

— PA — Environment Digest

*An Update on
Environmental
Issues in
Pennsylvania*

Edited By David E. Hess, Holston & Crisci

December 11, 2006

[PA Environment Digest Video Blog](#)

Pennsylvania Society, Others Honor Former DER Secretary Dr. Clifford L. Jones

At the 108th Pennsylvania Society dinner, the annual gathering of Pennsylvania's political and business elite, on December 9, former DER Secretary Dr. Clifford L. Jones will be honored with the Society's Distinguished Citizen of the Commonwealth Award.

The Central Pennsylvania Conservancy this week also recognized Dr. Jones with its Conservationist of the Year Award.

Each year the Society honors prominent Pennsylvanians for their accomplishments and this year one of the two individuals to be recognized is former Department of Environmental Resources Secretary Clifford L. Jones who has devoted much of his adult life to serving the public good.

In his roles as public servant, community leader, and conservationist, Dr. Jones has worked to promote intelligent and effective public policy as well as business growth and job creation while maintaining environmental responsibility. He has served under six Pennsylvania governors in a variety of capacities. He is also a former president of the PA Chamber of Business and Industry.

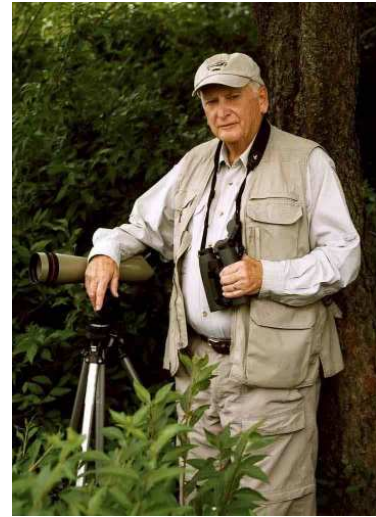
The Pennsylvania Cable Network will air the Society dinner live beginning at 7:00 p.m. on December 9. A replay of the event is scheduled to air at 9:00 p.m. that evening and again on Sunday, December 10 at 6:00 p.m. PCN will also have the program available online at: www.pcntv.com.

Dr. Jones was also given the [Conservationist of the Year Award](#) by the Central Pennsylvania Conservancy this week where over 250 colleagues and friends along with current DCNR Michael DiBerardinis, former DCNR Secretary John Oliver, former DER Secretaries Arthur Davis and Peter Duncan and former DEP Secretaries Jim Seif and David Hess gathered to recognize his achievements.

The Pennsylvania Resources Council also [honored Dr. Jones with the Fox Calhoun Award](#).

Video Blog: [Tribute Video on Cliff Jones](#)

NewsClip: [PA Politicos Painting big Apple Red this Weekend](#)



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The Senate and House return for the new session on January 2, but officially don't begin work until January 22.

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- Dickinson Students Engage the People and Places of the Chesapeake Bay and the Lower Mississippi River Watershed, *by Audrey Fisher, Dickinson College, '07*

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

Video Blog

Stern Sponsors Innovative Approach to Reduce Nutrients, Sediments From Farms



[Rep. Jerry Stern](#) (R-Blair) talks about legislation he sponsored to provide tax credits to farmers to install best management practices to reduce nutrients and sediments going into our rivers and streams.

The bill is [House Bill 2878](#), the Resource Enhancement & Protection Act (REAP), that has also been sponsored by Rep. Hershey (R-Chester) and Rep. Daley (D-Washington).

To contact Rep. Stern, send email to:

jstern@pahousegop.com.

This bipartisan initiative was also introduced as [Senate Bill 1286](#) by Sen. Wenger (R-Lancaster), Sen. Waugh (R-York), Sen.

O'Pake (D-Berks).

Video Blog: [Rep. Stern Talks About REAP](#)

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

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

See & Hear

Making Smart Choices on Water, Wastewater Infrastructure Issues

[Bridging the Gap](#) is a ground-breaking online video designed to help elected officials and water and wastewater managers make smart choices as they address water and wastewater infrastructure issues.

