



# PA Environment Digest

*An Update on  
Environmental  
Issues in  
Pennsylvania*

---

**Edited By David E. Hess, Holston & Crisci**

**December 6, 2004**

---

## **Now It Is Over, Done**

The 2003-04 session of the General Assembly was history this week as of midnight Tuesday. The House and Senate did not come back as requested by Gov. Rendell to deal with the mass transit funding issue or the Growing Greener II environmental spending proposal.

But, the interesting times continue with the Governor putting his signature on dozens of bills and vetoing a few. This Digest gives you a rundown on the environmental bills signed or still pending.

### **Contents – On the Hill**

- Signing of Alternative Energy Act “a Big Step Forward” Toward Greener Future
- Governor Signs Fishing & Boating Funding Bill
- Legislation Creates New Chesapeake Bay Education Program

### **Other News**

- [Holiday Waste Reduction Tips](#)
- 2004 State of the Bay Report Finds No Change in Health of the Chesapeake Bay
- [Rendell Named Chair of Chesapeake Bay Council](#)
- [Chesapeake Bay Citizens Advisory Council Seeks Youth Representative](#)
- EPA Emergency Preparedness Conference Meets in Philadelphia
- Volunteers Needed to Deal with Wildlife Impacts of Delaware River Spill
- PUC Approves PPL Rate Increase, Including Sustainable Energy Funding
- Pocono Creek Sustainability Pilot Project Begins
- DEP Solicits Proposals for Innovative Acid Mine Drainage Projects
- Comments Invited on TMDL Plans in Allegheny, Beaver, Washington Counties
- LEED Green Building Standards – Process, Future Developments
- Schools Join EPA to Improve Indoor Air Quality for Millions Of Children
- New Grants To Reduce Lead Poisoning in High-Risk Communities
- EPA Issues High Production Volume Chemical Challenge
- U.S. Business Actions to Address Climate Change: Case Studies of Five Industry Sectors
- \$1.2 million in Wild Resource Conservation Grants
- Agriculture Celebrates Bicentennial Farm Program ‘200 Years of Progress’
- Op-Ed: Celebrating the 30th Anniversary of the Safe Drinking Water Act
- Quick Clips: Oil Prices, Landfills, Future Cars, eFACTS, Waste Plan Changes, Dredge Standard Review
- **Taking Positive Actions:** Armstrong Recycles Over 20 Million Sq. Feet of Old Ceiling Tiles

## On the Hill

---

### Bills Signed into Law

**Advanced Energy Portfolio Standards:** [Senate Bill 1030](#) (Erickson-R-Delaware) requires electric distributors and generators that sell directly to retail customers to have 18 percent of the energy they sell be from renewable or sources other than coal and nuclear power by 2019. [NewsClip](#) (*See more reaction to the portfolio standards below.*)

**Alternative Fuels:** on [Senate Bill 255](#) (Tomlinson-R-Bucks) making changes to the Alternative Fuels Incentive Program to include stationary power projects. The bill also authorizes a \$10 million transfer to the Energy Development Authority that was included in this year's budget. Act 178. [NewsClip](#) + [Energy Dev. Authority Board Named](#)

**Sewer/Water Funding:** [Senate Bill 1102](#) (Gordner-R-Northumberland) would allocate \$200 million to the Commonwealth Financing Authority and \$150 to PennVEST (\$50 million from the bond question and \$100 million from existing debt authority) to fund water and wastewater projects. Act 218

**Watershed Education Program:** [House Bill 2775](#) (Zug-R-Lebanon) creates a Watershed Education Program within the Department of Education to provide grants to school districts and environmental education centers to support water education efforts. Act 231. (*See more on the Watershed Education Program below.*)

**Senior Environment Corps:** [Senate Bill 1041](#) (Pippy-R-Allegheny) establishing the Senior Environment Corps Program in law with the departments of Aging and Environmental Protection. Pennsylvania becomes the first state to establish its Senior Environment Corps in law. Act 215

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

### Looking to Cut Costs, Become More Efficient?

Reduce Your Environmental Overhead and Cut Costs  
With The Help of These Organizations



[Electrotechnology Applications Center – E-Friendly Ways to Heat, Dry, Cure, Coat & Cut Costs](#)



[PennTAP- Helping Manufacturers Reduce Their Environmental Footprint, Operating Costs](#)



[Small Business Development Centers Can Help You Cut Environmental Costs](#)

## PA Environment Digest – Holston & Crisci

**Fishing License Increase:** [House Bill 2155](#) (B.Smith-R-York) increases fishing and boating licenses and permits to raise over \$7 million a year for the Commission. The bill also includes new forms of licenses and permits including a Lake Erie stamp, a combo Lake Erie/Trout stamp and charter boat/fishing guide permits. Act 159

**Forestland Beautification:** [House Bill 2227](#) (Rubley-R-Chester) authorizing the Governor to take \$500,000 from the Recycling, Solid Waste Abatement or the Keystone Recreation, Park and Conservation Fund to provide monies for the Forestland Beautification Program in the Department of Conservation and Natural Resources. Act 139

