



PA Environment Digest

*An Update on
Environmental
Issues in
Pennsylvania*

Edited By David E. Hess, Holston & Crisci

September 6, 2004

Pennsylvania's Environmental Leaders – Do You Know Them?

In September we celebrate the birthdays of several more people who made outstanding contributions to protecting and restoring the Pennsylvania's environment. Do you know them? September 14 - [Maurice K. Goddard](#) (1912-1995); 26th - [John Chapman](#) (1774-1845); 29th - [J. Horace McFarland](#) (1859-1948); and 29th - [Leonard A. Green](#) (1929-2000).

Contents - On the Hill

- Senate, House Name 17 Members to Green Ribbon Commission
- Senate Committee Learns About Timber Theft, Delays in Prosecutions

In Other News

- Nominees Invited for Governor's Environmental Excellence Award
- PA's PROP Honored as Outstanding Recycling Organization in U.S.
- Luzerne County Fills Critical Need for Local Recycling Education Funds
- Keep PA Beautiful Seeking Partners for Anti-Litter, Beautification Efforts
- Annual Environmental Education Conference Set for Nov. 12-14
- New Aids Help Businesses, Government Improve Environmental Performance
- [Green School Saves Energy Costs](#)
- NOx Air Pollution Reduced 70% Since 1990, 30% Since 2002 in Northeast
- BP, 13 Other Case Studies in Reducing Climate Change Emissions in New Report
- Penn State: Natural Mineral Locks Up Carbon Dioxide.
- CONSOL Energy, FirstEnergy to Evaluate Advanced Coal Technologies
- Rivers Feeding Chesapeake Bay Show Decline in Nutrients, Shad Returning
- EPA, Clean Water Foundation Set World Water Monitoring Day in October
- Middle Creek, Pymatuning Host Wildlife Shows in September
- Elk Scenic Drive Highway Signs Direct Motorists to Viewing Areas
- Leaf Webcams are Back for Another Season!
- Community Design, Personal Health are Linked, Find Out How
- Personnel: [DEP Names New Chief Counsel](#), [DEP Seeks Chief Reclamation Engineer](#)

Taking Positive Actions

- PENNTAP, ETAC Help Creekside Mushrooms Upgrade Environmental Efficiency
- [Livestock Nutrient & Environmental Education Days for Farmers](#)

Watershed NewsClips

Technical Guidance & Permits

Calendar of Upcoming Events **Helpful Web Links** **Contributions Invited**

On the Hill

Senate, House Name 17 Members to Green Ribbon Commission

Senate and House Leadership this week named 17 members to the Green Ribbon Commission that is charged with developing an environmental funding proposal for consideration by the General Assembly and the Rendell Administration.

House Majority Leader Sam Smith named Rep. William Adolph (R-Delaware), Majority Chair House Environmental Resources & Energy Committee, and Representatives David Argall (R-Schuylkill/Berks), Carole Rubley (R-Chester), Scott Hutchinson (R-Venango), Chris Ross (R-Chester), Ron Miller (R-York), Kate Harper (R-Montgomery), and Richard Stevenson (R-Mercer).

House Minority Leader Bill DeWeese named Rep. George (Clearfield-D), the Democratic Chairman of the House Environmental Resources and Energy Committee, Rep. Surra (Elk-D), Rep. Leach (Montgomery-D) and Rep. Levdansky (Allegheny-D).

Senate Majority Leader David J. Brightbill (Lebanon-R) named Sen. Mary Jo White (Venango-R), Majority Chair Senate Environmental Resources & Energy Committee and Senators Noah Wenger (R-Lancaster), Roger Madigan (R-Lycoming), Robert Thompson (R-Montgomery), and Edwin “Ted” Erickson (R-Delaware).

These members join Gov. Rendell’s three designees: Kathleen McGinty, secretary of the Department of Environmental Protection; Michael DiBerardinis, secretary of the Department of Conservation and Natural Resources; and Roy Kienitz, deputy chief of staff to the governor.

Senate Democrats have not yet named their members to the Commission.

Senate Committee Learns About Timber Theft, Delays in Prosecutions

The Senate Environmental Resources Committee held a public hearing on timber theft on August 25 in Franklin, Pennsylvania. Senator Mary Jo White and Senator Raphael Musto, the majority and minority chairman of the committee chaired the hearing.

