



Edited By David E. Hess, Holston & Crisci

November 8, 2004

## Unfinished Environmental Business

With the election out of the way, several pieces of unfinished environmental business are still on the agenda of the House, Senate and Rendell Administration. See the special note inside.

### Current Voting Session Schedule

**House** – Nov. 8, 9, 10, 16, 17, 18 (**change**) • **Senate** – Nov. 8, 9, 10, 15, 16, 17, 22, 23  
General Assembly adjourns November 30, ending the session.

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**On the Hill**

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**Environmental Issues Pending in the House and Senate**

Here’s a quick overview of some of the major environmental issues pending in the Senate and House:

- **Sewer/Water Bond Issue:** Legislation to implement the \$250 million water and sewer funding bond issue passed by voters earlier this year has been considered by both the Senate and House, but not finalized. [Senate Bill 1102](#) (Gordner-R-Columbia) is back in the Senate after House passed it in June and the House passed [House Bill 2690](#) (Weber-R-Montgomery) which is also pending in the Senate.
- **Advanced Energy Portfolio Standards:** Advanced energy portfolio standards to promote renewable and domestic sources of energy generation was the subject of many hearings this year, but so far has not seen committee action in either the Senate or House, although the Senate Environmental Resources and Energy Committee has set a meeting to consider the Senate legislation for Tuesday. The primary bills are: [Senate Bill 1030](#) (Erickson-R- Delaware) and [House Bill 2250](#) (Ross-R-Chester). *(See story below for more on the scheduled Senate Committee activity.)*
- **Energy Development Authority Funding:** This year’s budget included \$10 million for the Energy Development Authority the Rendell Administration wants to use to fund domestic and renewable sources of energy-- [Senate Bill 1220](#) (Stout-D-Washington) was introduced to authorize use of the funds.
- **Green Ribbon Commission:** The Commission has held one meeting and solicited priorities from members on what they think are the most important programs to fund from Gov. Rendell’s bundle of environmental funding initiatives. The Rendell Administration also promised updates to the Commission on the financial status of the Recycling and Hazardous Sites Cleanup Funds.

**Senate Committee Set to Consider Advanced Energy Portfolio Standards**

The Senate Environmental Resources and Energy Committee has scheduled a meeting for Tuesday to consider [Senate Bill 1030](#) (Erickson-R- Delaware) setting an Advanced Energy Portfolio Standard requiring electric suppliers in Pennsylvania to have from 10 to 15 percent of their power generated from renewable sources.

===== **FYI** =====



[Life on the Delaware](#)

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The Committee will consider an amendment to the bill to deal with issues raised during several hearings held by the Senate since June. The definition of what is considered an “advanced” or “renewable” energy source and how to pass through the increased cost of these sources are likely to be key amendment subjects.

Discussions are also occurring on similar legislation in the House-- [House Bill 2250](#) (Ross-R-Chester) – at the House Environmental Resources and Energy Committee level. Other pending portfolio standard legislation includes [Senate Bill 962](#) (Ferlo-D-Allegheny).

Also on the agenda for the Senate Environmental Resources and Energy Committee are these bills— [House Bill 148](#) (Solobay-D-Washington) Mine Subsidence Assistance for building owners; [House Bill 2029](#) (Cruz-D-Philadelphia) penalties for illegal dumping in Philadelphia; [House Bill 2035](#) (McIlhinney-R-Bucks) Energy Efficiency Standards Act covering applicances; [House Bill 2227](#) (Rubley-R-Chester) Forest Lands Beautification funding; [House Bill 2289](#) (Yudichak-Luzerne) waste tire recycling; [Senate Bill 983](#) (Rafferty-Montgomery) – landfill permitting amendments; [Senate Bill 1170](#) (Mowery-R-Cumberland) – water & sewer connection financial assistance for homeowners; [Senate Resolution 298](#) (Greenleaf-R-Montgomery) – Resolution urging Congress to adopt a national energy policy with emphasis on natural gas supply and energy conservation

### Environmental Bills on House Calendar for Final Action

On the Calendar for final House action are several environmental bills--

- [Senate Bill 779](#) (Waugh-R-York) Amending the Agricultural Area Security Law to further stipulate the size of agricultural conservation easements and making other changes.
- [Senate Bill 1040](#) (MJ White-R-Venango) establishing the Pennsylvania Center for Environmental Education.
- [Senate Bill 1042](#) (Erickson-R-Delaware) creating an Office of Energy and Pollution Reduction in DEP and establishing the Rachel Carson Environmental Excellence Award.
- [Senate Bill 255](#) (Tomlinson-R-Bucks) making changes to the Alternative Fuels Incentive Program.