Bridging the Gap provides an overview of issues to promote municipal infrastructure asset management and it motivates viewers to apply the concepts to their local challenges. The video includes interviews with EPA officials and perspectives on water and wastewater from stakeholder organizations. It also features commentary from leading local public officials, including the Mayor of Atlanta.

The video outlines the key steps to developing an asset management plan for both novice and experienced professionals.

The hosting website provides an online learning experience with an extensive array of reference materials to support the central concepts and real-world examples of emerging best practices and innovations in water asset management.

Developed with funding from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, this innovative video and website is a collaborative undertaking with [Penn State's College of Engineering](#), World Campus, and its Public Broadcasting units.

To view the video and use the other materials, visit the [Bridging the Gap webpage](#).

On the Hill

MJ White Named Environmental Chair, Brubaker to Agriculture Committee

Senate Republican Leadership this week named Sen. Mary Jo White (R-Venango) as chair of the Environmental Resources and Energy Committee and Sen. Mike Brubaker (R-Lancaster) chair of the Agriculture Committee.

Other committee appointments include: Sen. McIlhinney (R-Bucks) as Game & Fisheries chair, Sen. Madigan (R-Bradford) to Transportation and Sen. Baker (R-Luzerne) Veterans Affairs and Emergency Management Committee chair.

DeWeese Selected as Speaker With Democrats in Charge



House Democrats elected Rep. Bill DeWeese (Greene) Speaker of the House along with Rep. Keith McCall (Carbon) as Majority Leader this week, taking advantage of their apparent 102-101 majority in the House.

“Today’s gathering was convened so that we can meet the wishes of voters across the Commonwealth who decided November 7 that they want a Democratic majority to lead the state House of Representatives,” Speaker-elect Bill DeWeese said. “While our margin is just one seat, in fact this year’s election saw the largest change of seats from one party to the other since 1978 and represents a call for change from the past 12 years of Republican leadership.”

The remaining Leadership team includes: Mark Cohen (Philadelphia) as Whip, Frank Dermody (Allegheny) as Caucus Chairman, Dan Surra (Elk) as Caucus Administrator, Phyllis Mundy (Lackawanna) as Caucus Secretary, and Dwight Evans (Philadelphia) as Appropriations Chair.

This is the same Leadership team the Democrats elected in November with the additional of Rep. Mundy.

House Republicans officially asked this week for a hand recount of all 23,000+ paper ballots in the disputed Chester County House race. They believe the original ballots, which were scanned in to special equipment to be counted, have an error rate that would give them a fighting chance at narrowing the 23 vote difference between the candidates.

Late Breaking News

If late breaking news develops after this *PA Environment Digest* is sent, we'll add it here.

In Other News

PA Trout Unlimited Presents Annual Awards to Conservation Leaders



The 2006 PA Trout Unlimited annual conservation awards were given out at the State Council’s Fall Meeting. Here’s the summary of the event published by [PA Trout Unlimited](#).

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Congratulations to all who won and to all those many others who are also doing superlative work for trout and the coldwater resource, but did not win this year. Judging so many worthwhile activities and efforts is always difficult ... but here are the best of the best.

Thanks to Awards Co-chairs Frank Viozzi and Gerry Miller for overseeing PATU's recognition program.

The Edward J. Urbas Best Chapter Award was presented to the [Valley Forge Chapter](#) (Chester County). The chapter has a “wonderful history,” says Viozzi. They went from just two members to currently over 700 and have worked on streams and conservation issues continuously during their 30 years.

The chapter is involved in advocacy programs with far-reaching results, including stream designation upgrades, stream reclamation, pollution monitoring, and actions against polluters, securing of easements and restrictive covenants, and acquiring of legal standing in dealings with townships.

The Valley Forge Chapter has been able to intervene in planning and zoning matters, including stormwater management, which is a huge issue in the southeast region.

The Chapter with the **Greatest Membership Increase Award** was also won by Valley Forge. They gained 31 new members last year.

