

— PA — Environment Digest

*An Update on
Environmental
Issues in
Pennsylvania*

Edited By David E. Hess, Holston & Crisci

November 6, 2006

[PA Environment Digest Video Blog](#)

Central PA Conservancy Honors Dr. Cliff Jones as Conservationist of the Year

At a special banquet on December 5, the [Central PA Conservancy](#) will honor Dr. Cliff Jones, former Secretary of the Department of Environmental Resources, an avid birdwatcher and public servant, as its Conservationist of the Year.

The Conservancy is also establishing the Clifford L. Jones Conservation Easement Stewardship Endowment Fund to acquire properties and create easements to permanently preserve habitat, important bird areas and other special places.

Dr. Jones is the personal embodiment of the idea that having good environmental and good economic policy are not opposing concepts.

He was not only Secretary of DER during the Three Mile Island Accident, but Secretary of Commerce, Secretary of the Department of Labor and Industry, chairman of the Public Utility Commission, President of the Pennsylvania Chamber of Business and Industry, chair of the Republican State Committee and served on the boards of the Hawk Mountain Sanctuary, Pennsylvania Environmental Council, The Nature Conservancy, the Pennsylvania Audubon Society, Pennsylvania Wildlife Federation, the Pennsylvania Parks and Forest Foundation and is an original member of the advisory committee to the Wild Resources Conservation Fund.

In his spare time, Dr. Jones serves as an adjunct professor at Messiah College and Penn State University.

An avid birdwatcher, Dr. Jones has a lifetime bird list totaling 3,800 world sightings, 714 North America sightings and 350 world mammal sightings from his travels to 55 countries, 30 states and 8 Canadian provinces.

The Central PA Conservancy will host a special dinner in honor of Dr. Jones will be at the Sheraton, 4650 Lindle Road in Harrisburg (formerly the Wyndham Hotel). A reception will start at 5:30 and dinner is at 6:30.

Tickets for the event are \$40 each. Please make reservations by November 27.

For more information contact Debra Bowman, Executive Director of the [Conservancy](#), at 717-233-0221 or send email to dbowman@centralpaconservancy.org .



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Session Schedule

The House will return to session on November 13 after the election. The Senate and House are scheduled to be in session on November 20 and 21.

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- Rep. Daley On Water Quality Challenges Faced By Farmers and REAP Proposal

On the Hill

- Bills on the Governor's Desk/Bills Introduced

Other News

- Delaware Estuary's Kathy Klein Receives Honor From Environmental Professionals
- First Water Quality Nutrient Credit Sale to Developer Completed
- 35 Grants in Lake Erie, Delaware Estuary Coastal Zone to Protect Environment
- Stormwater BMP Manual Pilot Training Session Set for November 16-17
- DEP Proposes Changes to Stormwater Permitting Requirements, Asks for Comments
- Public Comments Invited on TMDL Watershed Plans in Cambria, Indiana, Somerset
- Drinking Water Protection Workshop November 16 in Westmoreland
- America Recycles Day Celebrated November 18 by PRC in Robinson Mall
- New Deadline for Governor's Environmental Excellence Awards
- EPA Awards Research Fellowships for College Students, Including 3 in PA
- Applications Now Being Accepted for Trout Unlimited Youth Fishing Camp
- Green Building Alliance Hopes to Stimulate Green Building Manufacturing
- Knoll, Inc. Joins Chicago Climate Exchange Greenhouse Gas Reduction Project
- Wildlife and Wind Energy Conference December 2 at Kutztown
- DOE Looking for a Few Good Organisms to Make Cellulosic Ethanol
- New BioMass Energy Center Opened at Penn State
- DOE Announces Alternative Fuels Grants, Including Two In PA
- Research Grants Aim to Reduce Environmental Impact of Agriculture Operations
- Penn State's Visible Emissions Training Program Set for 2007

See & Hear

Feature

- Project WILD Helps Educators With Wildlife Conservation Curriculum, *By Lori Richardson, Wildlife Education Specialist, Pennsylvania Game Commission*

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

Video Blog

Rep. Daley On Water Quality Challenges Faced By Farmers and REAP Proposal

Rep. Peter Daley (D-Washington), Democratic Chair of the House Agriculture Committee, talks about the water quality challenges faced in Western Pennsylvania and [House Bill 2878](#), the Resource Enhancement and Protection Act, that would give farmers tax credits for installing best management practices to reduce nutrients and sediments going into our rivers and streams.



Video Blog: [Rep. Daley on Water Quality Issues and Solutions](#)

The bipartisan Resource Enhancement and Protection Act (REAP) was introduced as [Senate Bill 1286](#) by Sen. Wenger, Sen. Waugh (R-York), Sen. O'Pake (D-Berks) and others and as [House Bill 2878](#) by Rep. Stern (R-Blair), Rep. Hershey (R-Chester) and Rep. Daley (D-Washington).

Rep. Daley can be contacted by sending email to: pdaley@pahouse.net .

Links: [Chesapeake Bay Foundation Information Page on REAP](#)

Issue Notebook: [Resource Enhancement & Protection Tax Credit Proposal](#)

On the Hill

Bills on the Governor's Desk/Bills Introduced

With only one day before the election, there are no committee meetings scheduled in Harrisburg and no scheduled session days before the November 7 election.

On the Governor's Desk

Here are the bills pending on the Governor's desk...

Regulatory Impacts: [House Bill 236](#) (Pickett-R-Bradford) requiring the review of regulations for their impact on small business by the Independent Regulatory Review Commission was vetoed by Gov. Rendell this week.

Recycling Fee: [House Bill 1902](#) (Rubley-R-Chester) extending the \$2/ton Recycling Fee sunset date through 2012 is on the Governor's desk.

Bills Introduced

Diesel Idling: [House Bill 3079](#) (Gabig-R-Cumberland) establishing restrictions on idling diesel trucks. *(text not yet available online)*

NOTE: Links to Senate and House bills in past editions of the *PA Environment Digest* might not work because the webmasters of the General Assembly's website

changed the URLs. You can find bills by going to the [Pennsylvania General Assembly website](#) and putting in the bill number in the box at the top of the page.

In Other News

Delaware Estuary's Kathy Klein Receives Honor From Environmental Professionals

The [Society of Women Environmental Professionals of Greater Philadelphia](#) honored Kathy Klein, executive director of the [Partnership for the Delaware Estuary](#), with its 11th Annual Touchstone Award, given once a year to a woman who has made outstanding and significant progress in the environmental professions.