### Election Results Mean Special Elections for 3 Senate Seats

The winners in Tuesday’s election created three open state Senate seats—Jack Wagner (D-Allegheny), Allyson Schwartz (D-Philadelphia) and Charlie Dent (R-Lehigh)—for which special elections must be held.

One “new” Senator will join the Republican Caucus in the Senate in January— Patricia Vance, but since she was a House members she’s a known quantity. Nine brand new members will join the House—

- 16 – Sean M. Ramaley (D) in Allegheny, Beaver counties (Rep. Laughlin’s seat)
- 60 – Jeff Pyle (R) in Armstrong, Indiana (Rep. Coleman’s seat)
- 65 – Kathy Rapp (R) in Forest, McKean, Warren (Rep. Lynch’s seat)
- 87 – Glen R. Grell (R) in Cumberland (Rep. Vance’s seat)

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89 – Rob Kauffman (R) in Cumberland, Franklin (Rep. Coy's seat)

146 – Thomas J. Quigley (R) Montgomery (Rep. Dailey's seat)

148 – Mike Gerber (D) Montgomery (Rep. Weber's seat)

153 – Josh Shapiro (D) Montgomery (Rep. Bard's seat)

190 – Thomas W. Blackwell IV Philadelphia (Rep. Horsey's seat)

Only three incumbent lawmakers lost their seats Tuesday-- Sen. Kukovich (D-Westmoreland) by 5,303 votes, state Representatives Melissa Murphy Weber (R-Montgomery) by 426 votes and Tom Scrimenti (D-Erie) by 313 votes.

Republicans increased their members in the state Senate and House, held the Office of Attorney General and U.S. Senate seat, while the Democrats won the two other statewide offices—Auditor General and State Treasurer.

The state Senate now stands at 30 Republicans, 20 Democrats (it was 29 to 21) and the state House is at 110 Republicans and 93 Democrats (it was 109 to 92).

The Pennsylvania Congressional Delegation remains at 12 Republicans, 7 Democrats.

## In Other News

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### Devastation and Renewal: An Environmental History of Pittsburgh

A unique new journalist's resource guide to the story behind Pittsburgh's dramatic environmental transformation was unveiled at the Society of Environmental Journalists Annual Conference in October.

This guide, called "[PittsburghGreenStory.org](http://PittsburghGreenStory.org)," is a comprehensive Web-based multimedia tool that provides the context, history, background, interview sources, and graphics needed by reporters and journalists to write about Pittsburgh's dramatic urban and environmental renaissance from "the Smoky City" to "America's Most Livable City."

Developed through a collaboration of the Green Building Alliance and the Pennsylvania Environmental Council, [PittsburghGreenStory.org](http://PittsburghGreenStory.org) is the only multimedia resource that examines the city's environmental history from both the macro and micro levels. It provides a broad perspective and detailed analysis of the issues that have shaped related policies and debates in this region.

This is a great resource for citizens, educators, students and home schoolers!

To learn more about Pennsylvania's Environmental Heritage, go to [DEP's PA Environmental Heritage webpage](#). (Courtesy Pittsburgh's [Green Building Alliance](#))

### \$18.7 Million in State/Federal Watershed Restoration Grants Announced

The Department of Environmental Protection this week announced \$18.7 million in watershed restoration grants funded by Growing Greener and other programs.

They included: \$5.5 million in Growing Greener grants; \$3.7 million in Nonpoint Source Implementation Program Grants, funded through Section 319(h) of the Federal Clean Water Act; \$5.9 million from the federal Office of Surface Mining; \$2.6 million from the Orphan Oil and Gas Well Plugging Fund and the Abandoned Well Plugging Fund; and \$1 million in Watershed Contracts.

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The grants will result in environmental improvements that include the plugging of 344 wells; reclamation of 250 acres of abandoned mines; creation or restoration of 21 acres of wetlands; improvement of 15 miles of streams impacted by nonpoint source pollution; planting of 12 miles of riparian buffer; enhancements to 15 miles of stream banks; and formation of three new watershed groups.

As of September 30, the Comptroller reported DEP had Executive Authorization to spend a total of \$34.6 million from the Environmental Stewardship Fund for FY 2004-05 Growing Greener Projects.

