

PA Environment

Positive Action for a Sustainable Pennsylvania

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May 31, 2004

May 27 would have been Rachel Carson's 97th birthday. Many people don't know this founder of the modern environmental movement called Pennsylvania her home, specifically Springdale near Pittsburgh.

A scientist and author of many award winning books and articles, including the 1962 book *Silent Spring* about the impacts of pesticides on the environment, Ms. Carson was also a public employee who worked for the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

For a biography of Ms. Carson, visit: http://www.dep.state.pa.us/dep/pa_env-her/rachel.htm and for information on visiting the Rachel Carson Homestead go to: <http://www.rachelcarsonhomestead.org/>

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Roundtables Show How Businesses Can Cut Environmental Costs

The Department of Environmental Protection is sponsoring a series of roundtables beginning in August on pollution prevention.

The roundtables will provide a forum for business and industry to meet face-to-face on a regular basis to exchange information about the implementation of pollution prevention and environmental improvement programs.

Following is a list of roundtable dates and topics:

Aug. 18 -- Environmental Management Systems and ISO 14001: What's In It For Me? -- Northcentral P2 Roundtable, E.I. Dupont, Tonawanda (includes plant tour).

Featured speaker is Dr. Robert Pojasek, Pojasek and Associates, internationally recognized authority on process improvement and pollution prevention. With 33-plus years experience developing and implementing process improvement plans in industry and government, he is a recognized pioneer in the area of developing performance based metrics for measuring the effectiveness of environment, health and safety programs.

Aug. 19 -- Measuring the True Cost of Pollution Prevention -- Northeast P2 Roundtable, Wilkes University, Wilkes-Barre. Featured speaker is Dr. Robert Pojasek, Pojasek and Associates (see description above).

Oct. 14 -- Waste Reduction Case Studies --Southwest P2 Roundtable, Veka Inc., Pittsburgh (includes plant tour). Learn about industrial waste water reduction, spent acid reduction and recycling and plant-wide waste reduction programs. Speakers include representatives from Veka Inc, Ametek Corp. and PTC Alliance.

All roundtables are free and will be held from 9 a.m.-noon

To register for the events please contact Jane Savko at 412-325-1572 or e-mail at jane@winnets.com.

Mini-Grants Offer Additional Support to Local Water Quality Efforts

The Pennsylvania Association of Conservation Districts Inc. (PACD) is accepting applications, through June 15 for the 2005 Nonpoint Source Pollution Prevention and PA Chesapeake Bay Educational mini-grant programs.

Eligible projects must take place between June 15, 2004 and May 15, 2005. A maximum of \$2,500 will be allocated to eligible projects.

Previous grants provided for a maximum of \$1,000. This grant round provides an additional \$1,500, per project, to support local environmental education efforts that protect water quality by addressing nonpoint source pollution.

Exhibits, farm tours, water quality studies, workshops and publications are just a few of the activities supported by the mini-grant programs. In 2003, mini-grants funded 88 projects. Those projects, in turn, helped to reach thousands of people throughout the Commonwealth.

The mini-project programs are funded by the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection's Chesapeake Bay Program and the Environmental Protection Agency's Section 319 program.

Additional information, including a full listing of previously funded projects, and grant application forms can be found on the PACD website at:

http://www.pacd.org/products/mini_programs.htm .

New Interim Phosphorous Planning Standards Adopted for Farmers

The State Conservation Commission this week adopted interim phosphorous standards as part of Pennsylvania's Nutrient Management Act Program. Revised final regulations are expected to be finalized by early 2005.

Current program regulations require farmers submitting plans for approval to develop and implement nutrient management plans balanced to a crop's nitrogen needs. The interim policy will now direct farmers to also consider phosphorous application rates as a part of their plans. Farmers are encouraged to utilize the Pennsylvania Phosphorous Index recently developed by USDA Agricultural Research Service and Penn State University College of Agricultural Sciences.