Klein has spent the past 20 years working in the environmental non-profit arena throughout the Philadelphia region. She is credited with leading the 501c(3) non-profit National Estuary Program for eight of its 10 years, during which she has been instrumental in leading collaborative and creative efforts to protect and enhance the Delaware Estuary, and its tributaries, for current and future generations.

Her work involves partnering with, and securing funding from, two regional offices of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency; three states, including Delaware, Pennsylvania, and New Jersey; four major metropolitan municipalities, including the Cities of Camden, Philadelphia, Trenton, and Wilmington; and a laundry list of organizations and businesses spread across more than 6,700 square miles of the Mid-Atlantic region.

“Receiving this Touchstone Award is very humbling,” Klein said. “I am so fortunate to have a great staff and supportive partners. By working together, we’re really making great strides.”

During Klein’s tenure, the Partnership for the Delaware Estuary has helped to educate thousands of teachers and school kids about environmental science, established a reoccurring Delaware Estuary Science Conference, partnered with almost 30 corporations to improve localized land management, created and participated in dozens of annual community-based events, and much more. The organization also plays key roles as part of the Schuylkill Action Network and the Delaware Bay Oyster Restoration Task Force.

Past recipients of the award include Sarah M. Hetznecker, P.G., of Mesa Environmental Sciences, Inc., Joanne Dahme of the Philadelphia Water Department’s Office of Watersheds, Marilyn Hewitt, P.G., of Roux Associates, and many other notable professionals.

For more information, visit the [Partnership for the Delaware Estuary website](#) or call 800-445-4935 toll free and the [Society of Women Environmental Professionals of Greater Philadelphia website](#) or call Nicole Moshang at 484-354-7611.

First Water Quality Nutrient Credit Sale to Developer Completed

As developers, industries and sewage treatment plant operators work to meet new Pennsylvania limits for discharges into the Chesapeake Bay Watershed, Red Barn Trading Company announced it has executed the Commonwealth’s [first nutrient credit sale](#).

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Red Barn's landmark first nutrient credit sale is a sale of credits over a five-year period for a Susquehanna County development by developer Daniel Maisano, Dunn Lake LLC, which is using the credits toward permitting a package sewage treatment plant for a residential development, according to Peter Hughes, Red Barn Trading president.

Red Barn uses its agricultural client base to identify farm improvements that generate credits, and then pools credits for buyers. Red Barn holds the majority of available Department of Environmental Protection certified credits and has applications for more than 100,000 more credits pending before DEP.

DEP's nutrient reduction goals for 2010 apply to both new or existing facilities and developments in the watershed, and the new discharge limits are designed to reduce phosphorus and nitrogen in the Chesapeake Bay Watershed.

Red Barn also was the first entity to have water quality credits certified by DEP for trading.

NewsClip: [Red Barn Executes First Nutrient Credit Trade](#)

35 Grants in Lake Erie, Delaware Estuary Coastal Zone to Protect Environment

The Department of Environmental Protection this week announced \$1.23 million in grants for 35 projects intended to protect and enhance Pennsylvania's coastal zones along the Lake Erie and the Delaware Estuary shorelines.

The [Coastal Zone Management Program](#) provides grants and technical assistance to nonprofit groups, local governments and state agencies to improve public access, protect natural resources, expand strategies to improve local economies, promote proper planning and conserve coastal resources.

The grants finance projects such as rehabilitating stream banks and restoring riparian buffers to reduce pollution flowing into waterways; reforesting urban areas, managing stormwater runoff; and developing new technologies to locate and address unseen sources of pollution.

[A list of all grants awarded is available online.](#)

Pennsylvania has two coastal areas: 57 miles of coastline along the Delaware Estuary and 63 miles of coastline along Lake Erie.

Stormwater BMP Manual Pilot Training Session Set for November 16-17

The Department of Environmental Protection and the Carbon County Conservation District are hosting a two-day training workshop entitled, "Stormwater BMP Manual Pilot Training Session," on November 16-17 at the Resort at Split Rock in Lake Harmony, PA.

Presentations during the workshop will go through the Stormwater Manual to provide participants with an in depth look at structural and nonstructural solutions to stormwater management.

Registration deadline is November 10 and there is a \$60 fee for the training. Additional workshops on the Manual will be held in January and February.

For more information or to register, contact the Carbon County Conservation District at 610-377-4894 or send email to Chris Storm at carbtech@ptd.net.

For more information, visit the [Stormwater Management](#) and the [Stormwater Management Oversight Committee](#) webpages.

DEP Proposes Changes to Stormwater Permitting Requirements, Asks for Comments

The Department of Environmental Protection [asked for public comments](#) on proposals that it said would streamline permitting requirements under the NPDES Post-Construction Stormwater Permit Program.

Comments on the proposals are due December 4.

DEP said the “complicated and complex permit applications have unwittingly” resulted in a more lengthy Department review of the permit application, especially as applied to permits for sites of less than five acres, but greater than one acre.

To address these issues, the Department is considering four initiatives:

- Encourage the Use of a Simultaneous Review Process for Erosion and Sediment Control and Post-Construction Stormwater Plan Review;
- Expedited Permit Review where applicants have Municipal or County Conservation District Approval of the PCSM Plan and that the Plan has been sealed by a Professional Engineer who has attended Best Management Practices Manual training and has demonstrated knowledge and experience in preparing PCSM Plans;
- Development of New General Permits and Clarification of Existing General Permits; and
- Third-Party Service Providers--Development of a Solicitation for Engineering Services (SFES).

[DEP said a white paper describing in detail the initiatives will be available online.](#)

Copies are also available by contacting Claudia Merwin, Bureau of Watershed Management, at 717-787-6827, cmerwin@state.pa.us .

Public Comments Invited on TMDL Watershed Plans in Cambria, Indiana, Somerset

The Department of Environmental Protection is inviting public comments on Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDLs) for nine watersheds in Cambria, Indiana and Somerset counties.

The watersheds include:

Babcock Creek & Paint Creek Watersheds in Somerset and Cambria Counties: DEP will hold a public meeting to discuss and accept comments on the proposed TMDL November 8 beginning at 10 a.m. at the Cambria District Mining Office, 286 Industrial Park Road, in Cambria Township, Cambria County. Contact: Miles Baird at 814-472-1900 or send email to: mbaird@state.pa.us . Comments due: December 8.