A total of \$18.8 million in Growing Greener dollars have been announced by DEP so far this year in addition to this week's \$5.5 million: [\\$3.9 million to support watershed specialists](#) in county conservation districts and [\\$5 million for the Crop Reserve Enhancement Program](#). About \$4.4 million (10 percent minimum) is reserved to fund innovative sewer and water projects, but DEP has not yet announced these projects.

About \$15.8 million remains to be allocated from Growing Greener funding by DEP for its own mine reclamation and well plugging projects and for the Administration's plan to accelerate the payback of previous Growing Greener grants. A portion of the Energy Harvest Program grants also came from this year's Growing Greener allocation.

For FY 2004-05, DEP earmarked the \$34.6 million in Growing Greener funding this way: \$21.232 million for Watershed Protection and Remediation; \$2.1 million for Oil and Gas Well Plugging; \$ 6.9 million Abandoned Mine Reclamation and Remediation; and \$4.465 million for Sewage and Drinking Water Grants.

Funding for the original Growing Greener Program continues from the \$4 per ton fee on municipal waste through 2012.

DEP received nearly 450 applications for watershed restoration and protection projects this year.

"DEP has repeatedly testified and the Governor has warned that failing to support Growing Greener II would mean devastating cuts for watershed groups throughout the Commonwealth," said DEP Secretary Kathleen McGinty. "The fact of the matter is that without additional resources, prospects for the future are grim: DEP's Growing Greener is a program in trouble. This recent and very disappointing grant award is proof. It is simply imperative that the Governor's initiative be taken up and passed as quickly as possible."

Secretary McGinty stressed that more grants would have been awarded and dozens of grants would have received substantially more funding if the Governor's plan to expand and enhance Growing Greener had been passed.

### **BufferNotes, Forestry Notes Two Good Watershed Resources**

Two free resources are available to anyone interested in watershed, forestry and stream buffer issues. Check them out!

[BufferNotes](#) is published as a joint project of the [National Association of Conservation Districts](#) in cooperation with the U.S. Department of Agriculture Farm Services Agency and Natural Resources Conservation Service and features practical information and a list of contact people for conservationists who want to enhance their



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own buffer programs, success stories and a list of cooperating partners who can provide advice on how to make partnerships work for the National Conservation Buffer Initiative.

[Forestry Notes](#), a second publication of the National Association of Conservation Districts, the USDA Forest Service and the National Association of State Foresters for the purpose of keeping America's conservation districts informed on forest issues affecting private, public landowners, farmers and in urban environment. (*Courtesy WAY E-News, [Watershed Alliance of York, Inc.](#)*)

### TMDLs Proposed for 9 Watersheds, Comments Requested

The Department of Environmental Protection has proposed Total Maximum Daily Loads (TMDLs) for these watersheds. Public comments are all due January 5, 2005.

- **Logway Run Watershed in Centre County.** DEP will hold a meeting on November 15 at 7 p.m. at the Beech Creek Municipal Building, Beech Creek, PA to discuss and accept comments on the proposed TMDL. Contact: John Mital, Moshannon District Mining Office, (814) 342-8200 or [jmital@state.pa.us](mailto:jmital@state.pa.us).
- **Middle Branch Big Run Watershed in Centre County.** DEP will hold a public meeting to discuss and accept comments on a proposed TMDL November 15 at 7 p.m. at the Beech Creek Municipal Building, Beech Creek, PA. Contact: John Mital, Moshannon District Mining Office, (814) 342-8200 or [jmital@state.pa.us](mailto:jmital@state.pa.us).
- **Fork Beech Creek Watershed in Centre County.** DEP will hold a public meeting to discuss and accept comments on a proposed TMDL on November 15 at 7 p.m. at the Beech Creek Municipal Building, Beech Creek, PA. Contact: John Mital, Moshannon District Mining Office, (814) 342-8200 or [jmital@state.pa.us](mailto:jmital@state.pa.us).
- **Elk Creek Watershed in Cambria County.** DEP will hold a public meeting on November 16 at 7 p.m. at the Nanty Glo Firehall, Nanty Glo, PA to discuss and accept comments on the proposed TMDL. Contact: Tom Pongrac, Cambria District Mining Office, 286 Industrial Park Road, Ebensburg, PA 15931, (814) 472-1900 or [tpongrac@state.pa.us](mailto:tpongrac@state.pa.us).
- **Little Deer Creek Watershed in Allegheny County** DEP will hold a public meeting on December 2 at 7 p.m. at the Plum Borough Municipal Building, Plum, PA to discuss and accept comments on the proposed TMDL. Contact: Ron Horansky, Armbrust Professional Center, R. D. 2 Box 603-C, Greensburg, PA 15601, (724) 925-5500 or [rhoransky@state.pa.us](mailto:rhoransky@state.pa.us).
- **Plum Creek Watershed in Allegheny County.** DEP will hold a public meeting on December 2 at 7 p.m. at the Plum Borough Municipal Building, Plum, PA to discuss and accept comments on the proposed TMDL. Contact: Ron Horansky, Armbrust Professional Center, R. D. 2 Box 603-C, Greensburg, PA 15601, (724) 925-5500 or [rhoransky@state.pa.us](mailto:rhoransky@state.pa.us).
- **South Branch Blacklick Creek Watershed in Cambria and Indiana Counties.** DEP will hold a public meeting on November 16 at 7 p.m. at the Nanty Glo Firehall, Nanty Glo, PA to discuss and accept comments on the proposed TMDL. Contact Tim Kania, Cambria District Mining Office, 286 Industrial Park Road, Ebensburg, PA 15931, (814) 472-1900 or [tkania@state.pa.us](mailto:tkania@state.pa.us).