The **Best Chapter Project Award** was won by [Muddy Creek Chapter](#) (York County). The chapter was recognized for its work on the North Branch of Muddy Creek, where they improved over 2,700 feet of stream.

They received \$202,000 for the work, which Viozzi notes is “pretty impressive for a small chapter.” Their membership provided 432 man-hours in labor to the project. The chapter included streamside landowners from the onset of the work and continue to earn support by building fishermen's ladders to protect fences. They kept the work area “No Trespassing” for one year, to allow the riparian buffer to mature. They also included other groups, such as the Boy Scouts, in their efforts on the North Branch.

The **Outstanding Coldwater Conservationist (TU Member) Award** was given to [Tom Shetterly](#). A founding member of the Chestnut Ridge Chapter, Shetterly's accomplishments are many. He is a good communicator of his vision for restoration, public education and enhanced recreational opportunities in the Youghiogeny River watershed.

To do that he assembled very diverse partners. The on-stream work Shetterly has been involved in resulted in a stream that was impaired by acid mine drainage becoming a Class A waterway, with naturally reproducing brook trout. Other work includes using trout fry raised in cage culture as an indicator of water quality and placing gravel beds in the stream to facilitate spawning.

Shetterly inspired construction of a dozen stairway access points to the stream in difficult-to-reach places, as well as the building of handicapped-accessible sites. “Shetterly works on chapter business constantly,” says Viozzi. He was also named as a commissioner for the Fish and Boat Commission.

The **Outstanding Coldwater Conservationist Award (Professional)** was presented to Jason Smith of the Forks of the Delaware Chapter. Smith works for Hanover Engineering Associates, Inc., dealing with conservation issues.

He has worked with municipalities to develop their maps, facilitating easements, greenways, riparian protection and other conservation measures. Smith is also a supervisor for Bushkill Township.

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The **Dr. Jack Beck Award for Outstanding Youth Outreach** was won by Muddy Creek Chapter. Muddy Creek Chapter awarded scholarships to two youths to attend the Rivers Conservation and Fly Fishing Youth Camp this year.

They instructed a Boy Scout troop in fly-tying, fly-fishing and entomology. The local troop also participated with the chapter in stream work, completing service hours and learning conservation techniques. The chapter is working with two scouts on accomplishing merit badges toward their Eagle Scout award. They also elected an 18-year-old to their chapter board.

(Reprinted from [PA Trout News, Winter 2007](#))

Two PA Water and Wastewater Infrastructure Projects Win National Awards

Two Pennsylvania projects were among the winners of EPA's national Drinking Water State Revolving Fund and Clean Water State Revolving Fund awards for 2006.

The [Aqua Pennsylvania, Bristol Borough project](#) in Bucks County won the award for Sustainable Public Health Protection. The AMD Reclamation Inc. project in Dunkard Township, Greene County, won the Performance and Innovation category of the State Revolving Fund Creating Environmental Success Award.

These awards recognize projects and program innovations that advance the EPA's goals and objectives for protection of public health and water quality protection.

The Bristol water treatment facility has been in continuous operation since 1874. Aqua Pennsylvania purchased the facility in 1996 and used a \$5.9 million Drinking Water State Revolving Fund loan from PENNVEST to rehabilitate and upgrade the facility. Improvements include automating the filters and controls, installation of solids removal equipment, upgrade of chlorination and electrical systems, integration into a central computer system and replacement of leaking roofs.

The project reduced the potential for water filter failure and discharge of contaminants, and eliminated structural safety hazards.

AMD Reclamation Inc. received a \$4.3 million Clean Water State Revolving Fund loan from PENNVEST to help build an acid mine drainage treatment facility to prevent the discharge of raw mine water into the area's surface waters.

This project will also result in the reopening of an existing mine creating an economic benefit to the community. This is the nation's first Clean Water State Revolving Fund loan to address acid mine drainage.

Recipients of these national awards had to demonstrate leadership and innovation in either financing, project implementation, partnerships or sustainable infrastructure.

For more information, visit the [PennVEST website](#).