Sulphur Creek & Otto Run Watersheds in Cambria County: DEP will hold a public meeting to discuss and accept comments on the proposed TMDL November 8 beginning at 10 a.m. at the Cambria District Mining Office, 286 Industrial Park Road, in Cambria Township, Cambria County. Contact: John Conrad at 814-472-1900 or send email to: jconrad@state.pa.us . Comments due: December 8.

Boone Run Watershed in Somerset County: DEP will hold a public meeting to discuss and accept comments on the proposed TMDL November 21 beginning at 10 a.m. at the Cambria District Mining Office, in Cambria Township, Cambria County. Contact: Miles

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Baird at 814-472-1900 or send email to: mbaird@state.pa.us . Comments due: December 21.

Brewer Run Watershed in Indiana County: DEP will hold a public meeting to discuss and accept comments on the proposed TMDL November 21 beginning at 10 a.m. at the Cambria District Mining Office, in Cambria Township, Cambria County. Contact Mike Timcik at 814-472-1900 or send email to: mtimcik@state.pa.us Comments due: December 21.

Lamberts Run Watershed in Somerset County: DEP will hold a public meeting to discuss and accept comments on the proposed TMDL November 21 beginning at 10 a.m. at the Cambria District Mining Office, in Cambria Township, Cambria County. Contact: Tom Pongrac 814-472-1900 or send email to: tpongrac@state.pa.us . Comments due: December 21.

Richards Run Watershed in Indiana County: DEP will hold a public meeting to discuss and accept comments on the proposed TMDL November 21 beginning at 1 p.m. at the Cambria District Mining Office, in Cambria Township, Cambria County. Contact Mike Timcik at 814-472-1900 or send email to: mtimcik@state.pa.us Comments due: December 21.

Shafer Run Watershed in Somerset County: DEP will hold a public meeting to discuss and accept comments on the proposed TMDL November 21 beginning at 10 a.m. at the Cambria District Mining Office, in Cambria Township, Cambria County. Contact: Tom Pongrac 814-472-1900 or send email to: tpongrac@state.pa.us . Comments due: December 21.

For copies of the proposed TMDLs, visit [DEP's TMDL webpage](#).

Drinking Water Protection Workshop November 16 in Westmoreland

A Workshop titled "[Protecting Public Drinking Water: Source Water Protection Solutions](#)" will be held November 16 at the Murrysville Community Center, 3091 Carson Ave., Murrysville, Westmoreland County.

Registration is at 1 p.m. and the workshop will run from 1:15 p.m. to 4:45 p.m.

While the majority of Pennsylvanians depend upon public water, fewer than 20 percent of the public water systems have a drinking water protection program in place that addresses water quality for sources of raw water before it reaches the treatment plant. The workshop will address drinking water sources including groundwater, lakes, rivers, streams and springs, and the impacts of land use.

Learn the five-step process to protecting your community's drinking water, along with information from the recently completed source water assessments.

Speakers include Julie Kollar from the [Water Resources Education Network](#) and Joel Jordan of the [Pennsylvania Rural Water Association](#). Topics include: basics of source water protection and public health implications; roles and responsibilities in source water protection; tools and technical and financial resources; examples across Pennsylvania; and five step model for source water protection.

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The workshop will also provide much needed integration between public drinking water issues and other water quality initiatives, such as stormwater management, best management practices, open space programs, land use, stream corridors and public education and outreach efforts.

The workshop is free and open to the public. Water operators are eligible to receive 3.5 Contact hours credit through PRWA.

For more information or to register, visit [Drinking Water Wise webpage](#).

America Recycles Day Celebrated November 18 by PRC in Robinson Mall



The [Pennsylvania Resources Council](#), [Abitibi Paper Retriever](#) and the [Mall at Robinson](#) near Pittsburgh celebrate [America Recycles Day](#) on November 18 by hosting a fun-filled recycling event from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m.

The public is invited to drop off mixed paper (junk mail, magazines, catalogs, newspapers, phonebooks and office paper), corrugated cardboard, ink and toner cartridges, and cell phones for recycling.

As part of the celebration, everyone dropping off recyclables will be eligible to win gift certificates, coupons and other prizes from local stores! The event will take place at the mall's main entrance by the Cafes' (Food Court). There will be no charge to drop off materials.

PRC's Litterbug mascot and Pepper, the Paper Retriever, will be on hand to greet participants as they stop by.

"We are very excited for this opportunity to open our recycling efforts to the community by inviting them to help us make a difference and conserve resources," said Shema Krinsky, marketing director, Mall at Robinson. "Sustainability is one of our core values and we continuously strive to help make the areas we live and work better places."

The American Cancer Society is the selected beneficiary of the event: the more mixed paper collected, the more funds the Society receives through the Abitibi Paper Retriever program, a free community paper recycling program that provides participating organizations additional funds while teaching the environmental benefits of recycling.

Recycle Management Corporation, a local processor for recyclable material, will recycle the cardboard and also make a donation to ACS. Plus, Cartridge Outlet, a store within The Mall at Robinson, will donate \$1 per ink and toner cartridge to The American Cancer Society.

"Funds raised through community efforts such as this one benefit the American Cancer Society's programs of early detection and prevention of cancer, advocacy work, life-saving research and help local patients with services and information," stated Nancy Tilley, community income development director, American Cancer Society.

Cartridge Outlet, a retail outfit specializing in refilling inkjet cartridges and providing businesses with customized cartridge programs, will collect the cartridges. Cell phones will be collected as part of the Verizon

Wireless HopeLinesm Program, where Verizon Wireless focuses primarily on putting wireless services to work to combat domestic violence. Individuals can drop off the phone, charger and battery. More than 2.5 million wireless phones have been collected by

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Verizon Wireless since 2001 to be refurbished or recycled with all proceeds benefiting domestic violence victims and advocacy organizations.

"It is our pleasure to partner with the Mall at Robinson and the Abitibi Paper Retriever Program to provide this opportunity for residents to show their support for America Recycles Day," said David Mazza, Western Regional Director for PRC. "Recycling conserves natural resources, saves energy and landfill space, and has a positive impact on the overall environmental health of the region."