In a related action, the Commission also approved increased cost-share rates for farmers under its Nutrient Management Plan Development Incentive Program. This action will help farmers offset the increased cost incurred in developing the plans that include the new phosphorous considerations.

For information about the Commission's Nutrient Management Program, visit:

<http://www.agriculture.state.pa.us/conservation/cwp/view.asp?a=3&Q=118688&conservationNav=1> or call your local county conservation district.

Ozone Action Season Kicks Off; Forecast Air Quality Year-Round

The Philadelphia region's ninth Ozone Action season kicked off today with an event at City Hall hosted by the Air Quality Partnership and the Philadelphia Diesel Difference Initiative.

The AQP, which provides summertime ground-level ozone forecasts and encourages voluntary actions to reduce pollution, also announced that it has expanded its focus to include year-round forecasting for particle pollution.

Representatives from the Delaware Valley Regional Planning Commission, which administers the Air Quality Partnership; the Philadelphia Diesel Difference; the Environmental Protection Agency; the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection; the Clean Air Council; and the City of Philadelphia recognized regional initiatives to improve air quality.

The Air Quality Partnership presented an award to **AstraZeneca** for their outstanding efforts to educate the public and their employees about clean air initiatives.

For more information about ozone, particle pollution and joining the Air Quality Partnership, visit: <http://www.airqualitypartnership.org> .

Tips On How You Can Conserve Fuel, Cut Costs as Gas Prices Climb

With gasoline prices averaging above \$2 a gallon and the summer driving season approaching, the Department of Environmental Protection offered these tips to help motorists conserve fuel and save on gasoline costs while also helping the environment.

- Avoid quick stops and starts. This can save up to two miles a gallon.
- Don't be an aggressive driver. It lowers gas mileage by as much as 33 percent on the highway and 5 percent on city streets, which results in 7 cents to 49 cents a gallon.
- Avoid excessive idling. Sitting idle gets zero miles per gallon and consumes between one half and one gallon of gasoline per hour.
- Check your vehicle's gas cap. Loose, damaged and missing gas caps allow 147 million gallons of gas to vaporize every year.
- Check your tire pressure. When tires are under inflated, it is like driving with the parking brake on and can cost a mile or two per gallon.
- Replace worn spark plugs in older vehicles. A vehicle can have up to eight spark plugs, which fire as many as 3 million times every 1,000 miles. A dirty spark plug causes misfiring, wasting fuel.
- Replace dirty air filters that waste gas and cause engines to lose power. Replacing these filters can improve gas mileage by as much as 10 percent, saving about 15 cents a gallon.
- Combine errands to reduce vehicle miles traveled.
- Take unnecessary weight out of trunks or back seats. By some estimates, hauling around an extra 100 pounds can cost 1 mile a gallon.
- Whenever possible, take public transportation or carpool.

Among the factors contributing to rising prices: unprecedented demand on global oil reserves, the U.S. dollar's declining value against other major currencies, declining refinery and distribution storage capacity in the United States, and continuing shortfall in new oil exploration.

Don't Top Off Your Tank!

When the gas pump nozzle clicks off automatically, do you add a little more gas to round off your dollar sale? Topping off your gas tank is bad for the environment and your wallet.

Air quality officials from the Mid-Atlantic States and EPA Region III have developed a web site to alert motorists to the environmental benefits and cost savings when you don't top off your gasoline tank. Here are some of the reasons why:

Topping off the gas tank can result in your paying for gasoline that is fed back into the station's tanks because your gas tank is full;

Particularly in summer, you need extra room in your gas tank to allow the gasoline to expand;

Gasoline vapors are harmful to breathe; and

Topping off your gas tank may foul the station's vapor recovery system.

◇ To learn more, visit <http://www.epa.gov/donttopoff/> .

7 Organizations Receive \$750,000 to Reduce Diesel Emissions

On May 24 the Department of Environmental Protection announced \$750,000 in grants to reduce school bus idling and help finance the purchase and installation of diesel retrofit technology on trucks and buses to improve air quality.