The committee heard testimony from several victims of timber theft, the Pennsylvania Forest Products Association, the Pennsylvania Forestry Association, and the Pennsylvania Sustainable Forestry Initiative. Timber theft is becoming more common as timber becomes more valuable.

Timber owners reported that theft occurs when trees are removed from their property without their consent and also by deception when the timber owner does not receive full payment for all the trees removed from the property. In both cases, enforcement is difficult. The legal costs of prosecuting timber theft can exceed the value of the timber.

With appeals, timber theft cases can go on for years and in the meantime the victim of timber theft often has to pay for land surveys and professional evaluation of the lost timber. In addition, the state police and district attorneys are busy and view timber theft as a low priority.

It was suggested at the hearing that while the current provisions in the law apply to civil actions, they ought to be extended to cover criminal actions. Another suggestion was that there be an established paper trail showing where the logs are coming from and

the final destination at the sawmill. Since a lot of timber theft occurs near property lines, it was recommended that adjacent property owners be notified when a timber harvest operation is about to begin.

Landowner education is also important. Landowners should do what they can to prevent timber theft such as clearly marking their property lines, having a written contract in place for a timber harvest, and being knowledgeable about the economic value of their timber.

In Other News

Nominees Invited for Governor’s Environmental Excellence Award

The Department of Environmental Protection is seeking nominees for the [2004 Governor’s Award for Environmental Excellence](#). The award will honor Pennsylvania business, individuals, municipalities, agribusiness and non-profit organizations that show a commitment to develop and build environmental stewardship and economic development in Pennsylvania.

The deadline for nominations is October 22.

“Our state is filled with individuals who have the creativity, drive and spirit to build a very bright and promising future,” DEP Secretary Kathleen McGinty said. “We want to honor those who bring people together in new kinds of partnerships to rebuild communities and stimulate civic engagement. This award targets projects that showcase the idea that environmental challenges truly are economic and social opportunities in disguise.”

The 2004 Governor’s Award for Environmental Excellence is open to any Pennsylvania business, governmental agency, educational institution, nonprofit organization, individual or farms that has created or participated in the development of a project that promotes environmental stewardship and economic development in the state.

Eligible projects must have been implemented between Jan. 1, 2003 through July 31, 2004. Examples of projects and the categories for consideration include but are not limited to: Environmental Technology Innovation; Pollution Prevention and Resource Efficiency; Community Revitalization; Environmental Education and Outreach; Watershed Stewardship; Mine Safety and Clean Energy Innovations and Environmental Market Development.

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

Past Winners: [2003](#), [2002](#), [2001](#), [2000](#), [1999](#)

PA’s PROP Honored as Outstanding Recycling Organization in U.S.

The [Professional Recyclers of Pennsylvania](#) (PROP), headquartered in Bellwood, Blair County, received the inaugural Outstanding Recycling Organization of the Year award from the National Recycling Coalition (NRC) August 30th. The award was presented during NRC’s annual recycling



PA Environment Digest – Holston & Crisci

Congress in San Francisco, California.

PROP is Pennsylvania's association of public and private sector recycling, composting and solid waste professionals. It represents over 450 members statewide and was incorporated in 1991. The organization employs six full time staff members and is governed by a 19-member board of directors elected by its membership.

PROP was singled out for its efforts in advancing Pennsylvania's recycling and composting industries. The organization uses a combination of education, legislative advocacy and outreach to promote recycling and composting in the Commonwealth.

"We are truly honored to receive this award," PROP President Chuck Raudenbush, said. "Our membership, our board and our staff are to be commended for making PROP a leader in the recycling world."

In his acceptance speech, Executive Director John Frederick echoed Raudenbush's sentiments. "This award is truly one for the entire organization. We would not be receiving this award if it weren't for the work of our incredible staff, our visionary board of directors, our hard working committees and our dedicated members."

Working closely with the Department of Environmental Protection and Penn State Altoona, PROP offers a recycling professional certification program. This program is designed to advance professionalism within the recycling industry by providing training on a variety of topics across the state. The program currently has an enrollment of 700; over 100 professionals have achieved designation as a certified recycling official. An online certification course will debut in September.

In addition to its certification program, the organization also publishes a bi-annual magazine, *The Pennsylvania Recycler*, and holds an annual training conference that attracts over 200 recycling and composting professionals. PROP's 15th annual conference will be held at the Penn Stater Hotel and Conference Center, July 27-29, 2005.