The Mall at Robinson is in Robinson Township, at the intersection of Route 60 and Route 22/30 on Robinson Centre Drive.

[America Recycles Day](#) is celebrated annually on November 15.

New Deadline for Governor's Environmental Excellence Awards

The deadline to submit applications for the 2007 [Governor's Award for Environmental Excellence](#) has been extended to November 17.

The award is open to any Pennsylvania business, governmental agency, educational institution, nonprofit organization, individual or farm that has created or participated in the development of a project that promotes environmental stewardship and economic development.

Eligible projects for the 2007 Governor's Award for Environmental Excellence must have been completed between August 1, 2005, and July 31, 2006. 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; Clean Energy Innovations and Environmental Market Development.

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

Winners of the 2007 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 winners' projects will be showcased in numerous DEP publications and editorials and highlighted on the department's Web site.

To download an application, visit the [Governor's Award for Environmental Excellence 2007 webpage](#).

EPA Awards Research Fellowships for College Students, Including 3 in PA

[EPA research fellowships](#) totaling \$4.5 million will provide tuition support for 142 students from across the country pursuing degrees in environmental studies, including two graduate and one undergraduate students in Pennsylvania.

Applications for the 2007 fellowships are due November 16 for undergraduate and November 20 for graduate students.

The fellowships awarded this week are part of EPA's STAR and GRO programs. Science to Achieve Results, or STAR, is a graduate fellowship program that supports some of the nation's most promising masters and doctoral candidates. This year, more than 1,300 applicants competed for 112 STAR fellowships. These students are pursuing degrees in biology, toxicology, ecology, environmental sciences and other environmental studies.

PA Environment Digest – Holston & Crisci

The fellowships awarded in Pennsylvania include:

- [Elizabeth A. Gilmore, Carnegie Mellon University](#): The air quality and human health impacts of distributed energy generation;
- [Jeffrey Robert Pierce, Carnegie Mellon University](#): Understanding the effect of atmospheric particles on clouds and climate; and
- [Frank C. Calvosa, Villanova University](#).

More than 1,500 fellows competed for these highly prestigious fellowships that enable students to complete their undergraduate or graduate degrees.

For more information and an application for 2007 fellowships, visit EPA's [fellowships webpage](#).

Applications Now Being Accepted for Trout Unlimited Youth Fishing Camp



Applications are now being accepted for the 12th annual [Rivers Conservation and Fly Fishing Youth Camp](#) being held June 17-22, 2007 at the Allenberry Resort in Boiling Springs, Cumberland County, according to Camp Chairman Rod Cross.

Applications must be received by March 15.

The purpose of the camp is to educate students in the importance of coldwater conservation.

“We expect to receive numerous applications once again this year,” Cross said. “It is important for students to understand that it is an honor to be chosen for this elite camp.”

According to Cross, the selection of 32 students is a rigorous process, which requires students to include an essay on why he or she wishes to attend.

“By selecting leaders in high school today, it is believed that they will be the leaders of communities for years to come,” Board Member Clark Hall said. “It is important for them to recognize the value of clean water and how it relates to every day life. The curriculum has been structured to provide the necessary foundation for that education.”

The college-level classes include: principles of ecology, hydrogeology, aquatic vertebrate and invertebrate sampling, hydrology, trout behavior, trout stream entomology, the biology of pollution, acid deposition, and the politics of conservation and the effects of humans on the Chesapeake Bay.

In addition, the camp provides hands-on classes such as fly tying, fly casting, streamside ethics, angling literature, the evolution of an angler, wader safety and survival, and streamside botany. The students will also participate in a watershed project to repair habitat in a stream.

According to Cross, the camp faculty includes people from various environmental fields and from state agencies such as the Fish and Boat Commission, the Department of Environmental Protection and the Department of Conservation and Natural Resources.

“One faculty member, in particular is Dr. Robert Behnke of Colorado State University who is considered the foremost trout biologist in the world,” Cross said.

The camp is limited to 32 selected, qualified students, aged 14 to 17. The student must have been born between June 22, 1989 and June 17, 1993 to qualify. The camp selection committee will choose students based upon each candidate's qualifications and their desire to attend as stated in the required essay.

PA Environment Digest – Holston & Crisci

For the first time this year campers who are working toward achieving either a fishing merit badge or a fly fishing merit badge with the Boy Scouts may complete the requirements for those badges at the camp.

For more information or to receive an application, contact Mike Klimkos at 717-243-3056, or via email at klimkos@epix.net ; Rod Cross at 717-263-0365; or visit the [Fly Fishing Camp webpage](#).

Green Building Alliance Hopes to Stimulate Green Building Manufacturing

The [Green Building Alliance](#) has received a \$1 million grant from the Ben Franklin Technology Development Authority and \$250,000 from The Heinz Endowments to launch a regional initiative that utilizes green building manufacturing to stimulate regional economic development.

“We’re the first in the U.S. to launch this type of initiative,” says GBA’s executive director Rebecca Flora. “We can now put infrastructure and programming in place in order to grow this industry in our region.”

GBA’s mission is to integrate environmentally responsible and high performance design, construction and operating practices into the regional market. “We’ve established leadership in this market--we had an early start in green building, with our existing industry base and university research,” Flora says.

Flora says next steps include formalizing key partnerships in order to strengthen existing companies, support start-ups and new product development and recruit firms interested in relocating to the area. “My job is to show the economic value of green building. We are absolutely and uniquely positioned to make that argument,” says Flora. “We will clearly be hard to beat--we can truly make this a green region.”

GBA has identified 1,820 building product firms in western PA. “It’s an opportunity to promote companies already doing it and help others retool products once they understand how big this market is,” Flora says.

She hopes to educate the public sector about what she calls "connecting the dots between green building, jobs and the economy.” “It’s a major industry trend--this adds another layer of the market.”

For more information on building green in Western PA, visit the [Green Building Alliance webpage](#).

NewsClips: [Green Building Alliance Ramps Up Green Construction Products](#)
[Earth-Friendly Farming Wins Conservation Title](#)
[Initiative May Make Region Greener](#)

Knoll, Inc. Joins Chicago Climate Exchange Greenhouse Gas Reduction Project

[Knoll, Inc.](#), a leading designer and manufacturer of branded furniture for the office and home based in East Greenville, PA, has [announced a greenhouse gas reduction commitment](#) through its membership in the [Chicago Climate Exchange, Inc.](#)

The project is the result of the Company's participation in the [2006 Clinton Global Initiative Annual Meeting](#), a non-partisan forum that includes discussions about Energy and Climate Change.