Unity Township Authority Receives EPA Award for Environmental Performance

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency presented the Unity Township Municipal Authority in Westmoreland County, Pa. with a regional award for excellence in operation and maintenance of its wastewater treatment facility.

The award honors the staff involved in the day-to-day operations of the facility, and recognizes local officials for their commitment to maintain and protect their community's environment. The authority is receiving the award in the small-advanced category, which includes facilities that treat less than one million gallons of sewage per day.

“Many significant improvements in our nation’s water quality can be attributed to better wastewater treatment,” said Donald S. Welsh, regional administrator for EPA’s mid-Atlantic Region. “This award recognizes the outstanding job that people at the Unity Township Municipal Authority are doing to help protect the environment.”

EPA reviews data and inspects facilities to determine award winners. Award recipients are selected for their performance in complying with wastewater discharge permits, maintenance management, laboratory practices, personnel training, and public awareness needs.

Welsh said the management and staff of the treatment plant are to be congratulated for their professionalism and determination. He said it’s evident that the staff involved in the day-to-day operations of the facility are highly trained and devoted to the environment.

RecycleBank Wins 2006 Waste News Environmental Award



[RecycleBank](#), a Philadelphia area company whose programs tripled recycling rates in Philadelphia neighborhoods, won the 2006 *Waste News* Environmental Award at the [Beneficial Byproducts Use Summit](#) sponsored by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and *Waste News*.

RecycleBank rewards homeowners with RecycleBank Dollars that can be redeemed at over 100 participating stores.

Each household receives a RecycleBank Recycling Container that has a barcode that is identified by the recycling truck which weighs each container and records the amount in a homeowner’s recycling account

RecycleBank supports a single stream recycling system that enables recyclers to deposit all of their recyclables (paper, cardboard, plastic, glass, tin, aluminum) in one RecycleBank Container.

NewsClip: [Dell, RecycleBank, California Win Environmental Awards](#)

Links: [RecycleBank Features in National Recycling Container Rollout](#)
[Comptroller Recommends RecycleBank to Boost Recycling](#)
[Philadelphia RecycleBank Program Triples Recycling Rate](#)
[Innovative Philly Rewards Recycling Program Gets Underway](#)

Fort Indiantown Gap Training Site Wins National Conservation Award

The [Fort Indiantown Gap National Training Site](#), Lebanon and Dauphin counties, has been singled out for its outstanding environmental practices by winning the 2006 Army National Guard's Natural Resources Conservation Award.

The installation, which is the headquarters of the Pennsylvania National Guard and the Department of Military and Veterans Affairs, was lauded for its work integrating land management practices with military training, and for providing recreational opportunities for the public.

The practices include establishing buffer zones; rotating training areas to control excessive erosion; upgrading tank trails, stream crossings and culverts to limit sediment; monitoring water quality; and controlling invasive species.

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For recreational purposes, more than 2,400 members of the public are registered to hunt and fish at the installation. The pristine environment also attracts countless visitors who come to enjoy the scenery and count migrating raptors at the hawk watch located on Second Mountain.

"We are extremely proud of the work accomplished by our natural resources and training site staff," said Maj. Gen. Jessica L. Wright, state adjutant general. "They continue to set the standard for the nation."

Since taking over management of the installation from the Army in 1998, Guard officials have doubled the wildlife and forestry staff and significantly increased funding for forestry and wildlife restoration projects. The Guard has also increased its outreach efforts to private and governmental organizations concerning environmental programs.

In the last five years, the environmental staff also completed two detailed environmental studies. In addition, dozens of studies of the installation's flora and fauna have been conducted in connection with environmental impact statements that were done for installation upgrades and the Guard's transformation to a Stryker brigade.

Col. Robert Hodgson, training site commander, credited military commanders and trainers with "buying-in" to the concept of a sound environmental policy.

"Their willingness to embrace conservation measures with the realistic and rigorous training requirements reflects the commitment of our entire organization," said Hodgson.