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- **Solomon Creek Watershed in Luzerne County.** DEP will hold a public meeting on November 10 at 7 p.m. at the Hanover Township Building, 1267 Sanssouci Parkway, Hanover Township, PA to discuss and accept comments on the proposed TMDL. Contact Clarence E. Yingling, Jr., Bureau of Water Supply and Wastewater Management, RCSOB, P. O. Box 8467, Harrisburg, PA 17105-8467, (717) 783-2958 or [cyingling@state.pa.us](mailto:cyingling@state.pa.us) .
- **Trout Run in Elk County.** For more information on this TMD, contact Clarence E. Yingling, Jr., Bureau of Water Supply and Wastewater Management, RCSOB, P. O. Box 8467, Harrisburg, PA 17105-8467, at (717) 783-2958 or [cyingling@state.pa.us](mailto:cyingling@state.pa.us) .

Copies of these proposed TMDLs are posted on DEP's [TMDL webpage](#).

### **EPA Awards Environmental Justice Grants to PA Community**

The Greater North Penn Area Transportation Management Association is one of 73 communities across the country to receive an [Environmental Justice Hazardous Substance Research Small Grant](#) from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency this week.

North Penn plans to train elementary through high school students and employ them in collecting air sampling data along a regional transportation corridor that spans a broad range of suburban communities. The study will identify air quality associated with newer, less diverse, higher income municipalities in the corridor. The findings will be used to help plan regional transportation projects.

During the last two fiscal years EPA awarded a combined total of \$1.28 million to 73 non-profit organizations which work at the local level on behalf of communities to address environmental/public health issues. Since 1994, EPA has awarded \$17.68 million to 1,052 grant recipients.

### **EPA Releases Final Report on Clean Air Standards for Particulate Matter**

EPA released the [final scientific assessment document on airborne particulate matter](#), entitled Air Quality Criteria for Particulate Matter, in accordance with the requirements of the federal Clean Air Act to review the scientific basis for this standards.

Particulate matter (PM) is one of six principal or criteria pollutants for which EPA has established National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS).

The document includes an analysis of a very large amount of new scientific literature generated since the NAAQS for PM were revised in 1997. This final assessment document has been subjected to expert scientific peer review by the Clean Air Scientific Advisory Committee, a review committee mandated by the Clean Air Act and part of the EPA's Science Advisory Board.

**NewsClip:** [EPA OKs Pa. air pollution curbs](#)

### **Training Video Helps Health Care Providers Prevent Drinking Water Health Risks**

EPA is releasing an educational training video intended to help health care providers recognize, report and prevent waterborne illness from drinking water sources.

“[Tap into Prevention: Drinking Water Information for Health Care Providers](#),” was developed in cooperation with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and the CDC’s Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry.

This video explains potential health risks from exposure to microbial and chemical contaminants in drinking water and demonstrates positive actions health care providers can take in their communities. Continuing education credit is available to those health care providers who watch the video and then complete an online test and evaluation.

The video is among a number of EPA's activities to educate health care providers about environmental issues. Those include funding a multi-year nursing education program, "Protecting Children from Environmental Threats," developed by the American Nurses Association and the University of Maryland School of Nursing.