The Meeting brings together a community of global leaders to devise and implement innovative solutions to some of the world's most pressing challenges. The

PA Environment Digest – Holston & Crisci

resulting "commitments," like the Knoll-CCX partnership, leverage the unique capacities of individuals, corporations, organizations and governments.

Knoll will be the first contract furniture manufacturer to become a member of CCX. CCX facilitates the trading of "credits" (known as Carbon Financial Instruments) that companies earn for achieving reductions of emissions measured against baseline calculations.

"Joining CCX through the Clinton Global Initiative complements an already ambitious environmental program at Knoll," said Andrew Cogan, CEO. "For well over 25 years, we have been a quiet leader in policies and practices designed to protect the biosphere, conserve natural resources and reduce waste," he added.

Dr. Richard L. Sandor, Chairman and CEO of CCX said, "We welcome Knoll with pride and excitement to the CCX family. They are not only the first member of the furniture industry to take on a legally binding commitment to tackle climate change through CCX membership but also widely recognized for their design and materials excellence. We look forward to working with the Knoll team and moving together to address climate change through emissions trading, the highest standards of energy efficiency and a commitment to environmental innovation."

Knoll has made a "commitment" to the Clinton Global Initiative to work with CCX on the reduction of its greenhouse gas emissions in North America by 10 percent by the end of 2007, from a baseline average of the years 1998 through 2001. The Company expects additional reductions from this baseline by the end of 2010 and has targeted an additional 10 percent reduction.

In addition to its partnership with CCX, and as part of its overall commitment to the Clinton Global Initiative, Knoll will pursue other projects to improve energy efficiency across its North American manufacturing facilities. These opportunities will be explored by a full-time "energy czar," who will be hired in 2007, to conceive and implement additional measures to reduce the Company's environmental footprint. Knoll values its total commitment through the Clinton Global Initiative to be \$1,000,000 over five years.

Knoll also partners with third party certification organizations, including GREENGUARD, the Forest Stewardship Council, the U.S. Green Building Council's [Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design](#) (LEED) and the International Standards Organization. These organizations share the Company's commitment to sustainability.

Knoll served as an in-kind donor for the 2006 Clinton Global Initiative Annual Meeting, which took place in New York on September 20 and 21. The Initiative selected the Knoll Life chair because of the environmental aspects that were incorporated into its design. Some 62 percent of the aluminum version of the chair, which was used at the Meeting, is made of recycled materials, and 70 to 80 percent of its components are readily recyclable.

Headquartered in East Greenville, Pennsylvania, Knoll, founding sponsor of the World Monuments Fund Modernism at Risk program, serves clients worldwide. The Company operates four manufacturing sites in North America: East Greenville, Pennsylvania; Grand Rapids and Muskegon, Michigan; and Toronto, Ontario. In addition, Knoll has plants in Foligno and Graffignana, Italy. The Knoll commitment to high environmental standards is mandated by a comprehensive Environmental, Health & Safety Management Plan.

Wildlife and Wind Energy Conference December 2 at Kutztown

A Wildlife and Wind Energy Conference will be held at Kutztown University on December 2 to present accurate, objective and state-of-the-art information to the public on the impact wind energy facilities have on wildlife.

The presentations will be in Boehm Science Center (North Campus) Room 145 between 8:00 a.m. and 6:00 p.m. Ticket costs are \$35 or \$45 after November 12.

For more information, please e-mail Donald S. Heintzelman at donsh@enter.net.

DOE Looking for a Few Good Organisms to Make Cellulosic Ethanol

The U.S. Department of Energy is soliciting grant proposals to develop a highly efficient fermentative organism for the conversion of lignocellulosic biomass to ethanol.

Letters of intent are due November 16.

The organism must be able to survive a wide range of environmental conditions and be stable from adverse mutation. Only those applicants who are willing and able to take the strains to a commercial scale and have a sound business strategy to market the organism will be eligible for consideration.

Approximately \$17 million is expected to be available in FY07 for this grant "subject to the availability of appropriated funds." An additional \$10 million is expected to be available in FY08 and FY09, again "subject to the availability of appropriated funds."

For more information, [find this solicitation of proposals online](#).

New BioMass Energy Center Opened at Penn State

A new [Biomass Energy Center at Penn State](#) will coordinate and facilitate research and outreach across the university, building teams to address the complete value chain of biomass energy systems.

The Center will be working in four categories: improved production of biomass feedstocks; the integration of biomass production into sustainable agrosystems; conversion of biomass into energy; and technology transfer to companies, state agencies, nongovernmental organizations and citizens throughout the commonwealth and beyond.

The center is an interdisciplinary initiative that also includes the Eberly College of Science, the College of Engineering and the College of Earth and Mineral Sciences, and it will be housed in the College of Agricultural Sciences' Environment and Natural Resources Institute.

For more information, visit the [Biomass Energy Center online](#).

DOE Announces Alternative Fuels Grants, Including Two In PA

The U.S. Department of Energy this week announced \$8.6 million for 16 projects to expand the use of alternative transportation fuels, including two projects in Pennsylvania.

The projects in Pennsylvania include:

National Biodiesel Board in Jefferson City, MO, will install six biodiesel blending terminals at existing petroleum facilities in five states including Arizona, Florida, Indiana, New York, and Pennsylvania. DOE Grant: \$494,998 Total Project Cost: \$3,539,101.

PA Environment Digest – Holston & Crisci

[Greater Philadelphia Clean Cities, Inc.](#) in Philadelphia will convert 14 existing refueling infrastructure locations to have E85 dispensing capability. These stations will be located along a 200-mile corridor from State College to Philadelphia. Team members include General Motors, Independence BioFuel Inc., and various retailers, including Worley & Oetz, and Shipley. DOE Grant: \$280,380 Total Project: \$914,880

Research Grants Aim to Reduce Environmental Impact of Agriculture Operations

The Department of Agriculture this week announced a series of research grants which, in part, will look at ways of reducing the environmental impact of agriculture operations or convert waste products to energy sources on farms.

The Agriculture Research Project Review Committee approved the funding for the following projects related to environmental issues:

Beneficial Use of Spent Mushroom Substrate (\$50,000) – The Community Awareness Committee of the American Mushroom Institute plans to improve the profitability of mushroom farms by turning used compost into value-added products, mulch and fertilizers.