The association maintains close ties with other organizations in the state. PROP was a founding member of [Keep Pennsylvania Beautiful](#), the Commonwealth's newly-created affiliate to Keep America Beautiful, and has worked closely on a project to abate illegal dumping with [PA CleanWays](#) and the [Pennsylvania Environmental Council](#).

Luzerne County Fills Critical Need for Local Recycling Education Funds

Luzerne County Commissioners announced the creation of a new Recycling Education Grant Program, according to Ed Latinski, Luzerne County Recycling Coordinator.

The goal of the program is to teach residents the right way to recycle so the material collected is free of contamination and readily recycled by end users.

The Commissioners made available \$129,899.50 from the county's Landfill Administrative Fee Fund for the program which could potentially benefit the 46 municipalities now recycling in the county.

Municipalities must have completed a 2003 Annual Recycling Report to be eligible to receive these one-time grants. Grant amounts will be equal to fifty cents per person for a qualifying municipality.



PA Environment Digest – Holston & Crisci

Eighty-nine percent of the population in Luzerne County can take advantage of local recycling programs. Fifty-nine percent of the municipal waste produced in the county is now recycled.

The [Luzerne County Solid Waste Management Department](#) will administer the program.

This is believed to be the first time any county has launched a recycling education grant program of this type and scale anywhere in the state.

Keep PA Beautiful Seeking Partners for Anti-Litter, Beautification Efforts

[Keep Pennsylvania Beautiful](#), a statewide coalition of state agencies, local governments, industry groups and nonprofits formed in the last year to educate the public about litter and rural dumping prevention, community beautification and sound waste-management practices in the Commonwealth, is seeking sponsors in the business community to support their statewide activities.



KPB is creating a Business Council, an exclusive membership category for corporate citizens that have an interest in helping the group shape a growing agenda and influencing Pennsylvania laws and policies.

Charter members of the Business Council would have the opportunity to participate in KPB board meetings, serve on board subcommittees, have the right of first refusal for sponsorship of KPB events like the [Great PA Cleanup!](#) and educational programs like a planned website upgrade, preferred access to KPB education materials and the use of the KPB logo on a sponsor's education material.

KPB is Pennsylvania's official state affiliate of Keep America Beautiful, Inc.

To learn more about Charter Membership in the KPB Business Council and other sponsorship opportunities, contact Julia M. Marano, Executive Director, 717-214-7901 or email: marano@keeppabeautiful.org.

Annual Environmental Education Conference Set for Nov. 12-14

The Pennsylvania Alliance for Environmental Education (PAEE) will hold their 26th Annual Conference, November 12 - 14 at the Genetti's in Wilkes-Barre. This year's theme is, "Digging Deeper Into Environment & Ecology Standards."

Each year the Conference attracts hundreds of classroom teachers, environmental educators and representatives from various environmental agencies and organizations all interested in increasing their knowledge of environmental education.

PAEE is also seeking nominations for its annual awards program. Awards are given out each year for: Outstanding Environmental Educator, Outstanding Environmental Education Program, Business Partner Award, Government Partner Award and the Daisy S. Klinedinst Memorial Award. For more information on the awards program and a nomination form contact [Ruth Roperti](#).

Exhibit space is also available at the conference for organizations and businesses by contacting [Angela Belli](#) or calling 814-863-2000.

New Aids Help Businesses, Government Improve Environmental Performance

The Department of Environmental Protection announced the availability of two new publications to help local governments and small businesses save energy and money by improving their environmental performance.

“[Environmental Management Systems: A Guidebook for Improving Energy and Environmental Performance in Local Government](#)” is aimed at helping local governments and municipalities walk through the implementation process of an Environmental Management System (EMS) with a minimum of outside support.

The implementation of an EMS provides organizations with a systematic framework to address the ongoing management of their environmental issues such as waste generation, energy efficiency, pollution prevention, consumption of natural resources, etc. By using the guidelines, as well as the tools and templates available in this manual, an organization can implement a complete EMS.

“[Steps for Improving Your Business and the Environment](#)” is a workbook aimed at helping small- or medium-sized businesses manage environmental issues at their facilities and enhance their energy, environmental and economic performance. It is for anyone in a small or medium-sized company who is looking for help to improve their business’ environmental performance, but is unsure where to begin.

By answering a series of questions, the workbook directs users to a number of valuable tools to review and decide how best to use them in their business.