**Dumping Penalty:** [House Bill 2029](#) (Cruz-D-Philadelphia) the law providing penalties for illegal dumping in Philadelphia was amended to include a penalty of six month suspension of driving privileges. Act 227

**Coal & Gas Coordination:** [House Bill 2804](#) (Hutchinson-R-Venango) amends the Coal and Gas Resource Coordination Act by removing the requirement that a gas well must be located at least 330 feet from the boundary of the tract on which it is located. It also removes the section of the Act relating to exceptions to the 330 foot requirement, since exceptions won't be required. Act 171

### **Bills Still on Governor's Desk**

**Mass Transit Districts:** [House Bill 994](#) (Rubley-R-Chester) authorizes the creation of public transportation districts to work cooperatively with counties, local governments, transportation authorities, the private sector, AMTRAK and other providers of public transportation and passenger rail services. The bill is on the Governor's Desk. (Last day for Governor's action December 10.)

### **Signing of Alternative Energy Act “a Big Step Forward” Toward Greener Future**

Rep. Ross (R-Chester) hailed the signing of the Alternative Energy Bill, [Senate Bill 1030](#) (Erickson-R-Delaware), by Gov. Rendell this week. The act mandates that 18 percent of energy sold by electric energy suppliers in Pennsylvania will be from alternative energy sources such as wind power, solar power, and cogeneration.

"The Alternative Energy Act is the right and reasonable direction for Pennsylvania to take as we look to create a sustainable and clean future for generations to come," said Ross. "By harnessing alternative energies we take a big step toward a greener future for Pennsylvania."

Senate Bill 1030, sponsored by Sen. Ted Erickson (R-Chester/Delaware), was companion legislation to the bill Ross introduced in the House (House Bill 2250) in December 2003.

"Senator Erickson and I worked hard to establish a consensus between utilities, consumers, conservation groups, and state agencies," Ross said. "The goal we achieved is a balance between cleaner energy sources and low energy costs."

## PA Environment Digest – Holston & Crisci

"We must keep energy prices low for this program to maintain long-term success. Pennsylvania energy costs must remain competitive for our business community as well as for our residents. Nevada residents actually pay less now for electricity since that state implemented an alternative energy policy."

Ross notes the Alternative Energy Act will create more jobs in Pennsylvania. According to a report by Black & Veatch, a global engineering, consulting and construction company; the shift to alternative energy sources could create 85,000 net new jobs during the first 20 years of the act.

The act is also good for business as earnings are projected to increase by approximately \$2.8 billion according to the same report.

"In addition to the greener benefits of Senate Bill 1030, the act will establish stability in the energy market since not all the eggs will be in one basket," said Ross. "If the prices of a certain energy source spike, there will be enough cushion in the diversified energy grid to maintain stable prices overall."

The Alternative Energy Act was designed to gradually adapt the new sources into the current electric infrastructure. The act establishes a graduated timeframe for integrating energy sources from both tiers.

The act provides for the Public Utility Commission (PUC) to establish an alternative energy tradable credits program as needed to implement the program. The program will create a process for qualifying alternative energy systems, and determining the how credits can be created, accounted for, transferred and retired.

Seventeen states including, New York, Texas, New Jersey, and Maryland are already using alternative energy standards successfully to save taxpayer funds and create cleaner environments. Texas has surpassed the mandated levels for wind power, while New York requires 24 percent of available electric energy to be from alternative sources.

**NewsClip:** [Some Residents Catching the Breeze](#)  
[Residents Running on "Remooable" Energy](#)

### **Governor Signs Fishing & Boating Funding Bill**

Gov. Rendell has signed [House Bill 2155](#) into law this week, providing much-needed operating revenue for the [Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission](#) (PFBC) through modest increases in the fees charged for fishing licenses and boat registrations.

The new fees go into effect January 1, 2005 - the first time since 1991 that boat registration rates have changed. Fishing license fees were last adjusted in 1996. HB 2155 also includes new forms of licenses and permits including a Lake Erie stamp, a combo Lake Erie/Trout stamp and charter boat/fishing guide permits.

Unlike most state agencies, the PFBC does not receive General Fund tax revenues for its day-to-day operations, relying instead almost exclusively on the revenues generated from registration and license sales.

The fee structure established in HB 2155 evolved from the input of the state's major sporting and boating organizations, including the Pennsylvania Federation of Sportsmen's Clubs, Pennsylvania Boating Association of Southeast PA, Pennsylvania Trout, Pennsylvania B.A.S.S., Pennsylvania Boating Association of Southwest PA, Coalition of Concerned Anglers, and Unified Sportsmen of Pennsylvania.

While HB 2155 addresses the pressing need for revenues for the PFBC's daily operations, the question of funding for state-owned infrastructure managed by the agency continues to loom large. There is an estimated \$110 million backlog at state lakes, fish hatcheries and boat launches managed by the Commission. A separate dedicated, long-term source of funding - not license and registration dollars - is needed to address these issues.

### **Legislation Creates New Chesapeake Bay Education Program**

Rep. Zug (R-Lebanon) has successfully promoted legislation to create the Chesapeake Bay Watershed Education Program from concept to law. Zug's [House Bill 2775](#) was signed into law by the governor this week.