Best Management Practices for Vegetative Filters to Reduce Dust, Odor and Respiratory Virus Transmission from Commercial Poultry Farms (\$12,998) – Penn State will evaluate the use of deciduous and evergreen trees as natural filters for poultry farms.

Foam Mulch for Organic Weed Control (\$9,500) – Penn State will evaluate shredded paper foam mulch to control weeds and its effect on soil temperature, soil moisture and parasites.

Fodder Beets: A Feedstock for PA Alternative Energy Ethanol Production (\$17,122) – Penn State will establish test plots of fodder beets to produce ethanol.

Levels of Nutritional Minerals in Free Ranging Elk Grazing on Reclaimed Strip Mines (\$850) – The Penn State study will establish diagnostic reference values for interpreting elk hepatic trace mineral concentrations and assess copper status relative to reclaimed strip mine grazing.

Poultry Litter as a Fuel Source for Poultry Growers (\$25,280) – Penn State will evaluate using poultry litter as an on-farm fuel source.

Penn State's Visible Emissions Training Program Set for 2007

[Penn State's Visible Emissions Training Program](#), also known as Smoke School, offers opacity training for people who want to become certified "smoke readers." Penn State's Smoke School presents technical information on opacity, but does not require formal education in science, engineering, or technology.

Training dates so far for 2007 include: April 3 and 4 in Mceesport; April 10 and 11 in Lehigh Valley; and April 17 and 18 in University Park;

Participants of Penn State's Smoke School are trained to visually read the opacity of industrial plumes and conduct tests in accordance with EPA Method 9. Participants who complete smoke school training and pass the field test receive certification as an individual who is familiar with Title V regulations and enforcement practices.

For more information and to register, visit the [Penn State's Visible Emissions Training Program webpage](#).

Feature

Project WILD Helps Educators With Wildlife Conservation Curriculum

**By Lori Richardson, Wildlife Education Specialist
Pennsylvania Game Commission**



With the school year underway, imagine you are an educator who needs an activity to help teach conservation specific skills and concepts, is exciting and engaging for students, complements the curriculum and helps meet the state Department of Education's Environment and Ecology State Education Standards.

Whether you teach afternoon kindergarten, middle school social studies, high school science or lead a youth group, you could be on your way to the schoolyard, the copy machine, the classroom or the computer with a variety of [Project WILD](#) activities to supplement your curriculum, courtesy of the Pennsylvania Game Commission.

"But," you ask yourself, "isn't the Pennsylvania Game Commission the independent state agency that manages the Commonwealth's wild birds and mammals, and sets hunting and trapping seasons?" Yes, that's the one. And, the Game Commission firmly believes wildlife conservation education is an important part of its mission that helps current and future generations develop an appreciation for wildlife management and the role that hunting and trapping play in properly managing wildlife populations.

To accomplish this objective, the Game Commission, which receives no general state taxpayer dollars, uses Project WILD, an award-winning, international, hands-on conservation education program.

Started nearly 25 years ago, Project WILD teaches people about wildlife and the environment and how humans interrelate with both. WILD provides educators, primarily kindergarten through 12th grade, with interdisciplinary activities that help address state and national education standards and help educators comply with mandates of the No Child Left Behind Act. WILD's materials are scientifically sound and use educational practices proven to be effective.

The basic 500-page, K-12 Project WILD Guide has more than 120 activities to help educators teach skills from observation to synthesis using a variety of environmental-related topics. The activities have been designed so educators can easily incorporate them into almost any classroom curriculum and nearly any subject, such as science, reading, English, social studies, math, civics, physical education or art.

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WILD's mission is to provide wildlife-based conservation education that fosters responsible action. WILD's goal is to develop the awareness, skills, knowledge and commitment that are necessary for people to make informed decisions and act constructively and responsibly toward wildlife and the environment.

WILD is one of the most widely used conservation and environmental education programs among K-12 educators. Recognized as the nation's most successful wildlife education program, WILD is bringing hundreds of thousands of students from awareness to action as conservationists worldwide each year.

Theresa Alberici coordinates the program in Pennsylvania through the Game Commission's Bureau of Information and Education. She works closely with the Department of Education as well as prominent conservation and environmental education organizations throughout the state and the country. Her dedication to wildlife and environmental awareness, along with her talents in creating curricula and ability to work with educators have earned her recognition from the state Department of Education and Pennsylvania's conservation education community.

"Educators leave Project WILD workshops with a renewed appreciation of wildlife and are excited about how they're going to share what they've learned with their students," Alberici said. "This year, wildlife agencies nationwide celebrated one million educators 'Gone WILD.' More than one million educators have been trained in the program since Project WILD originated in 1983.

"Project WILD isn't about teaching kids what to think about wildlife; it's about teaching kids how to think about wildlife and giving them the skills they need to become responsibly active citizens who recognize the importance of wildlife and the environment.

The milestone of training one million educators means that, through Project WILD, more than 53 million people worldwide have experience in thinking responsibly about natural resources. Last year alone, state wildlife agencies ordered more than 65,000 guides for distribution to educators across the country, reaching 1.8 million students with information on wildlife conservation."

In the Game Commission's Southwest and Southeast region offices, which represent the two most populated regions in the state, two additional employees serve as facilitators for Project WILD workshops.

Southwest Region Wildlife Education Supervisor Joseph Stefko has been active in providing direct wildlife links to educators, as well as conducting programs for students. Stefko developed the popular "WILD About Bears" advanced workshop and has been spearheading it since 2003. He also coordinates an intern program to offer in-the-field wildlife training for interested college students.

Southeast Region Wildlife Education Specialist Dan Lynch, in addition to conducting workshops and student programs, has worked with statewide wildlife and conservation organizations to develop "wildlife trunks" that offer educators hands-on resources and materials for students. Lynch has developed a "wildlife forensics" teacher workshop and program that provides a look into the world of wildlife criminal investigations and procedures.

In addition to Game Commission staff, nearly 300 facilitators from classroom teachers to educators in state parks, county conservation districts, nature centers and zoos have been trained to conduct basic Project WILD workshops statewide. Their dedication over the years makes the program successful.