These documents were prepared by Five Winds International under a grant from DEP. In addition, an accompanying document was developed entitled “[Sample EMS Manual: Environmental Management System Model Manual Specific to Pennsylvania Municipal Operations](#).” This manual may be used in conjunction with the guidebook—or by itself—by organizations desiring to develop and implement an EMS with a minimum of external support.

For more information visit the [EMS webpage](#).

NOx Air Pollution Reduced 70% Since 1990, 30% Since 2002 in Northeast

Under the Nitrogen Oxide (NOx) Budget Trading Program in the Northeastern U.S., total ozone season NOx emissions from power plants and other large combustion sources were 30 percent below 2002 levels in eight northeastern states and the District of Columbia.

NOx Budget Trading Program cuts, when combined with other NOx control programs have reduced ozone season NOx emissions from sources in these states 70 percent below 1990 levels.

Nitrogen oxide is a key ingredient in creating ground level ozone pollution, along with volatile organic compounds.

These conclusions were in EPA’s first annual [NOx Budget Trading Program 2003 Progress and Compliance Report](#) released this week. The 2003 report assesses the NOx Budget Trading Program, a market-based cap and trade program created to reduce nitrogen oxide (NOx) emissions from power plants and other large combustion sources in the eastern United States.

These emissions reductions occurred despite power generation increases by the affected sources in 2003. Reductions also have occurred for both average emissions and short-term peak NOx emissions that are a concern on hot, high electricity demand days conducive to ozone formation. More than 99 percent of the affected units were in full compliance in 2003. Units that were out of compliance received penalties requiring deeper emissions cuts in the future.

BP, 13 Other Case Studies in Reducing Climate Change Emissions in New Report

A [new report presents 14 case studies](#) of world leading companies, countries and states taking steps to recognize and take action to reduce emissions that lead to climate change.

The Climate Group, a coalition of public and private organizations which promotes action on climate issues put together the case studies as a way to share experiences, ideas and achievements of reducers and turn them into knowledge and tools for others to use.

For more information visit [The Climate Group](#) online and [Climate Biz](#), an online resource for businesses interested in reducing climate change emissions.

Find out more about climate change policies adopted by major energy companies by going to [Midwest Generating/Edison](#) and [Excelon](#) online.

“The time to consider the policy dimension of climate change is not when the link between greenhouse gases and climate changes is conclusively proven, but when the possibility cannot be discounted and is taken seriously by the society of which are part.
We at BP have reached that point.”
-- Lord Browne
Group Chief Executive, BP

Natural Mineral Found to Lock Up Carbon Dioxide

A common mineral can remove carbon dioxide from combustion gases, but in its natural state, it is glacially slow. Now, a team of Penn State researchers is changing serpentine so that it sequesters the carbon dioxide from fossil fuel burning in hours, not eons.

The metamorphic mineral serpentine -- or magnesium silicate hydroxide -- is composed of magnesium, silicon and oxygen and is plentiful. Researchers used material from the Cedar Hills quarry on the Pennsylvania/ Maryland border for this study, but the mineral is available in large quantities in many places. The U.S. deposits of the minerals that can be used for this process – serpentine and olivine – can sequester all the carbon dioxide emissions produced from fossil fuels.

When serpentine dissolves in sulfuric acid, the silicon in the mineral becomes silicon dioxide, or sand, and falls to the bottom, while the magnesium becomes magnesium sulfate. Treating some of this magnesium sulfate with sodium hydroxide also creates some magnesium hydroxide. The researchers were able to convert large amounts of the serpentine’s magnesium to these chemicals providing large surface areas for reactions to occur in solution at room temperature.

Carbon dioxide passed through the solution of magnesium sulfate and magnesium hydroxide converts both to magnesium carbonate or magnesite, which becomes a solid and falls to the bottom. This solid can be used to manufacture construction blocks and there is also a small market for hydrated magnesium carbonate in the cosmetics industry.

PA Environment Digest – Holston & Crisci

The silicon dioxide can be used to remove sulfur dioxide from the flue gases, which can subsequently be converted to sulfuric acid to use in the first part of the process.

The researchers have not yet tested the process on a working coal-fired stationary boiler, but they are working on developing a reactor in the laboratory that can continuously treat the flue gas. At the same time they would like to regenerate the sulfuric acid to minimize costs.

Because carbon dioxide will be the last gas in the emission stream treated, there are two options for commercial implementation. Fossil fuel burning plants could simply place a serpentine reactor as the last component of their emissions clean up and sequester carbon on site. Or, if the area is heavy with fossil fuel burning plants, each plant could pipe their carbon dioxide to a central treatment plant.