Under Zug's new law, grants of up to \$5,000 will be awarded to Pennsylvania schools to support resources for the development of watershed education curricula. The program will offer students opportunities to participate in meaningful bay and stream outdoor experiences. Additionally, the new law provides for teacher training via related non-profit organizations and state agencies. The state Department of Education will administer the program.

"School children will be more adequately prepared for lifetimes of appreciation for our natural waterways," Zug said. "The Chesapeake Bay, and its tributaries, are precious to Pennsylvania's economy, traditions and culture. There's no overstating how a simple and cost-effective program like this will have a long-lasting effect on the care of our waterways."

Zug, one of Pennsylvania's delegate to the Chesapeake Bay Commission, said, "this program will help to teach Pennsylvania citizens that the condition of the bay is dependent upon the actions of every person who resides in the watershed. This program will make the importance and the enjoyment of the bay come alive to our school children."

In 1983, Pennsylvania along with Maryland, Virginia, the District of Columbia and the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) entered into the first Chesapeake Bay Agreement in an effort to protect and restore the bay's ecosystem. Nine years later, Pennsylvania renewed its commitment to the Chesapeake Bay system by entering into a new agreement known as Chesapeake 2002.

The new law, now known as the Chesapeake Bay Watershed Education Program Act, takes effect immediately.

## **In Other News**

---

### **2004 State of the Bay Report Finds No Change in Health of the Chesapeake Bay**

The [Chesapeake Bay Foundation's](#) 2004 [State of the Bay Report](#) gives the health of the Bay a below passing grade. The report, released this week, grades the health of the Bay a "D," with a health index rating of 27, the same as last year's score.

The State of the Bay Report, which CBF issued for the first time in 1998, is a comprehensive measure of the Bay's health. For the report, CBF evaluates 13 indicators: oysters, shad, underwater grasses, wetlands, forested buffers, toxics, water clarity,

## PA Environment Digest – Holston & Crisci

dissolved oxygen, crabs, striped bass (rockfish), resource lands, phosphorus, and nitrogen. CBF scientists compile and examine the best available historical and up-to-date information for each indicator and assign it an index score and letter grade.

Taken together, these indicators offer an assessment of Bay health. The unspoiled Bay serves as CBF's benchmark. That original Bay ecosystem, with its extensive forests and wetlands, clear water, abundant fish and oysters, and lush growths of submerged vegetation, rates a 100 on CBF's scale. While CBF does not expect to see the Bay achieve the pristine state of 100, the current rating of 27 is unacceptable.

In June of 2000, when the states and federal government signed the Chesapeake 2000 Agreement, they made a commitment to reduce pollution enough to remove the Bay from the EPA “dirty waters list” by 2010. This accomplishment would achieve a score of approximately 40 on CBF’s Bay health index. Now almost halfway to that deadline, CBF’s State of the Bay Report health index shows no overall progress since last year, and a decline since 2000.

Finding the nation’s largest estuary in peril unless dramatic action is taken soon, the Chesapeake Bay Blue Ribbon Finance Panel this month called on Bay jurisdictions and the federal government to make a six-year, \$15 billion investment to reduce pollution in the Bay. The report, titled Saving a National Treasure: Financing the Cleanup of the Chesapeake Bay, also called for the creation of a regional financing authority charged with prioritizing and distributing restoration funds throughout the Bay's 64,000-square-mile watershed.

Another report, issued this month by the Chesapeake Bay Commission, identified the most cost effective strategies to reduce pollution, suggesting the most efficient use of taxpayer dollars. The report’s top choice is to utilize available, affordable technology to reduce pollution from sewage treatment plants.

### **EPA Emergency Preparedness Conference Meets in Philadelphia**

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency mid-Atlantic region will hold its annual [emergency preparedness and prevention conference](#) at the Wyndham Franklin Plaza Hotel in Philadelphia on December 5-8.

The conference theme this year is “Partners in Preserving Liberty” stressing cooperation in counter-terrorism, emergency response preparedness and chemical safety.

The keynote speaker will be Rob “Waldo” Waldman, a former decorated U.S. Air Force fighter pilot, leadership consultant and author. Waldo will speak on the importance of preparation and teamwork in accomplishing your mission.

Other featured speakers include:

- Edward G. Rendell, governor, Commonwealth of Pennsylvania (invited)
- John F. Street, mayor of Philadelphia (invited)
- Donald S. Welsh, regional administrator, U.S. EPA mid-Atlantic
- John S. Bresland, member, U.S. Chemical Safety and Hazard Investigation Board

This will be one of the nation's largest gatherings of emergency planners and responders. More than 1,500 emergency planners and managers, first response personnel, community leaders, emergency medical providers and industry representatives will learn the best ways to plan, prepare, and prevent accidental hazardous materials incidents and to combat security threats.

## PA Environment Digest – Holston & Crisci

The mission of the conference is to provide national forum where police and fire personnel, local emergency managers, planners and representatives from the environmental, transportation, utilities and medical fields come together to learn the latest techniques, trends and technologies in emergency preparedness and response.