Stretching 17,000 acres across northern Lebanon and Dauphin counties, Fort Indiantown Gap has about 3,000 acres of grassland, 112 miles of streams, 294 acres of wetlands, and 12,000 acres of forest. It is Lebanon County's largest employer, with 1,900 people employed full-time.

In addition, more than 100,000 military personnel, law enforcement agents and civilians from across the nation receive training on the installation annually.

Links: [Guided Tours of Regal Fritillary Butterfly Habitat at Fort Indiantown Gap](#)

Pennsylvanians Receive Green Power Leadership Awards

Pennsylvania and several green power leaders received awards this week from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and the Alternative Fuels Renewable Energies Council of Pennsylvania.

Pennsylvania received a [2006 Green Power Leadership award](#) from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and the U.S. Department of Energy for being the largest state purchaser of green electricity in the nation.

The Pennsylvania [Alternative Fuels Renewable Energies Council](#) also recognized three individuals for their green energy leadership.

Environmental Protection Secretary Kathleen A. McGinty received the Flame Award which recognizes individuals with the most outstanding contributions in accelerating the commercialization of alternative fuels and renewable energies.

AFREC honored two other leaders with Flame Awards, including Jeff Lyons, president of Worley & Obetz, a Lancaster County-based transportation and heating fuels provider that opened Pennsylvania's first, publicly-available E85 ethanol-blended fuel pump this year. The company also is a partner in the East Coast's first state-of-the-art biofuels injection facility in Dauphin County.

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The second recipient is Donald Hunt, president of SYSCO Food Services of Central Pennsylvania LLC. Responding to a directive from the food company's international headquarters in Texas to pursue environmentally friendly practices developed at a local level, Hunt switched the regional fleet to biodiesel. The move was done without any outside financial incentives and resulted in cleaner air and enhanced fuel security.

AFREC is an alliance of mid-Atlantic-based and national companies that are setting a trend for new economic development in the alternative fuels and renewable energy industries. AFREC provides business roundtable forums where its members meet, discuss, market their products and collaborate for new business.

NewsClip: [Pennsylvania Receives National Green Power Leadership Award](#)

DEP's McGinty Wins Keep America Beautiful Recognition



Environmental Protection Secretary Kathleen A. McGinty this week received [Keep America Beautiful's](#) Mrs. Lyndon B. Johnson Award, the highest award given to women volunteers.

This national achievement award is presented annually to an outstanding woman for exceptional leadership in litter prevention and beautification activities.

The local affiliate of Keep America Beautiful is [Keep Pennsylvania Beautiful](#).

"I am thrilled and honored to accept this award," Secretary McGinty said at the awards ceremony during KAB's 53rd Annual National Conference in Orlando. "Lady Bird Johnson's contribution to preserving America's environment, beautifying national parks and inner cities, and involving all levels of society and business in those efforts are a model for our programs to make Pennsylvania a more beautiful place to live, work and play."

"Whether our Lady Bird Johnson award recipient is speaking to an international wind power conference in Germany, testifying to the U.S. Congress about the need to better protect children from mercury pollution or finalizing details of Pennsylvania's Chesapeake Bay protection programs, Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection Secretary Kathleen McGinty keeps one guiding principle before her: Environmental protection can drive economic development," KAB President Ray Empson said in presenting the award.

"Receiving this award has given me an opportunity to learn more about Mrs. Johnson's historic work to preserve our nation's legacy of natural beauty and has renewed my commitment to make the 2007 Great Pennsylvania Cleanup an even larger success," McGinty said.

NewsClip: [DEP Secretary Receives National Award for Litter Prevention](#)

DEP OKs Project to Help Make Gypsum from Power Plant Sludge

The Department of Environmental Protection this week approved Reliant Energy Northeast Management Co.'s plan to install a scrubber on each of the two boilers at its Keystone Power Plant in Plumcreek Township, Armstrong County.

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Reliant intends to sell the gypsum produced by the contaminant removal process at the Keystone plant, a 1,700-megawatt pulverized coal-fired electric generating facility, to off-site customers.