The full story is available at:

<http://www.dep.state.pa.us/newsletter/default.asp?NewsletterArticleID=8688&SubjectID=>

◇ For more information on diesel engine pollution and other grant programs, visit:

<http://www.dep.state.pa.us/dep/deputate/airwaste/aq/cars/diesel.htm>

Pennsylvania Consumers to Have Wind Energy Choice

PECO is the first Pennsylvania electric distribution utility to offer wind energy as an option on their customers' electric bills. PECO WINDsm is now available to PECO's residential and business customers in Philadelphia, Bucks, Chester, Delaware, Montgomery, and York counties.

The full story is available at:

<http://www.dep.state.pa.us/newsletter/default.asp?NewsletterArticleID=8686&SubjectID=>

◇ For more information on PECO WIND, or to sign up, customers can call 1-866-WIND-321, or visit www.pecowind.com. Consumers across Pennsylvania can also support wind energy and other renewables by purchasing green power. Visit www.green-e.org or www.cleanyourair.org to learn how.

DOE, Alliance to Save Energy Team Up to Save Consumers Money

The U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) and the Alliance to Save Energy (Alliance) this week announced a year-long *Powerful Savings* public education and awareness campaign designed to provide consumers with the information and tools necessary to make smart energy choices a part of their daily lives.

The full story is available at:

<http://www.dep.state.pa.us/newsletter/default.asp?NewsletterArticleID=8687&SubjectID=>

◇ DOE's *Energy Savers: Tips on Saving Energy & Money at Home* is available in both English and Spanish by calling 1-877/337-3463 or at www.energysavers.gov. The Alliance's *Power\$mart: Easy Tips to Save Money and the Planet* can be ordered by calling 1-888/878-3256. An animated version can be previewed at www.ase.org/powersmart/index.html where customization details can be found.

Affected By Flooding? DEP Offers Flood Cleanup Tips

The Department of Environmental Protection advises residents whose homes affected by flood waters that hit portions of southwest Pennsylvania recently to take a number of precautions to assure a safe cleanup.

The full story is available at:

<http://www.dep.state.pa.us/newsletter/default.asp?NewsletterArticleID=8701&SubjectID>

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Comments Wanted on Draft Hazardous Waste Facilities Plan

The Department of Environmental Protection is currently updating the Pennsylvania Hazardous Waste Facilities Plan. Commercial management of hazardous waste has declined in Pennsylvania since the previous update of the Pennsylvania Hazardous Waste Facilities Plan. The current draft plan found that hazardous waste generators in Pennsylvania shipped about 314,000 tons of hazardous waste in 2001 to commercial facilities both inside and outside of Pennsylvania for management while the previous plan showed 548,000 tons in 1995.

The full story is available at:

<http://www.dep.state.pa.us/newsletter/default.asp?NewsletterArticleID=8696&SubjectID>

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<> Watch this link for DEP to post a copy of the draft Hazardous Waste Facilities Plan

http://www.dep.state.pa.us/dep/subject/Proposed_regulations/Proposed_regulations.htm

Factoid: From 1995 to 2001 the amount of hazardous waste declined in Pennsylvania from 548,000 tons to 314,000 tons. Source: PA Hazardous Waste Facilities Plan.

More Regional Water Resources Meetings Set

The Department of Environmental Protection is continuing its series of Water Resources Regional Committee meetings every other month in each of the six major river basins of Pennsylvania—Delaware, Great Lakes, Lower Susquehanna, Ohio, Potomac and Upper/Middle Susquehanna.

The full story is available at:

<http://www.dep.state.pa.us/newsletter/default.asp?NewsletterArticleID=8699&SubjectID>

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<> For more information on Water Resources Planning Program now underway, visit:

<http://www.dep.state.pa.us/dep/deputate/watermgmt/wc/act220/default.htm>

Communities Receive Stormwater Planning Grants

The Department of Environmental Protection has awarded three stormwater planning and management grants totaling \$947,575 to help Bucks, Delaware and Montgomery counties prepare and update plans to enhance regional water quality and encourage smart growth.