Workshop topics include: Reducing your vulnerability to terrorist attacks, Chemical fires, Disaster management and emergency response, Myth, fantasy and weapons of mass destruction, Explosives and their tactical use by terrorists.

The four-day conference is sponsored by EPA's mid-Atlantic region. Further conference information can be obtained by calling the registration hotline at 800-364-7974.

### **Volunteers Needed to Deal with Wildlife Impacts of Delaware River Spill**

Over the next few days, weeks, and months, you can be instrumental in helping to document the extent of damage, oiled wildlife, and the long-term presence of oil over time related to the recent oil spill on the Delaware.

Volunteers are being organized by the Delaware Riverkeeper to survey areas to document oil pollution and injured wildlife and develop a record to advocate for a complete restoration for the river and its tributary streams as the natural resource damage assessment unfolds .

Contact Faith Zerbe, Delaware Riverkeeper Network, 610-469-6005 for more information. ([full story in Watershed Weekly](#))

**NewsClips:** [Oil Slick May Impact Fishing](#)  
[Oil Forcing Shutdown of Salem Nuclear Plant](#)

### **PUC Approves PPL Rate Increase, Including Sustainable Energy Funding**

The Pennsylvania Public Utility Commission (PUC) this week approved a request from PPL Electric Utilities to raise distribution rates beginning Jan. 1 by \$137.1 million (7.18 percent), approximately \$27.3 million less than the company had requested.

An important element of the PUC's decision was to allow the utility to extend funding for its [Sustainable Energy Fund](#) another two years. Money for the fund was due to expire on December 31, 2004.

The Sustainable Energy Fund makes investments in renewable energy, clean energy technologies, and energy conservation among residential, commercial, institutional, and industrial customers in the PPL Electric Utilities service territory and beyond.

The PUC approved the increase 4-0 on a motion by Chairman Holland ([link to motion](#)). However, Commissioner Robert K. Bloom filed a descending opinion on the method for funding the Sustainable Energy Fund. ([Link to Vice Chairman Robert K. Bloom's statement](#).)

The action this week marks the first distribution rate increase for any of the state's electric companies since 1997, when rates were capped as part of the electric competition law.

**NewsClip:** [PUC Lets PPL Raise Rates](#)

### **Pocono Creek Sustainability Pilot Project Begins**

A kick-off meeting of the steering committee for the EPA Region 3-funded [Pocono Creek Sustainability pilot project](#) was held November 22, at the Delaware River Basin Commission offices. The project will evaluate the effects of growth and land use change on ground water, stream flow, and the ecology of Pocono Creek.

Tools will be developed to determine the sustainable groundwater withdrawal limits considering environmental, economic, and social concerns. Research findings and results will be transferred to other parts of the Delaware River Basin, as well as to other regions of the country.

### **DEP Solicits Proposals for Innovative Abandoned Mine Reclamation Projects**

The Department of Environmental Protection this week began soliciting for proposals for innovative mine reclamation projects in two categories--

**Metals Recovery:** DEP renewed its request for proposals for metals recovery techniques from acid mine drainage treatment technologies that was originally published last July. Bid No. OSM PA(AMD-04)

**Economic Development:** A second request for proposals for reclamation projects which have economic development or industrial applications for reclaiming mined lands, beneficially treating and using mine pool water or beneficially using metal precipitates from mine pool water. Bid No. OSM PA(AMR-05)

Proposals should be submitted by January 5 to Joseph H. Schueck, Chief, Division of Acid Mine Drainage Abatement, Bureau of Abandoned Mine Reclamation, Department of Environmental Protection, P. O. Box 8476, Harrisburg, PA 17105-8476, fax (717) 783-0470. Individuals with questions should contact Joseph H. Schueck at (717) 783-5633 or [jschueck@state.pa.us](mailto:jschueck@state.pa.us).

### **Comments Invited on TMDL Plans in Allegheny, Beaver, Washington Counties**

The Department of Environmental Protection is inviting public comments on two proposed Total Maximum Daily Loading Plans for –

**Harmon Creek, Washington County:** DEP is holding a public meeting on January 25 at Raccoon Creek State Park Office to discuss and accept comments on one stream segment in the Harmon Creek Watershed which is impaired due to metals and suspended solids.

**Raccoon Creek Watershed, Allegheny, Beaver, Washington Counties:** DEP is holding a public meeting on January 25 at Raccoon Creek State Park Office to discuss and accept comments on four stream segments identified as impaired due to metals, suspended solids and in some areas depressed pH.



Contact Ron Horansky at 724-925-5500 or email: [rhoransky@state.pa.us](mailto:rhoransky@state.pa.us) for more information.

### **Officials Convene to Sign Great Lakes Declaration**

In an unprecedented display of intergovernmental and multi-state collaboration, dozens of government officials and tribal representatives signed a [Great Lakes Declaration](#) and a framework document for the Great Lakes Regional Collaboration to restore and protect the Great Lakes ecosystem. Officials in attendance included members of President Bush's cabinet and senior staff, United States senators and congressmen, Great Lakes governors, Tribes, mayors, state senators and representatives.