PA Environment Digest – Holston & Crisci

Park Forest Elementary School Principal Donnan Stoicovy, of State College, Centre County, said that more than half of the teachers at Park Forest have participated in Project WILD and use the resources in the classroom. In addition to being a supporter of the program, Stoicovy has been a Project WILD facilitator since 1985, when she served as a classroom teacher in Sagertown, Crawford County.

"The activities, the book, the ease of use and guidance provided are just the types of things teachers need when they are trying to prepare lessons to help their students better understand wildlife and conservation," Stoicovy said "I'm very pleased that the Game Commission is able to offer Project WILD, especially since the agency is able to make Project WILD even more effective by using its own supplemental information, such as the Wildlife Note series. I hope the Game Commission has the financial resources in the future to continue sponsoring this excellent program."

Dr. Sandra Holmes, a facilitator with Project WILD since 1986, currently is an associate professor of education and biological sciences at Messiah College in Grantham, Cumberland County. Initially trained in Washington, Holmes has used Project WILD in three additional states: Washington, Idaho, South Dakota and Pennsylvania.

"I've used Project WILD at the elementary, middle school and high school levels, and currently use it at the college level," Holmes said. "I also have used it in various other settings, such as girl and boy scouts, 4-H, child and youth groups and pre-school, as well as with my own grandchildren.

"The program is so flexible that you can use the materials and activities with any number of students, any age and in any setting, such as a backyard, city park or school property. "This makes it a very useful tool for home-schoolers."

Holmes noted that one of her previous students was selected for a teaching position within a Pennsylvania school district primarily because she was Project WILD certified. Other students have reported similar experiences to Holmes while applying for teaching positions in other states, such as Virginia, Maryland and New Jersey.

"It is clear from these experiences that Project WILD is valued in the larger educational community, and those seeking teaching positions stand out in the candidate selection process if they already are Project WILD-certified. School districts are able to turn to these certified teachers to offer training to their peers in areas such as environmental and physical sciences, and many schools are striving to have at least one teacher certified in Project WILD at every grade level in every building within the district.

"It is wonderful that the Game Commission is offering Project WILD, and I certainly hope that they are able to continue to make this vital program available to future educators."

Billie Jo Crouse, a third grade teacher at the Amos K. Hutchinson Elementary School in Greensburg, Westmoreland County, was certified in Project WILD in 1998.

"When I first took Project WILD, I had not been involved in the outdoors at all," Crouse said. "This program has made me a different teacher. It isn't just a hands-on program for students; it is a minds-on program. It doesn't teach or tell students what to think, but how to think about conservation and the environment.

"As soon as I was certified in Project WILD, I started using it in the classroom. The more that I used it, the more students went 'wild' for it. During our summer academy, the program I developed using only Project WILD materials was well attended the first year.

PA Environment Digest – Holston & Crisci

In the second year, the sign-up for this course doubled, and every year since we have had more students apply to take the course than we have room to accommodate."

Using the "WILD About Bears" course, Crouse noted that Stefko and his interns worked with her to link the state's environmental and ecology standards to each activity, thereby removing the "guess work" from determining which activities met the standards.

"WILD About Bears, and all of the other Project WILD courses have been wonderful tools for teachers," Crouse said. "They are so easy to integrate into various classes, such as language arts, math, science and social studies. The students are learning about wildlife conservation and they don't even realize it.

"I would be very disappointed if the Game Commission were unable to offer this program. The agency and its staff do an amazing job offering Project WILD, and it is a resource I find extremely valuable. If the Game Commission is forced to stop offering it due to financial reasons, it would be a great injustice to students."

Brian Rothman, an elementary school teacher with the Philadelphia City School District, first experienced Project WILD while working on his master's degree, and later while working at the Philadelphia Zoo.

"When I taught kindergarten through fifth-grade science, Project WILD helped me supplement the materials provided by the school district in teaching about nature and wildlife habitats," Rothman said. "The wildlife education kits provided by the Game Commission for use with Project WILD are an excellent resource to bring hands-on lessons into the classroom, which can be very challenging working in an urban area.

"I believe that Project WILD should be used throughout the entire school district. Not only should each teacher go through the course, but Project WILD also should become part of the district's core curriculum."

Since 1983, more than 26,000 Pennsylvania educators have gone WILD with the Game Commission, and more than one million nationwide. Below are some of the programs offered just this past year to educators through the Game Commission. Workshops are eligible for Act-48 hours, which educators must acquire to retain their teaching certificates.

Basic Project WILD: This workshop, typically six hours long, also can be adapted for in-service training. Participants become familiar with the Project WILD program and activity guide by participating in hands-on, interdisciplinary student activities. Educators finishing the workshop receive the K-12 Project WILD Curricula and Activity Guide.

Endangered & Threatened Species: This workshop focused on endangered and threatened species. Educators learned about the politics involved in protecting these species as well as the circumstances that can lead to a species becoming threatened or endangered. A canoe trip at Wildwood Lake to view the state endangered American lotus, was part of this workshop.

WILD About Elk: This two-day workshop focused entirely on Pennsylvania's elk herd in the northcentral part of the state. Educators met with biologists and land managers who work with elk, and got to hear firsthand about the issues that arise when people and elk are living together in the same region. Participants also visited the elk range for up-close information on elk habitat as well as elk viewing opportunities, before heading home to

PA Environment Digest – Holston & Crisci

their students, with information they learned right from the experts and a teacher's guide chock-full of elk facts and activities.

WILD in the City, Peregrines: This one-day workshop was designed to give educators a greater understanding of peregrine falcons, one of our state's endangered species. Educators learned about biology, habitat, migration, natural history and more from the biologists working closest with these magnificent birds. Participants viewed a peregrine up-close, watched them flying around the city and saw the nest box and web-cam at the nest site on the Rachel Carson Building in Harrisburg. Educators took home lots of background information and activities to use with their students, as well as information on real-time web cameras at nest box locations across the state, so (from their classrooms) they can watch peregrines hatch.

WILD on the Susquehanna: Educators spent this day-long workshop canoeing the Susquehanna River and learning about its habitat with biologists and naturalists. They visited one of the few nesting colonies of the great egret and black-crowned night heron in the state and searched for river otters, before studying macro-invertebrates and performing water tests.