The video provides case studies of the 1993 cryptosporidiosis outbreak in Milwaukee, a city-wide testing program for lead in drinking water in Philadelphia's schools and the efforts of public health nurses in rural Minnesota who educate expectant parents about the importance of testing well water for nitrates and bacteria.

To order the video in a DVD or VHS format and to view supplemental materials, which include additional resources about drinking water for health care providers, visit the [“Tap into Prevention” webpage](#).

### **Small Town Lights Its Way to Energy Savings**

Marple Township, Delaware County teamed up with [Rebuild America to tackle energy conservation projects](#) that save the municipality and senior citizens in the community over \$46,200 a year.

In 2000, Marple Township reduced its municipal electricity bills by retrofitting incandescent traffic lights in 33 intersections with high-efficiency LED (light-emitting diode) traffic lights. Replacement LED traffic lights use up to 90 percent less energy and last around five times longer than incandescent lights, which reduces maintenance costs and time.

The Township also replaced its incandescent walk signals, which used 135 to 165 watt light bulbs, with LED signals that use just 14 watts. The payback period was only one year and four months.

The retrofit cost for the first phase (23 of 33 intersections) was \$50,000, but the annual energy cost savings of the whole project is over \$32,268.

Beyond traffic signals, the township gave hundreds of compact fluorescent light bulbs (CFLs) to lower-income senior citizens in recognition of Energy Awareness Month.

Although CFLs cost more than incandescent light bulbs, the prices are dropping. They can last up to 10 times longer and use about two-thirds less energy to produce the same amount of light. With electric rates in the township higher than the national average, the township’s senior citizens will save approximately \$14,000 in energy costs over the life of the CFLs.

These community projects lead to others in the Township, including St. Mark’s United Methodist Church which replaced incandescent light bulbs in its Sunday school, church and hallways with CFLs. Energy use for lighting dropped from 15,000 watts to 4,500 watts.



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After the traffic signal retrofit was complete, the Marple Township commissioners voted to use 5 percent of the energy cost savings to purchase electricity generated from renewable sources. The traffic and walk signals will soon run on 100 percent green power, joining the township's 1696 Thomas Massey House which currently is powered by 100 percent wind energy.

The Township is also working on indoor lighting retrofits. In township buildings, T-12 fluorescent lights with magnetic ballasts are being replaced with more efficient T-8s and electronic ballasts, which will further reduce energy costs.

For more information contact: John Butler, Commissioner, Marple Township, 610-353-3856 or email [jbutler@bellatlantic.net](mailto:jbutler@bellatlantic.net).

### Two Major Reports on Green Building Experience, Costs Now Available

The Pittsburgh Green Building Alliance has just completed a [survey of the Pittsburgh Region](#) which catalogs the practical experience builders and building owners in using the U.S. Green Building Council's LEED green building standards.

Over 116 respondents were surveyed by the Council-- architects and engineers and others including contractors, landscape architects, manufacturers, developers, owners/owner representatives, tenants, interior designers, specifiers, researchers, and green consultants.

The majority of those surveyed (54.8 percent) found the LEED standards to be "very useful" as a guideline for projects. Many of the strategies identified through the rating system have been incorporated into standard design, even for projects not attempting certification.

LEED is seen as an excellent metric to identify what 'green' is, but as the market evolves and green building and expertise becomes more sophisticated, it is believed that the rating system must evolve accordingly.

The **U.S. General Services Administration (GSA)** commissioned a ground breaking study, completed in October 2004, to [estimate the costs to develop "green" federal facilities](#) using the U.S. Green Building Council's *Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) Building Rating System, Version 2.1*.

The report provides a detailed and structured review of both the hard cost and soft cost implications of achieving Certified, Silver, and Gold LEED ratings for two GSA building types, using GSA's established design standards as the point of comparison.

Two building types - new construction courthouses and Federal Building modernizations - are modeled against two scenarios for each LEED rating, identifying varying costs of construction, design, and documentation requirements. (*Courtesy Pittsburgh's [Green Building Alliance](#)*)

### National Weather Expert Helps PUC Prepare Consumers for Winter

Public Utility Commission (PUC) Chairman Wendell F. Holland this week released the following statement about a special visitor who will join the PUC on Nov. 18 to help urge Pennsylvanians to prepare for the winter months:

"A couple of weeks ago, this Commission hosted energy industry experts on the conditions that may affect supply, price and service reliability of natural gas this winter, and ways consumers



can prepare for colder weather.