Erie Mayor Richard E. Filippi attended the ceremony for Pennsylvania.

The signers of the Great Lakes Declaration pledged to collaboratively work together toward a common goal of protecting, restoring and improving the Great Lakes ecosystem in order to address the new and continuing challenges and ensure a healthy ecosystem for future generations.

The Great Lakes Regional Collaboration Framework establishes strategy teams, made up of government, quasi-government and other regional stakeholders, as the working bodies responsible for drafting action plans that will be used for the draft Great Lakes strategy.

The teams will use the nine priorities identified in October 2003 by the Great Lakes Governors and since adopted by the Great Lakes Mayors and ratified by the Great Lakes Commission as their organizational foundation. This strategy will be presented to the members of the Great Lakes Regional Collaboration for resolution of final issues and adoption at Summit I, scheduled for the summer of 2005.

In May 2004, President Bush signed Executive Order 13340 creating a Cabinet-level Task Force to accelerate the coordination for protection and restoration of the Great Lakes system. The Executive Order directed the Task Force to help convene and establish "a regional collaboration of national significance for the Great Lakes" among the U.S. federal government, the Great Lakes states, local communities, Tribes and other interests in the Great Lakes region.

The Great Lakes constitute the largest freshwater system on earth, containing roughly 20 percent of the world's fresh water supply. In addition to their natural beauty, the Great Lakes serve as a source of drinking water for more than 30 million people, support the culture and life ways of native communities, form the backbone for billions of dollars in shipping, trade, and fishing and provide food and recreational opportunities for millions of American and Canadian citizens.

### **LEED Green Building Standards – Process, Future Developments**

On December 15 Peter Templeton, the U.S. Green Building Council's Director of LEED & International Programs, will lead a discussion of LEED Green Building Standards at the Engineers Society of Western Pennsylvania in Pittsburgh.

Topics covered will include: the LEED application submittal process– what is the procedure for USGBC review, what do they look for? The Development of the LEED online certification tool; Launching LEED 2.2 & 3.0; New LEED AP exam - how does

this differ from previous version? What does USGBC see as the future role of LEED AP; Introduction to the new family of LEED products; Future plans for recertification under LEED

There is a \$25 registration fee for this event, which is sponsored by the Green Building Alliance of Pittsburgh. For more information call 412-431-0709 or email: [info@gbapgh.org](mailto:info@gbapgh.org)

### **Schools Join EPA to Improve Indoor Air Quality for Millions Of Children**

Working with EPA to ensure a safe and healthy learning environment for millions of American school children, more than 500 school representatives and health, technical and environmental experts will participate in EPA's 5th Annual [Indoor Air Quality Tools for Schools](#) National Symposium this week.

At a national awards ceremony, EPA recognized schools and individuals from across the country for efforts to protect indoor air quality for kids at school. EPA has invited hundreds of local school officials from across the country to discuss the basics of how to identify and resolve indoor environmental problems in schools.

Indoors, factors such as mold, mildew, dust, animal dander, radon, secondhand smoke, asbestos and formaldehyde can affect indoor air quality and trigger various allergies and asthma. Asthma alone accounts for 14 million missed school days each year. The rate of asthma in young children has risen by 160 percent in the last 15 years, and today one out of every 13 school-age children has asthma.

At the Symposium, EPA will announce 22 schools and school districts that have implemented exemplary Indoor Air Quality (IAQ) programs and honor them with the IAQ Tools for Schools Excellence Award. These award winners have implemented effective programs in their schools ranging from designing a new school building free of toxins and other hazards to developing district-wide policies for continuous training and maintenance.

### **New Grants To Reduce Lead Poisoning in High-Risk Communities**

EPA is making available [\\$750,000 to prevent lead-based paint related poisoning](#) in high-risk areas. Under a new competitive lead grant program, the agency will provide funding to communities having high rates of elevated blood-lead levels, as well as to communities where there are conditions associated with elevated blood-lead levels.

This new grant program supports the federal goal to eliminate lead poisoning in children by 2010. The incidence of childhood lead poisoning has been reduced by half since the early 1990s. Children are especially vulnerable to lead poisoning because of their metabolism and hand-to-mouth activity. Lead can cause a number of neurological problems and learning disabilities in young children.

State and local governments, Federally-recognized Indian Tribes and Tribal consortia, territories, institutions of higher learning and non-profit organizations are eligible to apply. Applicants must represent communities with historical and likely incidences of elevated blood lead levels. Proposals should include ways to address unique and challenging issues in lead-poisoning prevention, particularly ones that could be

## PA Environment Digest – Holston & Crisci

replicated in other high-risk areas. Applicants should submit written applications on plain paper to regional lead contacts.

Decisions will be made on the basis of this informal application; successful applicants will then be required to submit the full application. EPA intends to award individual grants ranging from \$25,000 to \$100,000. The grantees will be announced in April 2005.

### **EPA Issues High Production Volume Chemical Challenge**

EPA released a report this week that highlights the accomplishments of a collaborative partnership between EPA, the chemical industry and the environmental community in making data publicly available on high-production volume (HPV) chemicals.