WILD About Bears: This two-day workshop focuses on Pennsylvania black bears and is held at the Southwest Regional Office and on State Game Land 42. Game Commission Biologists, the Wildlife Education Supervisor, Wildlife Conservation Officers and student interns provide background knowledge about bear biology, distribution, taxonomy, life history and management. Participants share in a number of hands-on activities to include related Project WILD Activities, British Columbia's "Bear Aware" safety program, bear aging, bear population estimation and setting an actual bear culvert trap. The highlight of this workshop is the processing of a live bear, where the participants get to see first hand the sedation of the bear, removal from the culvert trap, ear tagging, tattooing, weighing, tooth extraction for aging, checking for overall health and finally the release of the bear on State Game Lands.

WILD Action Grants: These grants are typically available annually to help organizations create wildlife habitat that can be incorporated into education programs and enjoyed by the community and used by wildlife. Butterfly gardens, interpretive nature trails, habitat enhancements and native plant gardens are just a few examples of what's made possible through WILD Action Grants.

Other education opportunities available through the Game Commission include:

Advanced WILD workshops -- These workshops focus on specific species or topics. Educators get in-depth background information and meet biologists and other experts working in the field of focus. Workshops on bears, raptors and deer are popular.

Pennsylvania Songbirds and Pennsylvania Biodiversity -- These two programs focus on songbirds and biodiversity, respectively, and are designed similarly to Project WILD with science-based student activities addressing state standards.

The Wildlife of Pennsylvania children's book (in English or Spanish) -- This educational guide to Pennsylvania wildlife for young students to color is based on habitat and includes a color poster. A teacher's guide is also available.

For more information on [Project WILD](#) and other conservation education opportunities available to educators through the Game Commission or to be notified of upcoming workshops via email, contact Theresa Alberici at 717-783-4872 or talberici@state.pa.us .

Quick Clips

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

[Nature's Teachings at Strawberry Hill Nature Center and Preserve](#)

[Combined Efforts Protect 600 Acres in Pike](#)

[Open Space Proposal on Ballot](#)

[Radnor Voters Will Decide Land Preservation Issue](#)

[Making Philly Greener](#)

[Land Trust Expands Jonas Mountain Preserve](#)

[Pittsburgh Green Forum Works on Goals](#)

[Preservation "Green Building" Hit Historic Wall](#)

[Forum: Building Cities, Saving History](#)

[Tax Breaks for Saving Energy in the Home](#)

[Lady Liberty's Torch Lit With PA Windmill Energy](#)

[Allentown Could Save With Solar](#)

[Penn State Looks to Reduce Energy Usage](#)

[Grass Fuel May Grow On Us](#)

[Susquehanna County Sawmill Cuts Fuel Costs](#)

[PPL Helps Osprey Find New Home](#)

[Coal Credited For Rise in Greene Property Values](#)

[Landslide: More Oversight Eyed for Big Developments](#)

[Authorities Investigate Reactor Shutdown](#)

[\\$2.6 Million in Brownfield Redevelopment in 7 Counties Announced](#)

Watershed NewsClips

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

[WPCAMR: Life in Our Streams Series](#)

[Conservation Wins: Father, So Receive Honors for Farming](#)

[Volunteers Immerse Selves at Stream Forum in Lebanon/Lancaster](#)

[Flood Wiped Out Quarter of Riparian Tree Plantings](#)

[\\$1.8 Million Has Gone to Habitat Program](#)

[Grant Will Support New Riverfront Heritage Center](#)

[Delaware Flood Mitigation Task Force Holds First Meeting](#)

[Chesapeake Bay “Mud Busters” Aims to Limit Sediment from Construction Sites](#)

Regulations

The Independent Regulatory Review Commission this week approved the final Environmental Quality Board regulation [adopting California vehicle emission standards](#) for new cars and Public Utility Commission rules relating to implementing the Alternative Energy Portfolio Standard and Interconnection Standards for Customer-Generators.

[Pennsylvania Bulletin – November 4, 2006](#)

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

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

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

Technical Guidance & Permits

The Department of Environmental Protection [published a final policy](#) on locational data for water allocation program. (*See separate story on revisions to NPDES Stormwater Permitting Process.*)

Final: DEP ID: 392-0830-001. Locational Data Policy for Water Allocation Program and the Water Use Data System. This guidance implements the Department's Locational Data Policy (Document ID No. 013-0830-003) by establishing a consistent method for locating and documenting latitude and longitude coordinates and elevation data for water resources facilities.

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

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

Calendar of Upcoming Events

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

- **November 8** – [DEP Water Resources Advisory Committee](#) meeting to continue discussions of the Chesapeake Bay Tributary Strategy and the Draft Manual for Land Treatment of Wastewater. ([meeting notice](#)) Room 105 Rachel Carson Building. 9:30.
- **November 14** – **CANCELLED**. DEP Cleanup Standards Scientific Advisory Board meeting. Rescheduled for December 4.
- **November 15** – [DCNR Conservation and Natural Resources Advisory Council](#) meeting. Room 105 Rachel Carson Building. 10:00.

PA Environment Digest – Holston & Crisci

- **November 16** – [Independent Regulatory Review Commission](#) meets to consider Environmental Quality Board regulation reduce mercury emissions from power plants. 14th Floor Conference Room, 333 Market Street. 10:30.
- **November 17** – [DEP Drinking Water/Wastewater Operator Certification Program Advisory Committee](#) meeting. 10th Floor Conference Room, Rachel Carson Building. 10:00.
- **November 20** – Environmental Issues Forum, [Joint Air and Water Pollution Control and Conservation Committee](#) featuring J. Kent Crawford, USGS, to discuss the emerging contaminants project. Room 205 Ryan Building. Noon.
- **November 21** – **CANCELLED** – Environmental Quality Board meeting.
- **December 1** – [State Planning Board meeting](#). Room 105 Rachel Carson Building. 10:00 a.m.
- **December 4** – DEP [Cleanup Standards Scientific Advisory Board](#) meeting. Room 105 Rachel Carson Building. 9:30.
- **December 12** – **CANCELLED**. [Coal and Clay Mine Subsidence Insurance Board meeting](#).
- **December 14** – [Coal and Clay Mine Subsidence Insurance Board meeting](#). 14th Floor Conference Room, Rachel Carson Building, Harrisburg. 10:00.

[DEP Calendar of Events](#)

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

[Environmental Education Workshop/Training Calendar](#)

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

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

Helpful Web Links

[PA Environment Digest Video Blog](#)

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

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

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

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

Stories Invited

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

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