CONSOL Energy, FirstEnergy to Evaluate Advanced Coal Technologies

CONSOL Energy Inc. and FirstEnergy Corp. have [formed a joint task force](#) to evaluate advanced clean coal technologies, including Integrated Gasification Combined Cycle (IGCC), combustion of waste coal, and other technologies that can potentially meet future baseload power generation needs while reducing the overall environmental impact of generating electricity from coal.

The Task Force, which will be comprised of engineering and business developments staffs of the two companies, will evaluate the commercial feasibility of various advanced technologies using coal to generate electricity that may be pursued by the two companies or in partnership with various government entities.

"The industrial heartland of the United States contains vast resources of coal that could be tapped to generate abundant electricity at affordable prices," said J. Brett Harvey, president and chief executive officer of CONSOL Energy. "These advanced technologies will ensure that the conversion of coal to electricity is done in a manner consistent with the environmental objectives all Americans share."

"As electricity consumption in our region has grown, we have not seen a corresponding increase in baseload generation," said Anthony J. Alexander, president and chief executive officer of FirstEnergy. "In fact, it's been more than a decade since a new baseload power plant was built in Ohio."

"Any meaningful effort to expand baseload generation in Ohio and Pennsylvania should recognize the central role of our region's most abundant energy resource, coal -- and specifically, the need to use this resource in an environmentally responsible manner. The work of our joint task force is an important part of this effort, and is designed to provide us with key information that will help us meet the future energy needs of our customers," Alexander added.

Harvey said he believes that coal-producing states would be very supportive of advanced technology projects, particularly those that use coal waste from abandoned sites as a fuel to generate electricity. "Based on my conversations with state leaders, I am convinced that viable projects that can convert coal wastes into electricity while reclaiming the old coal disposal sites at the same time would receive enthusiastic support."

Although no timetable has been formally established, the two companies hope to identify technologies and projects that could begin development over the next five years, based on an evaluation of electricity markets and future utility regulation.

[CONSOL Energy](#) provides more than 7 million tons of coal per year to FirstEnergy power plants in Pennsylvania and Ohio. In 2002, Consol received a U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Climate Protection Award.

[FirstEnergy](#) is a registered public utility holding company headquartered in Akron, Ohio.

Rivers Feeding Chesapeake Bay Show Decline in Nutrients, Shad Returning

Information collected by the U.S. Geological Survey and the Susquehanna Basin Commission show nitrogen, phosphorus and sediment concentrations at non-tidal river input sites of the Chesapeake Bay's major rivers, and throughout the non-tidal portion of the Susquehanna River in Pennsylvania, have declined significantly.

From the 1980s to 2003, the information shows that flow-adjusted concentrations of nutrient and sediment pollution are decreasing in some of the non-tidal portions of Chesapeake Bay rivers.

However, not all trends are improving or unchanged: the Potomac River shows an increasing trend in phosphorus and the Pamunkey (a tributary to the York River) shows increasing trends in all three pollutants. The [updated indicators](#) can be viewed at the Chesapeake Bay Program website.

Meanwhile, stocking efforts, a Chesapeake Bay moratorium on shad fishing, and fish passage development on the Susquehanna River have helped to increase the number of American shad returning to Conowingo Dam in Pennsylvania from several hundred per year in the early 1980s to an average of 114,165 per year in 2002-2004.

Between 1986 and 2004, a total of 407 million American shad fry and fingerlings were cultured and released in direct support of restoration programs by Chesapeake Bay region states, the US Fish and Wildlife Service and the Pamunkey and Mattaponi Tribal governments.

In addition to American shad, in 2004, 9.97 million hickory shad fry and fingerlings were stocked in Maryland and 3.37 million in Pennsylvania.

For more information visit the [American shad webpage](#).

NewsClips: [Old Timer's Fish Story: Susquehanna Shad Runs Migratory Fish Give Anglers Nonstop Action](#)

EPA, Clean Water Foundation Set World Water Monitoring Day in October

To ensure that global citizens have clean water for domestic, agricultural, commercial and recreational uses, EPA and America's Clean Water Foundation are inviting people around the world to monitor the water quality of their rivers, lakes, streams, wetlands and coastal waters on October 18 – World Water Monitoring Day.