"Those experts were very helpful, but I wanted to bring in a true national winter weather expert -- someone who also is a Pennsylvania treasure and success story -- to help us urge our natural gas customers to 'Prepare Now' for cold weather.

"That's why I am proud to announce that Punxsutawney Phil will be here after the Commission's Public Meeting on Nov. 18th to help us launch a special awareness campaign in preparation for winter. We want to work with Phil, with the \$1 Energy Fund and with our utilities to tell Pennsylvanians that now is the time to plan, to winterize your home, to conserve energy and to learn about programs to help you cope with the effects of colder weather.

"Why bring Punxsutawney Phil to the Commission? If Phil sees his shadow, it means six more weeks of winter. Which means that we all need to prepare for six more weeks of winter. In the coming weeks, we'll be talking a lot more about Punxsutawney Phil and about preparing for colder weather."

Punxsutawney Phil is partnering this fall with \$1 Energy Fund and Columbia Gas of Pennsylvania to encourage customers to apply for heating assistance grants and to raise awareness of \$1 Energy Fund's programs. The \$1 Energy Fund helps the state's seniors and low-income customers to pay their utility bills.

Over the past 20 years, the [\\$1 Energy Fund](#) has helped more than 171,000 low-income utility customers stay warm throughout the winter and cool during summer's heat.

### **DCNR Warns Deer Hunters on Dangers of Transporting Firewood Into State**

With the approach of Pennsylvania's main deer hunting season and its influx of thousands of out-of-state hunters, the Department of Conservation and Natural Resources' Bureau of Forestry is combating the spread of forest insect pests by asking hunters to refrain from transporting firewood into the Commonwealth.

The spread of emerald ash borer and other threatening insects has been linked to the transportation of infested firewood and nursery stock. Usually visible from May to August, the adult emerald ash borer beetles are slightly less than one inch long, thin and bright metallic green in color.

The beetle, which feeds in the tissues under the bark of ash trees, has claimed some 7 million trees in Michigan alone.

If infected firewood was transported into Pennsylvania, the emerald ash borer could emerge next spring and begin feeding on ash trees. It prefers green ash but will target all ash trees, regardless of whether they are healthy or stressed. First identified in North America in 2002, the emerald ash borer causes the girdling and death of branches and entire trees.

DCNR's Bureau of Forestry participates in a multi-agency task force assembled to detect and control this invasive threat to Pennsylvania ash trees. Other cooperating members of the task force include the state Department of Agriculture, Penn State Cooperative Extension, the USDA Plant Protection and Quarantine and the USDA Forest Service.

Since 2003, the DCNR has been surveying for the early detection of emerald ash borer on state-owned forestlands. That same year, 18 surveillance sites were established in Erie County. Surveillance efforts were expanded in 2004 to 20 sites in 13 counties:

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Beaver, Bradford, Bucks, Butler, Crawford, Erie, Fayette, Greene, Mercer, Somerset, Tioga, Venango and Washington.

The state Department of Agriculture and USDA Plant Protection and Quarantine also are conducting surveys in nurseries and urban areas. No emerald ash borer beetles have been detected in Pennsylvania.

Signs of emerald ash borer infestation include upper crown dieback, woodpecker damage, "S"-shaped galleries under the bark and "D"-shaped emergence holes. To report possible infested trees in Pennsylvania, contact DCNR's Division of Forest Pest Management at (717) 948-3941, or [BadBug@state.pa.us](mailto:BadBug@state.pa.us) ; or the Department of Agriculture at (717) 772-5228.

### **Rivers Conservation and Fly Fishing Youth Camp Registration Now Open**

The Pennsylvania Council of Trout Unlimited is again offering its award winning [Rivers Conservation and fly Fishing Youth Camp](#) in June 2005. The camp is sponsored by the Pennsylvania Council of Trout Unlimited and hosted by the Cumberland Valley Chapter.

The purpose of the camp is to educate students in the importance of coldwater conservation. The selection of the thirty-two students is a rigorous process. In addition to the application form, each candidate must submit a written essay on why they wish to attend and submit the name, address and phone number of a guidance counselor or science teacher as a reference.

The classes are college level classes that have been distilled to provide the students with a background in fundamental science and how it will apply to daily life. 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.

While this is a learning experience of a lifetime, it is not all work. There are structured classes in fly tying, fly casting, streamside ethics, angling literature, the evolution of an angler wader safety and survival and streamside botany. These classes are designed to provide a balance to the textbook classes.