Scrubbers, also known as wet flue gas desulfurization systems, reduce the amount of sulfur dioxide and particulate matter emitted from power plants. After the scrubbers are installed, the Keystone station will cut 170,000 tons of sulfur dioxide and 1,600 tons of particulate matter from its emissions each year.

"These sharp reductions illustrate how investment into existing power production facilities can result in significant air quality improvements in southwestern Pennsylvania," DEP Regional Director Kenneth Bowman said.

Scrubbers remove contaminants by forcing the flue gas through an absorber vessel before spraying it with a water slurry containing limestone. The calcium in the slurry reacts with the sulfur dioxide to form calcium sulfate, which is mixed with oxygen to create synthetic gypsum.

The remaining flue gas is passed through a mist eliminator, which removes any liquid and particulate matter trapped within the liquid from the gas. The flue gas then is exhausted to the stack and released.

Reliant Energy projects that the scrubber will be constructed and in operation by January 2009.

Links: [Reliant Energy Invests \\$250 Million at Cheswick Plant](#)
[PPL Plant to Turn Scrubber Sludge Into Wall Board](#)
[Bruce Mansfield Plant Turns Scrubber Sludge Into Gypsum](#)
[DEP Issues National Gypsum Plan Approval for Scrubber Sludge Plant \(1998\)](#)

Bethlehem Landfill Gas Energy Project Receives Permit from DEP

The Department of Environmental Protection this week issued air quality and waste management permits to Bethlehem Renewable Energy LLC for a 5.7-megawatt power plant that will burn landfill gas in Lower Saucon Township, Northampton County.

"This innovative proposal will put a waste resource to use to help power our economy and provide a clean, cheap energy supply," said DEP Northeast Regional Director Michael Bedrin. "Supporting the increased development of landfill methane gas demonstrates how environmental protection can drive economic development."

Methane captured from landfills can be transformed into a cost-effective fuel source to power an engine that generates electricity. Electricity produced with landfill gas helps to feed the grid that powers commonwealth homes and businesses, and this energy supply diversity helps to enhance security and keep overall energy costs low.

Bethlehem Renewable's 5.7-megawatt plant will produce enough electricity to power more than 4,500 homes and offset the need for 6,400 tons of coal and 28,500 barrels of oil each year.

The company submitted its permit applications to DEP in early 2005 to use landfill gas generated at the nearby IESI Landfill in Lower Saucon Township to run a combustion turbine generator. DEP held a public hearing on both applications on June 2006.

The permits include conditions that require stack testing on the unit immediately after construction, and then every six months for a two-year period. Stack testing then must be done bi-annually to ensure the integrity and maintenance of air quality controls.

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In addition, DEP also has approved IESI's application to amend its solid waste operating permits to reflect changes in the use of the gas. This amendment allows IESI to keep the existing flares to burn any landfill gas beyond the capacity of the turbines or to use if the turbine is offline for any reason.

Links: [PA Recognized for Landfill Gas Recovery Work](#)
[PUC Rules on Landfill Methane Recovery Projects](#)
[DEP, PennDOT Support Landfill Gas Recovery Projects](#)
[Gov. Schweiker Announces Historic Purchase of Green Power \(2001\)](#)

\$3 Million in Alternative Fuel Technologies Grants Awarded

The Department of Environmental Protection this week announced the award of more than \$3 million in [Alternative Fuel Incentive Grants](#).

The grants will leverage more than \$40 million in private funds for the production of almost 64 million gallons of clean-burning biodiesel annually, as well as for the installation of storage tanks needed to distribute and sell biofuels.

The City of Pittsburgh received a \$303,675 grant to cover the incremental cost of almost 1.2 million gallons of biodiesel and to provide biodiesel storage tanks at city refueling sites. In addition Heinz Field will provide much of the waste vegetable oil that will be used to produce the biodiesel fuel for the city.