The report, "[Status and Future Directions of the HPV Challenge Program](#)" showcases the extensive voluntary participation by companies that have agreed to provide data to EPA on chemicals they manufacture or import, and outlines a preliminary strategy for how EPA will deal with chemicals that are not yet sponsored.

More than 400 chemical manufacturing companies, either individually or as part of 100 groups of companies that joined together for this program, voluntarily agreed to sponsor more than 2200 HPV chemicals by committing to make basic health and environmental data publicly available for these chemicals. HPV chemicals are manufactured in or imported into the United States in amounts over one million pounds per year.

The HPV Challenge Program began in 1998 after multiple studies in the mid-1990's showed that the American public lacked basic data related to high-production volume chemicals that are prevalent in the United States.

EPA worked with the Environmental Defense, the American Chemistry Council and the American Petroleum Institute to form the HPV Challenge Program.

### **Business Actions to Address Climate Change: Case Studies of Five Industry Sectors**

Curious how U.S. companies are managing their climate risk in the absence of Kyoto-style emissions regulations? A [new report on U.S. business actions to address climate change](#) was published in November by [www.GreenBiz.com](http://www.GreenBiz.com) ) examines the climate management strategies of five industry sectors in the U.S. -- aluminum, chemical, electric power, paper products and forestry, and pharmaceuticals. Industry-specific sections end with an in-depth case study from a major player in each sector.

The report puts things in perspective with overviews of U.S. federal and state greenhouse gas policies as well as industry-wide emissions-reduction initiatives.

### **\$1.2 Million in Wild Resource Conservation Grants**

The Department of Conservation and Natural Resources this week announced 36 grants totaling more than \$1.2 million to conserve Pennsylvania's rich diversity of native plants and animals through the [Wild Resource Conservation Program](#).

## PA Environment Digest – Holston & Crisci

The grants, administered by DCNR in cooperation with the Pennsylvania Game Commission and the Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission, use funds from the Environmental Stewardship Fund - Growing Greener.

Launched in 1983, the Wild Resource Conservation Program primarily finances research and protection efforts for native non-game and wild plant species. Funds from the program have supported reintroducing otters, osprey, peregrine falcons and fishers to Pennsylvania; identifying new plant and animal species; locating rare plant species within the state; researching habitat for migrating birds; and providing education materials to schools.

In addition to Growing Greener monies, the Wild Resource Conservation Fund relies on state income tax refund donations, license plate proceeds and donations to support its work to protect and identify species of special concern.

Below is a listing of the projects funded.

### Plant-Related Projects

- Academy of Natural Sciences, \$3,356, to inventory lichens in Pennsylvania, including the investigation of the distribution and abundance of lichens in the eastern part of the state; and \$7,598 to study the status of hawthorns in eastern Pennsylvania.
- Carnegie Museum of Natural History, \$21,000, to monitor plant diversity by verifying historical records, documenting new sites and species and conducting field surveys in Greene and Crawford counties.
- Cleveland Museum for Rare Plant Inventory, \$15,000, to continue the stewardship work at Edinboro Lake Fen, Erie National Wildlife Refuge, Bog Candle Fen, Presque Isle State Park and Pymatuning State Park.
- Morris Arboretum, \$30,000, to map the emergent and submersed plant communities of five glacial lakes in northeastern Pennsylvania.
- Nature Conservancy, \$40,150, to locate a minimum of 40 plant species with a status of endangered, threatened, rare or undetermined at sites in eastern Pennsylvania.
- Pennsylvania American Chestnut Foundation, \$14,240, to back-cross and plant regionally adapted American chestnuts in six counties.
- Pennsylvania State University, \$20,816, to gather information on the occurrence of ginseng in Pennsylvania.
- Western Pennsylvania Conservancy, \$30,000, to map invasive species and species of special concern for eight glacial lakes in western Pennsylvania.

### Bird and Mammal-related Projects

- Carnegie Museum of Natural History, \$40,540, to begin the process of updating the Atlas of Breeding Birds in Pennsylvania.
- Bushkill Stream Conservancy, \$8,525, to develop a Birding and Natural History Trail Map to connect the community with the Bushkill Creek Watershed's resources in Northampton County.
- Hawk Mountain Sanctuary, \$10,950, to produce the "Kestral Storybook," a children's book; and \$20,000, to fund an eight-page comprehensive brochure on the value and placement of kestral nestboxes.
- Penn State University at Altoona, \$22,493, to study nest boxes of the declining flying squirrel.
- Penn State University, \$29,520, to assess whether and how acidic deposition affects terrestrial forest birds in Centre County; and \$28,483, to test existing GAP habitat models

## PA Environment Digest – Holston & Crisci

- a computer program developed at Penn State that helps to predict where species are most likely to be found - for 12 bird species of special concern nesting in Pennsylvania.
- University of Scranton, \$24,916, to study and record data on migratory land birds.
- Wilkes University, \$42,000, to produce a community-based habitat analysis for small mammal species at three Hawk Mountain sites.
- Wildlife Habitat Council, \$12,360, to acoustically sample bats at more than 30 created wetlands in western Pennsylvania to investigate their suitability as a habitat.