Volunteers of all ages can obtain a test kit to measure their watershed for four basic indicators of health such as dissolved oxygen, pH, turbidity or water clarity and temperature and then enter the results online.

PA Environment Digest – Holston & Crisci

For more information about participating in the event and receiving Monitoring Day kits, visit the [World Water Monitoring Day webpage](#) or contact America's Clean Water Foundation Coordinator Ed Moyer at 202-746-8493.

NewsClip: [DEP Encourages Participation in World Water Monitoring Day](#)

Public Meetings Set on Saxman, Monastery Runs TMDLs in Westmoreland

The Department of Environmental Protection is holding a public meeting on October 7, at 7 p.m. at the Unity Township Municipal Building, Westmoreland County to discuss and accept comments on two proposed TMDLs. One stream segment in the Saxman Run Watershed has been identified as impaired due to metals and suspended solids from acid mine drainage (AMD). Two stream segments in Monastery Run Watershed have also been identified as being impaired as a result of metals and suspended solid from AMD.

For more information contact: Ron Horansky, DEP, Armbrust Professional Center, R. D. 2 Box 603-C, Greensburg, PA 15601, 724-925-5500, rhoransky@state.pa.us . Go to the [TMDL webpage](#) for copies of these TMDL documents.

Middle Creek, Pymatuning Host Wildlife Shows in September

The Pennsylvania Game Commission's [Middle Creek Wildlife Management Area](#) will host its [18th Annual Middle Creek Wildfowl Show](#) on September 18-19. The event will be held from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. each day.

Admission is free, but donations are graciously accepted and benefit the Wildlands Preservation Fund to preserve wild lands. Middle Creek is along Hopeland Road, two miles south of Kleinfeltersville, on the Lebanon-Lancaster county line.

The show features wildfowl carvings, artwork, collectibles and carving supplies from over 60 vendors from as far away as Florida and Canada.

For further information or directions, call 717-733-1512.

The Pennsylvania Game Commission's [Pymatuning Wildlife Learning Center](#) is gearing up for the [2004 Pymatuning Ducks Unlimited Waterfowl Expo](#) on Sept. 18-19, in and around Linesville, Crawford County.

A highlight of the two-day event is the selection of the Pennsylvania Waterfowl Management Stamp from entries by many of the Commonwealth's most accomplished wildlife artists. It will be held at 1 p.m. on Saturday, September 18, at the Alice Schafer Elementary School, Linesville.

Exhibits by woodcarvers, taxidermists, crafters, hunting equipment vendors and others will be featured on Saturday and Sunday. In addition, hunting dog demonstrations and duck calling contests will be held Saturday and Sunday.

For more information call the Learning Center at 814-683-5545.

Elk Scenic Drive Highway Signs Direct Motorists to Viewing Areas

Installation of a series of directional and informational highway signs has begun in three counties to better direct and educate the more than 75,000 visitors converging each year

PA Environment Digest – Holston & Crisci

on Pennsylvania's Elk Country to view Pennsylvania's majestic elk herd and other wildlife, state officials announced this week.

The drive will outline a 127-mile corridor passing through Clinton, Clearfield, Cameron and Elk counties. Two PA Scenic Byways - Route 144 through Sprout State Forest, and Route 120 from Renovo to Driftwood - are part of the drive, which passes through three state forests and three state game lands.

The [Elk Scenic Trail](#) is an outgrowth of broad partnership of agencies including DCNR, the North Central Regional Planning and Development Commission, the Lumber Heritage Region and the Game Commission that developed a long-range plan on elk watching and nature tourism in northcentral Pennsylvania.

Look for examples of the [Elk Scenic Trail signage](#) online.

Leaf Webcams are Back for Another Season!

The Pennsylvania Tourism Office announced this week the return of the www.fallinpa.com website, an interactive fall foliage guide allowing visitors to view live fall foliage scenes throughout the state by region. Part of the site includes [leaf webcams](#) that show still pictures of foliage in several parts of the state.

Community Design, Personal Health are Linked, Find Out How

In a community where people are more likely to drive than to walk, residents are generally less physically active. And the less active residents of such spread-out or sprawling communities are, the more they weigh and the worse their health.

That's the main finding of a Robert Wood Johnson Foundation-funded study, "Relationship Between Urban Sprawl and Physical Activity, Obesity, and Morbidity," published in the American Journal of Health Promotion. That journal, together with the American Journal of Public Health, explores this problem in a recent edition.