The full story is available at:

<http://www.dep.state.pa.us/newsletter/default.asp?NewsletterArticleID=8693&SubjectID>

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<> For more information on Stormwater Management Planning in Pennsylvania, visit:

<http://www.dep.state.pa.us/dep/deputate/watermgmt/wc/subjects/stormwatermanagement/default.htm>

Four Communities Receive Composting Infrastructure Grants

The Department of Environmental Protection has awarded \$185,886 in compost infrastructure grants to help four facilities expand their existing composting operations and increase the amount of organic materials that they recycle to reduce waste and save landfill space.

The full story is available at:

<http://www.dep.state.pa.us/newsletter/default.asp?NewsletterArticleID=8704&SubjectID>

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◇ For more information on Recycling, visit:

<http://www.dep.state.pa.us/dep/deputate/airwaste/wm/recycle/recycle.htm>

Charcoal Handling, Safe Disposal of Household Hazardous Waste

With the holiday weekend launching a season of summer cookouts, the Department of Environmental Protection is reminding Pennsylvanians to take care when disposing of charcoal and other outdoor items to avoid hazards such as fires and protect the safety of waste haulers, landfill operators and the public.

Homeowners should be especially careful when disposing of the following items:

- Charcoal - Coals can remain hot enough to start a fire for several days and can cause fires in home trash cans, trash trucks and at landfills. Always soak coals in water.
- Chlorine and Pool Chemicals - Many pool chemicals such as chlorine, when mixed with other household chemicals, can create toxic fumes that can sicken family members and waste haulers, and can also react with other chemicals to cause fires.
- Paint - Tightly seal large amounts of paint and store upside down in the original container for future use or give excess paint to a friend or neighbor. Take oil-based paint, stain and thinner to household hazardous waste collections whenever possible.
- Batteries - It is illegal to dispose of automobile batteries in your trash. Cell phone and computer batteries contain metals and chemicals that are hazardous to the environment.
- Gasoline, Kerosene and Charcoal Lighter Fluid - Do not dispose of gas and lighter fluid cans unless they are empty. When disposing of empty cans, make sure the lids are removed to avoid fires and explosions.
- Pesticides, Cleaners and Degreasers - These items contain chemicals that can injure humans and animals, and can also pollute drinking water supplies.
- Gas Grill Canisters - Compressed gas containers present a risk of explosion that could kill or injure sanitation workers and innocent bystanders. Make sure small canisters are empty. For larger tanks, check with a local propane dealer to see if they will recycle the tank.

The best method to manage these materials is to avoid generating them by not purchasing more than you can use. Pennsylvania's Household Hazardous Waste Hotline at 1-800-346-4242 or county recycling coordinator can provide information on proper disposal.

Many communities conduct Household Hazardous Waste collection events throughout the year. For a list of county recycling coordinators and a schedule of these collections in your area, visit: <http://www.dep.state.pa.us/dep/deputate/airwaste/wm/HHW/HHW.htm> .

Senior Volunteers Wanted to Protect Homeland Security

The Pennsylvania Senior Environment Corps is sponsoring a series of workshops to help train seniors to be part of a new Home Guard program designed to help protect Pennsylvania's drinking water supplies.

The seminars will be held: June 7-8 in Bellefonte, June 11-12 in Reading and on July 16-17 in the western part of Pennsylvania at a location to be announced.

For more information on the Home Guard Program, visit:

<http://www.easi.org/programs/program34.htm> .

If you would like to attend a workshop, contact one of these Senior Environment Corps leaders—

(Marsha) marsha@easi.org 540-788-3274;

(Beth) pagreatsec@aol.com 717-244-6248;

Me (Peggy) mknighteco@aol.com 703-241-0019

To find your local PA Senior Environment Corps Chapter, go to the directory at:

<http://www.easi.org/programs/program1.html>

The Pennsylvania Senior Environment Corps is supported in part by the departments of Aging and Environmental Protection.