### Fish, Reptile, Amphibian and Aquatic Invertebrate-related Projects

- Arcadia University, \$16,311, to collect and analyze tissue samples from timber rattlesnakes in Pike, Carbon, Clearfield and Adams counties.
- California University of Pa., \$25,469, to inventory the Monongahela River's large-bodied fish and record species diversity and distribution.
- Carnegie Museum of Natural History, \$11,648, to produce a pictorial field guide and web site to improve the regional information on crane flies of Pennsylvania.
- Penn State University, \$20,000, to study exotic trout in Centre and Monroe counties; and \$25,004, to determine the current distribution, estimate the population size and investigate the life history of the channel darter in the Pennsylvania waters of Lake Erie.
- Nature Conservancy, \$20,796, to log information into a database for dragonflies and damselflies of Pennsylvania with emphasis on those species of the most critical concern.
- Shippensburg University, \$33,355, to collect information on at-risk herptiles' abundance, distribution and population trends statewide.
- Western Pennsylvania Conservancy, \$39,000, to use radio-telemetry to learn more about the natural history of this secretive Eastern Massasauga rattlesnake in Butler, Mercer and Venango counties; and \$25,000, to inventory aquatic snails in lakes, reservoirs and larger rivers to determine relationships with ecological factors and produce species lists and distribution maps.

### Multi-Purpose Projects

- Carnegie Museum, \$29,000, to study land snails of limestone communities in Bedford, Butler, Centre, Fayette, Greene, Huntingdon and Westmoreland counties; \$19,552, to provide an overview of the ground beetles that are present in Pennsylvania; and \$11,271, to create a web site on land snails.
- Messiah College, \$31,000, to study the vernal pools in the forest of South Mountain in Franklin, Cumberland and Adams counties.
- Oley Valley Ag. Science for Fence Row Habitat, \$7,310, to educate Oley Valley High School about modern advances in agriculture to head off the loss of farmland fence row habitats.
- Pennsylvania Game Commission, \$10,000, to fund Wild Action grants that improve wildlife habitat on school grounds.
- The Nature Conservancy, \$187,179, to lead the completion of Natural Heritage Inventories for Bradford, Montour, Carbon, Tioga and Susquehanna counties.
- Western Pennsylvania Conservancy, \$280,000, to lead the effort toward completing Natural Heritage Inventories for all counties in western Pennsylvania.

## **Agriculture Celebrates Bicentennial Farm Program `200 Years of Progress'**

The Department of Agriculture this week celebrated "200 Years of Progress" in the agricultural industry by designating the William and Catherine Shirk Farm in East Earl, Lancaster County as its [Bicentennial Farm of the year](#).

Beginning in July 2004, the Department of Agriculture began to accept applications for the Bicentennial Farm Program. Since then, more than 40 farm families have applied for the program. To qualify for the Bicentennial Farm Program, applicants must meet the following criteria:

- The farm must be owned by the same family for at least 200 consecutive years.
- A family member must live on the farm on a permanent basis.
- The farm must consist of at least 10 acres of the original holding, or gross more than \$1,000 annually from the sale of farm products.

The Department also recognizes the more than 1,300 farm families who have been farming the same land for 100 years through the Century Farm Program. If they currently meet the requirements and have remained in the same family, more than 250 of those farms may be eligible for the Bicentennial Farm Program.

William and Catherine Shirk own a 66-acre farm in East Earl Township, Lancaster County. Ancestors of the Shirk family originally purchased the farm on February 6, 1758. In April 2001, 65.45 acres of the Shirk's land were preserved through a state easement.

## **Op-Ed: Celebrating the 30th Anniversary of the Safe Drinking Water Act**

By Donald S. Welsh,  
U.S. EPA Mid-Atlantic Regional Administrator

This month, our nation celebrates the 30th anniversary of the Safe Drinking Water Act.

The anniversary is an opportunity to renew our commitment to providing Americans with pure, healthy water, while at the same time focusing the nation's attention on the new water quality challenges we face.

Every day, millions of Americans receive high quality drinking water from their public water systems. Nonetheless, drinking water safety cannot be taken for granted. There are a number of threats to drinking water: improperly disposed of chemicals; animal wastes; pesticides; human wastes; and naturally occurring substances can all contaminate drinking water.

The Safe Drinking Water Act's focuses primarily on treatment as a means of providing safe drinking water at the tap. Greater efforts are now underway to improve water quality at its sources - rivers, lakes, reservoirs, springs, and ground water.

Individuals are now also being asked to use less water in our homes, when possible. Water efficiency continues to play an important role not only in protecting water sources and improving water quality, but also in reducing the amount of energy used to treat, pump and heat water -- currently about eight percent of U.S. energy demand. (Water heating accounts for 19 percent of home energy use.)

There are a number of steps people can take to use water more efficiently in the home: detecting and fixing leaky faucets, installing high efficiency clothes washers and toilets, and watering the lawn and garden with the minimum amount of water needed.