The faculty of the camp is a list of leaders in their respective fields. They come from all walks of life and have an interest in conservation. State agencies such as the Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission, the Department of Environmental Protection, the Department of Conservation and Natural Resources provide some of the faculty. Dr. Robert Behnke of Colorado State University is among the faculty and is considered the foremost trout biologist in the world. Leading experts in the fly fishing community also volunteer their time and talents to provide a faculty that is well rounded.

The students will also have the opportunity to participate in a stream project to repair habitat in a stream. This event is designed for the students to complete while they are at camp in order that they can observe first hand the effects of their efforts.

In 1995 the late Dr. Jack Beck met with the late [E.S. "Inky" Moore, Jr.](#) to discuss the possibility of holding a camp dedicated to the idea of teaching young people about the importance of coldwater conservation. As Jack said, "There are camps for basketball and football, cheerleading and computers. Why isn't there a camp to teach youngsters about the importance of coldwater conservation?" From that initial meeting, an idea was

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formed. Inky had been instrumental in establishing various other youth programs in the outdoors but this program was to be something different.

For further information or to obtain an application: Rivers Conservation and Fly Fishing Youth Camp, PO Box 71, Boiling Springs, PA 17007, email: [Klimkos@epix.net](mailto:Klimkos@epix.net) or visit the [camp's website](#).

### ASCE Presents “Citizens’ Vision for Smart Growth” Program Nov. 10

The Pittsburgh Section of the American Society of Civil Engineers is presenting a special program November 10 in Mars, Butler County on two reports calling for adopting a sustainable growth policy for Pennsylvania.

“Back to Prosperity: A Competitive Agenda for Pennsylvania” was published by the Brookings Institution earlier this year calling on the state government to invest in infrastructure and economic development program on a coordinated basis to promote sustainable economic and growth objectives for Pennsylvania.

“[Citizens’ Vision for Smart Growth](#)” by the Sustainable Pittsburgh group called for adopting policies that would revitalize older communities and prevent urban sprawl.

### Quick Clips

[DEP Secretary McGinty Endorses Joint Report on Public Engagement](#)

[Northampton Approves Open Space Plan](#)

[Judge Rules Michigan’s New Laws Aimed at Curbing Out-of-State Waste Legal](#)

[2004 Soggiest Year Ever in Southwest](#)

[Landfill fees help township hold line on taxes](#)

[Wind, solar energy project to be unveiled](#)

[Private Sector: Energy price regulatory process needs collaborators, not adversaries](#)

[Nockamixon voters back higher income tax for land](#)

[Williams favors tax hike for open space](#)

### Taking Positive Action

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#### PPL’s “Green” Building Receives Two Environmental Awards

The [Plaza at PPL Center](#), a state-of-the-art green office building in Allentown, has won the ARK Award in recognition of its innovations in environmentally friendly architecture from the Wildlands Conservancy and the Urban Land Institute’s 2004 Award for Excellence.

Tom Kerr, president of [Wildlands Conservancy](#), presented the award to Bob Barkanic, PPL’s manager of Environmental Management, during a Greater Lehigh Valley Chamber of Commerce luncheon in Bethlehem this week.

Kerr said the ARK award is named after the boats that once carried coal from the Pocono Mountains down the Lehigh River in Pennsylvania during the Industrial Revolution. The Wildlands Conservancy, based in Emmaus, Pa., gives the annual award to a company in the Lehigh River watershed that combines exceptional business practices

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with resourceful and creative techniques, resulting in significant protection of the community's environment.

The Plaza at PPL Center has environmentally sound features - including electricity provided from renewable sources, water- and energy-saving fixtures, a vegetative roof that insulates and helps minimize storm water runoff, and other design elements that ease the structure's impact on the environment.

The Plaza at PPL Center previously received the following national recognition for its environmentally-wise features:

- The Northeast Sustainable Energy Association's green building conference singled out The Plaza at PPL Center for its unique construction.
- The Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design program of the U.S. Green Building Council awarded the building a "gold," high-performance rating for its environmental features.
- The American Institute of Architects tabbed the building with its "[2004 Top Ten Green Projects Award](#)" for its successful integration of architecture, technology and environmentalism.

The [Urban Land Institute's Awards for Excellence](#) recognize the full development process of a project, not just its architecture or design. The criteria for the awards include leadership, contribution to the community, innovations, public/private partnership, environmental protection and enhancement, response to societal needs, and financial success.