You can read details of the study and review the interactive features, including [Designing for Activity and a Walkability Checklist](#) and special [Health Affects of Sprawl](#) web features online. *(Courtesy of [Hourglass Foundation](#), Lancaster)*

Taking Positive Action

PENNTAP, ETAC Help Creekside Mushrooms Upgrade Environmental Efficiency

With help from Penn State's [Pennsylvania Technical Assistance Program](#) (PENNTAP), Creekside Mushrooms, a mushroom grower located in Worthington, Armstrong County, is demonstrating that being both environmentally and energy efficient can help a company's bottom line.

[Creekside Mushrooms](#) is the leading mushroom grower on the East Coast and home to Moonlight® brand mushrooms. Moonlight® is recognized around the world for the highest quality white agaricus mushrooms for distribution to supermarket retailers and foodservice/wholesale operators since 1937.



PA Environment Digest – Holston & Crisci

During 2003, Roger Price, senior PENNTAP technical specialist based at Penn State's McKeesport campus, conducted a pollution prevention/energy efficiency (P2E2) site assessment at Creekside. P2E2 specialists from the [Electrotechnology Applications Center \(ETAC\)](#) at Northampton Community College also participated. The Department of Environmental Protection [Pollution Prevention/Energy Efficiency Grant](#) Program subsidized the costs of the assessments.

Within three months of implementing some of the recommendations from the December, 2003, P2E2 assessment report, Creekside has reduced its water consumption rate by 30 million gallons per year, lowered electric energy consumption by 350,000 kWh per year, and cut natural gas use by 4,400 MCF per year. The economic benefits from implementing these recommendations are approximately \$47,000 per year in savings.

In addition to the annual, recurring economic benefits, the results of the P2E2 assessment also helped Creekside identify options that will produce one time initial savings of \$600,000 in the cost of purchasing and installing new equipment for a couple of P2E2 related projects that were already in the process of being evaluated by the company.

Watershed NewsClips

[Watershed Protection Doesn't Get Any More Local Than This](#) (from *Watershed Weekly*)
[CBF to Hold Restoration Plant Giveaway](#)
[Statewide Water Data System on Its Way](#)
[21 Ways to Know Your Watershed – York County](#)
[Indian Creek Watershed Assn. Lauded for Work](#)
[Watershed Group Fights Invasive Species](#)
[Cowanshannock Creek Watershed Association 25th Anniversary](#)
[Group's Goal is to Reclaim Brodhead Creek](#)

Regulations

[Pennsylvania Bulletin – September 4, 2004](#)

[Comment Deadlines Open](#)

[Copies of Proposed Regulations](#)

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

Technical Guidance & Permits

DEP published this [draft technical guidance](#) for comment this week—

[DEP ID: 273-4110-001](#). Title: Guidelines for Identifying, Tracking and Resolving Violations for Air Quality. Comments are due October 4.

[For copies of Draft Technical Guidance](#)

[For copies of Final Technical Guidance](#)

Calendar of Upcoming Events

- **Sept. 8** - Senate Environmental Resources & Energy Committee hearing on incentives for using coal waste. Burgettstown.
- **Sept. 13-15** – [Watershed Summit on the Delaware](#). Wilmington.
- **Sept. 14** – Storage Tank Advisory Committee, [Subcommittee on Fees](#). Harrisburg. [Agenda](#).
- **Sept. 16** – House Environmental Resources & Energy Committee informational meeting on use of waste coal in Pennsylvania. Indiana.
- **Sept. 16** – DEP [Recycling Fund Advisory Committee](#). Harrisburg. [Agenda](#).
- **Sept. 16** – DEP [Solid Waste Advisory Committee](#) meeting. Harrisburg. [Agenda](#).
- **Sept. 16** – [Ohio River Watershed Celebration](#). Pittsburgh.
- **Sept. 27** – [State Water Plan Statewide Water Resources Committee](#). [Agenda](#). Harrisburg.
- **Sept. 30 – Oct. 2** – [Statewide Watershed Conference](#). Emmaus.
- **Nov. 9** – [Pennsylvania Resources Council](#) Annual Awards Dinner. Philadelphia.

[DEP Calendar of Events](#)

[Watershed Events](#)

Helpful Web Links

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

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

Contributions Invited

Send your stories about environmental issues, programs and positive actions to **PA Environment Digest** - 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.

Content may be reproduced by members of the Pennsylvania House and Senate without attribution. All other rights reserved.