## PA Environment Digest – Holston & Crisci

Fixing a silent toilet leak may save as much as 500 gallons per day. Installing high efficiency plumbing fixtures and appliances can help a typical family of four reduce indoor water use by one-third, save about \$95 per year on their water and sewer bill, and cut energy use by as much as six percent.

Working together we can ensure that 30 years from now - when the Safe Drinking Water Act turns 60 we will be celebrating a successful legacy of clean water for this and future generations.

**Note:** Pennsylvania adopted its own Safe Drinking Water Act 20 years ago in 1984. At the time, the Commonwealth has the unfortunate distinction of leading the nation in the number of water-borne disease outbreaks. Now Pennsylvania's [Drinking Water Program](#) is a national leader.

### Quick Clips

[eFACTS More Responsive to Public](#)  
[DEP Changing County Waste Planning Requirements](#)  
[Rendell Calls for Further Review of Dredge Standard](#)  
[Oil Prices Plunge on Fuel Supply Reports](#)  
[What's There to Like Living Near Landfill? Payday](#)  
[Students Get Close Up Look at Future Cars](#)

### Taking Positive Action

---

#### Armstrong Recycles Over 20 Million Square Feet of Old Ceiling Tiles

Armstrong World Industries this week announced that its [Ceiling Recycling Program](#) has now diverted more than twenty-million-square-feet of old acoustical ceiling tiles from landfills.

Based in Lancaster with a plant in St. Helens, Oregon, Armstrong is the country's largest producer of ceiling tiles. Since it introduced the recycling program in 1999, the company has reclaimed 20,088,000-square-feet of discarded ceiling tiles, or enough tiles to cover 349 football fields. This total also represents 14,062,000 pounds, or nearly 7,100 tons, of construction waste that would have normally been dumped in landfills.

The program, which is still the only one of its kind, enables building owners to ship old ceilings from renovation projects to an Armstrong ceiling plant as an alternative to landfill disposal. Under the program, the company even pays freight costs for shipping the old ceilings, which it uses as raw materials in the manufacture of new ceilings. The old tiles do not have to be Armstrong products to qualify for the program.

In conjunction with the announcement, Armstrong presented a special environmental award to Nike, Inc. and the architectural firm of Thompson Vaivoda & Associates of Portland, Oregon in recognition of Nike's ceiling recycling efforts. The company recently recycled over 100,000-square-feet of old ceiling tiles at its Beaverton, Oregon headquarters.

## PA Environment Digest – Holston & Crisci

The discarded tiles were shipped to the Armstrong ceiling plant in nearby St. Helens. The St. Helens plant is the destination point for all ceiling tiles collected on the west coast.

Other organizations around the country currently participating in the ceiling recycling program include Microsoft, Pfizer, Food Lion, the World Bank and the School District of Philadelphia.

Armstrong World Industries, Inc., a subsidiary of Armstrong Holdings, Inc., is a global leader in the design and manufacture of floors, ceilings and cabinets. In 2003, net sales totaled more than \$3.0 billion. Founded in 1860 and based in Lancaster, PA, Armstrong has 50 plants in 15 countries and nearly 16,500 employees worldwide.

### **Watershed NewsClips**

---

[Project Connects Students with Creek](#)  
[DEP to Standardize Stream Code Identifiers](#)  
[Hearing Board Denies Request to Restart Mining](#)  
[Quakertown Swamp remains a treasure](#)  
[Argall Views Evolve on Use of Coal Ash](#)

### **Regulations**

---

The Environmental Quality Board published a notice this week proposing to amend Chapter 261a (relating to identification and listing of hazardous waste to [grant a delisting to MAX Environmental Technologies, Inc. \(MAX\)](#) to exclude treated Electric Arc Furnace Dust (EAFD) treated at the hazardous waste treatment facility operated by MAX in Yukon, PA, from the lists of hazardous wastes.

Public Utility Commission published an [advanced notice of proposed rulemaking on small generation interconnection standards](#) and procedures that will promote distributed generation. Comments are due in 60 days.

The Environmental Quality Board meets on December 21 to consider a proposed omitted rulemaking concerning changes regulations on handling of explosives.

[Pennsylvania Bulletin – December 4, 2004](#)      [Comment Deadlines Open](#)  
[Copies of Proposed Regulations](#)      [Status of Regulations, 6-Month Calendar](#)

### **Technical Guidance & Permits**

---

No new guidance documents were published.

[For copies of Draft Technical Guidance](#)      [For copies of Final Technical Guidance](#)



## **Calendar of Upcoming Events**

---

- Dec. 7 – [Storage Tank Advisory Committee](#) meets to discuss proposed fee increases.
- Dec. 7 – [Environmental Justice Advisory Board](#) meeting.
- Dec. 8 – [Cleanup Standards Advisory Committee teleconference](#) to discuss the reference dose and medium-specific concentrations of resorcinol. Contact: Marilyn Wooding at (717) 783-7816 or [mwooding@state.pa.us](mailto:mwooding@state.pa.us)
- Dec. 14 – **(Cancelled)** Laboratory Accreditation Advisory Committee.
- Dec. 21 – Environmental Quality Board meeting.
- Look for upcoming meetings of the [Regional Water Resources Advisory Committees](#).

[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](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.

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