Projects were evaluated on the basis of financial viability, the resourceful use of land, design, relevance to contemporary issues, and sensitivity to the community and environment. Each contributes to a live-work-play environment and is designed to complement and enhance the greater community.

## Watershed NewsClips

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[How Riparian Zones Affect Aquatic Resources and Habitat](#)

[PACD Receives \\$600,000 to Help Farmers Implement Nutrient Management Plans](#)

[Two Watersheds Selected to Participate in Conservation Security Program](#)

[Changes to Company's Plant Reduce Fertilizer Runoff](#)

[10 Things to Think About When Working with Volunteers](#)

[Susquehanna River birding map available](#)

[Benefits of Darby Creek plan](#)

[Project's Goal: Stream Cleanup](#)

[Fishing Notebook: Frick Park project will be resumed](#)

[Improvements in water quality boost fishing on Two Lick Creek](#)

## Regulations

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The **Independent Regulatory Review Commission** met on November 4 and approved two Environmental Quality Board regulations: #7-378: Final Small Sources of NOx, Cement Kilns and Large Internal Combustion Engines; and #7-386: Final Triennial



Review of Water Quality Standards. For copies visit the [August 2004 Environmental Quality Board webpage](#).

[Pennsylvania Bulletin – November 6, 2004](#)

[Comment Deadlines Open](#)

[Copies of Proposed Regulations](#)

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

## **Technical Guidance & Permits**

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### [DEP Proposes Change to General Permit for Municipal Yard Waste Compost Facilities](#)

The Department of Environmental Protection [published this new guidance document](#) for comment this week:

DEP ID: 012-0700-002 Title: Proposed Revision to the Agricultural Land Preservation Policy. Description: The purpose of this guidance is to provide policy guidance to Department staff to: 1) consider ways to prevent the irreversible loss of prime agricultural land; and 2) administer the Department's programs so that Department funds and Department-administered Federal funds are not used to encourage the conversion of prime agricultural land to other uses when feasible alternatives are available. This policy implements [Executive Order 2003-2](#). Comments are due December 6.

[For copies of Draft Technical Guidance](#)

[For copies of Final Technical Guidance](#)

## **Calendar of Upcoming Events**

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- **Nov. 8 & 9** – House Game & Fisheries Committee is set to consider [House Bill 2155](#) (B.Smith-R-York) to increase the cost of fishing and boating licenses.
- **Nov. 9** – **(New)** Senate Environmental Resources Committee to consider [Senate Bill 1030](#) (Erickson-R- Delaware) setting Advanced Energy Portfolio Standard (RPS) requiring electric suppliers in Pennsylvania and [House Bill 148](#) (Solobay-D-Washington) Mine Subsidence Assistance for building owners; [House Bill 2029](#) (Cruz-D-Philadelphia) penalties for illegal dumping in Philadelphia; [House Bill 2035](#) (McIlhinney-R-Bucks) Energy Efficiency Standards Act; [House Bill 2227](#) (Rubley-R-Chester) Forest Lands Beautification funding; [House Bill 2289](#) (Yudichak-Luzerne) waste tire recycling; [Senate Bill 983](#) (Rafferty-Montgomery) – landfill permitting amendments; [Senate Bill 1170](#) (Mowery-R-Cumberland) – water & sewer connection financial assistance for homeowners; [Senate Resolution 298](#) (Greenleaf-R-Montgomery) – Resolution to Congress urging adoption of national energy policy with emphasis on natural gas supply and energy conservation.
- **Nov. 9 - 10** - [Economic Prosperity and Biodiversity Conservation: Planning for Pennsylvania's Future Conference](#) – Harrisburg.
- **Nov. 11 -14** - Pennsylvania Alliance for Environmental Education (PAEE) Annual Conference ["Digging Deeper Into the Environment & Ecology Standards"](#) Wilkes-Barre.

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- **Nov. 17** – [Resource Recovery-Connections for the Future](#). Symposium on reuse of AMD byproducts. [Southern Alleghenies Conservancy](#). Johnstown.
- **Nov. 17-18** – **(New)** [PA Manufactured Soils Conference](#). State College.
- **Nov. 19** – [Statewide Water Resources Committee](#) meeting to discuss development of the state water plan. Harrisburg.

[DEP Calendar of Events](#)    [Watershed Events](#)

### Helpful Web Links

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

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

### Contributions Invited

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Send your stories about environmental issues, programs and positive actions to **PA Environment Digest** - [DHess@HolstonCrisci.com](mailto:DHess@HolstonCrisci.com).

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

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