The [Greater Philadelphia Clean Cities' E85 Corridor Project](#) received a \$75,000 grant. The project will convert at least 12 fueling stations to provide E85, a blend of 85 percent ethanol and 15 percent gasoline, along a 200-mile corridor stretching from central Pennsylvania to the Philadelphia suburbs. The project previously received \$283,380 in federal funding.

The Pennsylvania E85 Corridor Project is the effort of private and public sector organizations working together to reduce petroleum use in the transportation sector and provide the fueling needs of flexible-fuel vehicles (FFVs) throughout Pennsylvania.

There are approximately 160,000 FFVs operating in Pennsylvania already and the major automakers are offering numerous models of FFVs at no extra cost compared to similar gasoline-only units. Flexible-fuel vehicles are capable of using gasoline or ethanol blends.

Since its inception in 1992, DEP has awarded almost \$32 million through AFIG for 999 projects in almost every county in the commonwealth. DEP has also awarded more than \$2.5 million since March 2005 to individuals who purchased hybrid electric vehicles. AFIG funds have leveraged more than \$118 million from public and private fleet operators, fuel providers and the federal government.

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

NewsClip: [Heinz Field to Fuel Pittsburgh Fleet](#)

PECO's New Web Store Can Save You Money on Energy

It's December, it's cold and energy usage is rising, so where can homeowners go to purchase weatherization tools and energy-saving products? Simple, at [PECO's new website](#) customers can purchase discounted energy-saving kits and energy-saving products.

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The company does not profit from any of the online sales, but is offering its customers another way to save money this winter by reducing their home energy usage.

The energy-saving kit could save customers between \$125 and \$250 per year, and is available at the [PECO Energy Product Offer website](#) for \$25 plus shipping and handling.

The kit includes:

- Energy-saving information that can help homeowners save money around the house through weatherization and energy and water conservation strategies;
- Kitchen and bathroom sink and shower aerators are practical, easy to install and are great to help save hot water;
- Two rolls of foam weather-stripping to seal drafts in doors and windows;
- Polyethylene tape to weatherproof and seal cracks in windows; and
- Four switch and eight outlet insulators that fill the empty space behind wall switches and outlets to prevent drafts.

The web store also offers homeowners valuable energy-saving information, weatherization tools, educational materials, safety products, discounts for PECO customers to purchase energy-efficient products, such as air cleaners, humidifiers, space heaters, programmable thermostats, fans, lights and electricity meters.

"This is the first time that PECO has offered our customers energy-saving kits and an online web store," said Denis O'Brien, PECO President. "While energy prices fluctuate year to year, heating bills still can be a concern. We hope these new products will help our customers better manage their utility costs and save money."

For more information, visit the [PECO Energy Product Offer website](#).

Fish America Freshwater Fisheries Habitat Restoration Grants

Fish America offers [Conservation Grants](#) for stock enhancement, freshwater fisheries habitat restoration, non-habitat marine and estuarine enhancements, and family fishing waters improvement projects you can apply for year-round.

The average conservation grant is \$7,500 with priority going to hands-on, action-oriented projects that have clear and identifiable benefits to sport fish populations and the sport of fishing. While sound research should be the basis for all grant applications, the Conservation Projects Committee only funds projects that directly enhance water quality, habitat and/or sport fish populations.

Funds for non-labor costs are provided for the following: habitat improvement; streambank stabilization; aeration systems; fishing reefs; silt removal; planting of trees and vegetation; fish passage improvements (i.e., culvert removal/replacement, fish ladders installation/repair, dam removal); hatchery construction/renovation; stocking and rearing projects with long-term value; litter cleanups; heavy equipment rental and operation (i.e., removal of silt from fishing ponds, construction of fish ladders and bypasses, demolition and removal of dams, placement of large wood).

For more information on this and other grants available from Fish America, visit the [Fish America Conservation Grants webpage](#). (Courtesy [Watershed Alliance of York](#))

Boat U.S. Foundation Invites Applications for Clean Water Grant Program

The Boat U.S. Foundation invites applicants to apply for [Clean Water Grants](#) of up to \$4,000 to fund projects that educate the public about actions they can take to reduce their impact on the environment while boating.