Regional Directors in Southwest and Northeast Retire

DEP Southwest Regional Director Chuck Duritsa and Northeast Regional Director Bill McDonnell have announced they will retire next month after each serving more than 30 years with the department.

The full story is available at:

<http://www.dep.state.pa.us/newsletter/default.asp?NewsletterArticleID=8702&SubjectID=>

See and Hear How Others Are Taking Positive Action

The Environmental Classroom

http://www.greenworks.tv/tvshow/education/environ_classroom/index.html

Our Mountains, Our Streams, Our Homes

http://www.greenworks.tv/watershedstv/more_information/featuredtopic_ourmntns.htm

Contributions Invited

Send your stories about positive actions that will inspire others to promote a sustainable Pennsylvania environment to: DHess@HolstonCrisci.com .

Technical Guidance Open for Comment

List of New Draft Technical Guidance

<http://www.dep.state.pa.us/newsletter/default.asp?NewsletterArticleID=8714&SubjectID>
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- Interim Final Guidance for Evaluating Alternate Recycle Return Locations Proposed under the Filter Backwash Recycling Rule (FBRR)
- Draft Recognition of Cost Items Associated with Concurrent Act 537 and Combined Sewer Overflow Long Term Control Plan (LTCP) Planning. Description

For copies of Draft Technical Guidance:

http://www.dep.state.pa.us/TechnicalGuidance/Draft_technical_guidance.asp

For copies of Final Technical Guidance

<http://www.dep.state.pa.us/eps/default.asp?P=fldr200149e0051190>

Regulations Open for Comment

Pennsylvania Bulletin – May 28, 2004

<http://www.pabulletin.com/secure/data/vol34/34-22/index.html>

Comment Deadlines Open

<http://www.dep.state.pa.us/newsletter/default.asp?NewsletterArticleID=8715&SubjectID>
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For copies of Proposed Regulations

http://www.dep.state.pa.us/dep/subject/Proposed_regulations/Proposed_regulations.htm

Status of Regulations and Six-Month Regulatory Calendar

<http://www.dep.state.pa.us/dep/subject/regisrpt/index.htm>

Calendar of Upcoming Events

- **June 1** – House Consumer Affairs Committee Informational Meeting on Natural Gas Restructuring. Rm 140, Main Capitol. 2:00. Info: <http://www.rep flick.com/>
- **June 7** - Joint Legislative Air & Water Pollution Control and Conservation Commission Information Session on links between environmental pollutants and human health. Hearing Room 1, North Office Building. 12:00. Info: <http://jcc.legis.state.pa.us/>
- **June 8** – House Environmental Resources & Energy Committee public hearing on renewable portfolio standards. Hearing Room 1, Ground Floor, North Office Building. 9:30. Info: <http://www.williamadolph.com/>

- **June 15** – Senate Environmental Resources & Energy Committee public hearing on Gov. Rendell’s Growing Greener II initiative. Senate Majority Caucus Room. 11:00. Info: <http://www.senatormjwhite.com/>

DEP Calendar of Events

<http://www.dep.state.pa.us/newsreleases/default.asp>

Watershed Events

<http://www.pawatersheds.org/WWeekly/issue.asp?ID=198#currentnews>

Helpful Web Links

Daily NewsClips

<http://www.dep.state.pa.us/newsclippings/>

Weekly DEP Update

<http://www.dep.state.pa.us/newsletter/>

GreenTreks Network

<http://www.greentreks.org>

Watershed Weekly

<http://www.pawatersheds.org/WWeekly/index.asp>

DEP Press Releases

<http://www.dep.state.pa.us/newsreleases/default.asp>

DEP Advisory Committee Meetings & Agendas

http://www.dep.state.pa.us/dep/subject/advcoun/advisory_comm.html

DEP Regulations

<http://www.pacode.com/secure/data/025/025toc.html>

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