recycling Markets Infrastructure Grants](#).
- **November 2** – **EXTENSION**. [Governor’s Award for Environmental Excellence](#).
- **November 27** – PennVEST [Infrastructure Loans/Grants for January 22 Meeting](#).
- **November 30** – DEP [New or Innovative Water/Wastewater Grants](#).
- **December 14** – [Coldwater Heritage Partnership Grants](#).
- **December 15** – DEP [Environmental Education Grants](#).
- **January 4** – [PA Conservation Corps Grants](#).
- **February 1** – PA Land Trust Assn. [Government Leadership Award Nominations](#).
- **February 19** – PennVEST [Infrastructure Loans/Grants for April 15 Meeting](#).
- **March 31** – **NEW**. PAEP [Karl Mason Environmental Award](#).

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

## Quick Clips

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

## PA Environment Digest – Crisci Associates

[Northeast Environmental Partners Recognize Environmental Achievements](#)  
[Class on Environment Takes Real World Approach](#)  
[Former Dump Site Offers Backdrop for In-Service Day](#)  
[Foliage Worth Seeing in Person](#)  
[Bartram Trail Includes Areas Rich in Wildlife](#)  
[Extending Rate Caps Could Harm Utilities](#)  
[PSU Solar Home Debuts in D.C.](#)  
[School District Energy Plan Could Save Taxpayers \\$1 Million](#)  
[Sheetz Customers Shy Away from E85](#)  
[Op-Ed: Embrace Wind as One New Energy Source – Gov. Schweiker](#)  
[Commissioners Review LED Energy Efficient Signal Proposal](#)  
[Op-Ed: The Case for Coal](#)  
[Editorial: Climate Change](#)  
[EPA Honors Development Ordinance](#)  
[Carbon Builders Learn New Technology](#)  
[Op-Ed: Bucks Should Vote Yes on Open Space Question](#)  
[Berks County Now 3rd in Nation for Farmland Preservation](#)  
[Editorial: Time to Reclaim Pittsburgh, One Yard at a Time](#)  
[Editorial: 29-Year Effort Pays Off in Farmland Preservation](#)  
[Amish Farmers Eye Preservation Programs](#)  
[Green Light for Lancaster Greenway](#)  
[Carbon to Transfer Land to Protect Canal-Trail Grant](#)  
[PA Could Allow Drilling to Resume in State Forests](#)  
[Crumb Rubber Technique Has Dual Purpose](#)  
[2007 Lead Ban Surveillance Program Shows Results](#)  
[Coal Mine Owner Cited, Commits Suicide](#)

### **Watershed NewsClips**

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

[Land Swap Marks Latest Step to Improve Youghiogheny River Watershed](#)  
[Preservation Made Plan – Octoraro Watershed](#)  
[Special Equipment Used to Remove Iron from Redstone Creek](#)  
[Alcosan to Raise Rates 10% in New Year](#)  
[DEP to Study Swiftwater Creek Watershed](#)  
[A Roof Grows in Manheim](#)  
[Focus on Stormwater Runoff in Potter County](#)  
[Pike County Working on Stormwater Management Plan](#)  
[Banks of Bushkill Creek to Get New Lease on Life](#)  
[Local Company Develops System for Manure Management](#)  
[DEP Hires Noise Expert to Evaluate Allegheny River Dredging Work](#)

### **Regulations**

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The Department of Environmental Protection published an update of the credits available on its emission reduction credit registry ([PA Bulletin, page 5662](#)) and the Environmental Quality Board met and approved several new rulemakings (*details below*).

The Environmental Quality Board this week approved proposed rules on diesel truck idling, proposed changes to water quality standards, the water quality toxics management strategy, siting of landfills, took action on a petition to redesignate a Monroe County watershed and received a report on the Vehicle Emissions Inspection Program. (*See the [October 16 meeting agenda](#) for details.*)

**NewsClip:** [Diesel Idling Regulation Approved for Comment](#)

[Pennsylvania Bulletin – October 20, 2007](#)

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

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

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

### **Technical Guidance & Permits**

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The Department of Environmental Protection gave [notice it is reissuing](#) a beneficial use general permit for waste foundry sand.

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

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

### **Calendar of Upcoming Events**

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

- **October 23 – NEW.** Senate Environmental Resources and Energy Committee meets to consider [Senate Bill 266](#) (Erickson-R-Delaware) requiring DEP to inventory greenhouse gases and create a climate change action plan, Senate Bill 1100 (M.White-R-Venango) providing funding for the Hazardous Sites Cleanup Program (*not online yet*). Room 8E-B East Wing. 10:30.
- **October 23 – NEW.** House Environmental Resources and Energy Committee meeting to consider [House Bill 934](#) (Scavello-R-Monroe) authorizing a county solid waste management fee and [Special Session House Bill 5](#) (M.Smith-D-Allegheny) creating a tax credit for high performance green buildings. Room G-50 Irvis Building. 9:00.
- **October 23 –** DEP [Nonpoint Source Liaison Workshop](#) meeting. Room 105 Rachel Carson Building, Harrisburg. 10:00. Contact: Steven Lathrop, 717-772-5618 or send email to: [slathrop@state.pa.us](mailto:slathrop@state.pa.us) .

## PA Environment Digest – Crisci Associates

- **October 23** – [DEP, PennVEST public meeting](#) on proposed FY 2007 Intended Use Plans for drinking water, wastewater treatment and pollution abatement under federal Drinking Water and Clean Water Revolving Fund. Auditorium, Rachel Carson Building. 1:00.
- **October 23** – **NEW**. DEP Critical Water Planning Area Subcommittee, [State Water Plan Statewide Committee](#). 10th Floor Conference Room, Rachel Carson Building. 10:00.
- **October 24** – **NEW**. Senate Communications and Technology Committee meets to consider [House Bill 221](#) (Tangretti-D-Westmoreland) establishing a Historic Preservation Incentive Grant Program. Hearing Room 1, North Office. 9:30.
- **October 24** – **NEW**. DCNR [Conservation and Natural Resources Advisory Council](#) meeting. Room 105 Rachel Carson Building. 10:00.
- **October 24** – **CANCELLED**. [DEP Small Business Compliance Advisory Committee](#) meeting. The next scheduled meeting is January 23.
- **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.
- **November 2** – House State Government Committee hearing on [House Bill 397](#) (Petri-R-Bucks) providing for development impact fees. (LTA). 10:00.
- **November 8** – **CANCELLED**. House Health and Human Services Committee hearing on [House Bill 798](#) (Phillips-R-Northumberland) creating a Lyme Disease Task Force. Room 205 Ryan Building. 11:30. (*Rescheduled to November 15.*)
- **November 15** – **NEW**. House Commerce Committee hearing on [House Bill 1742](#) (Pashinski-D-Luzerne) requiring scrap and recycling facility operators to collect information on scrap material. City Hall Counsel Chambers, Wilkes-Barre. 10:30.
- **November 15** – **NEW**. House Health and Human Services Committee hearing on [House Bill 798](#) (Phillips-R-Northumberland) creating a Lyme Disease Task Force. Room 205 Ryan Building. 11:30.
- **December 4** – **NEW**. [Delaware River Basin Commission](#) hearing on [numeric values for existing water quality](#) in the Lower Delaware River. 25 State Police Dr., West Trenton, NJ. 2:30.
- **February 22-23** – 2008 [Keystone Coldwater Conference](#). State College.

### DEP Calendar of Events

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

### Environmental Education Workshop/Training Calendar

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

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

## Helpful Web Links

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[PA Environment Digest Video Blog](#)

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

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

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

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

## Stories Invited

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

*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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