Applications due February 1.

The focus topic for the 2007 Clean Water Grant Program is preventing marine debris and raising the awareness of the problems associated with marine debris among all boaters. All applications with any clean water topic will be accepted. Applications with a majority of the project devoted to the marine debris topic will be given preferential treatment.

The foundation seeks projects that reflect a unique and repeatable way to reach boaters with upbeat, clean boating messages. Allowable expenses may include artwork, printing, mailing, educational materials, construction supplies, and other expenses directly related to an applicant's outreach activities. Eligible applicants include volunteer boating groups, clubs, and associations; and local nonprofit/tax-exempt organizations, including chapters of national organizations.

For more information, visit the Boat U.S. Foundation [Clean Water Grants webpage](#).
(Courtesy [Watershed Alliance of York](#))

\$1.2 Million in Wild Resource Conservation Grants Announced

[DCNR's Wild Resource Conservation Program](#)

announced the award of almost \$1.2 million to study and conserve Pennsylvania's rich variety of native plants and animals.

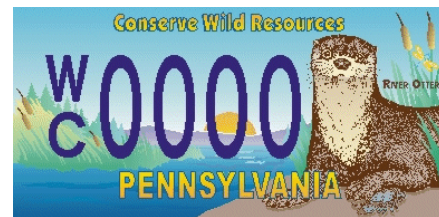
The Department of Conservation and Natural Resources administers the Wild Resource Conservation Program, which is providing the 31 grants funded through the original Growing Greener program. WRCP works with the Game Commission and Fish and Boat Commission to operate the program.

"Some of the projects supported by these grants will increase our knowledge about the impacts of wind power on wildlife habitat; reintroduce rare mussels and restore habitat for spadefoot toads; help the nursery industry promote native plants and discourage invasives; and promote wildlife habitat development in schoolyards," said DCNR Secretary Michael DiBerardinis. "It will also continue our inventories of the ecosystems that add value to the commonwealth's landscape."

Launched in 1983, WRCP primarily finances research and protection efforts for native, non-game and wild plant species. Funds from the program have supported the reintroduction of otters, osprey, peregrine falcons and fishers to Pennsylvania; identified new plant and animal species; located rare plant species within the state; researched habitat for migrating birds; and provided educational materials to schools.

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

The full list of grants awarded follows:



Plant-Related Projects

- **Carnegie Institute:** \$20,000 to provide data from herbarium specimens and discover and document new rare and endangered plant species in Pennsylvania.
- **Cleveland Museum of Natural History:** \$23,250 to inventory rare plant species and communities in northwestern Pennsylvania and do outreach to private landowners and public land managers to help conserve plant species of special concern in the region.
- **Morris Arboretum:** \$38,000 to characterize water quality factors associated with endangered and threatened aquatic plants of northeast Pennsylvania to better understand how to protect them.
- **West Chester University:** \$18,800 for a demonstration effort to erect six deer enclosures on wooded, old-field and floodplain segments of the Gordon Natural Area in southeastern Pennsylvania, train volunteers to remove invasive plants, collect survey data and publish results.
- **Western Pennsylvania Conservancy:** \$88,000 to collect basic data about species, habitat and abundance for the conservation of plant species in Pennsylvania.

Bird and Mammal-Related Projects

- **Carnegie Institute:** \$50,000 for continued support for the Pennsylvania Breeding Bird Atlas that assesses the abundances and habitat associations of Pennsylvania's breeding birds to enable the first-ever estimates of statewide bird densities and quantitative bird-habitat associations.
- **Lafayette College:** \$20,000 to develop a Windows-based computer program to simulate raptor migration pathways through Pennsylvania based on terrain and weather conditions to help inform decision making on siting wind power installations.
- **Mountain Watershed Association:** \$50,000 to capture, radio-tag, track and acoustical monitoring of eastern red (Lasiurus borealis) and hoary (Lasiurus cinereus) bats during the 2007 fall migration along the Allegheny Mountains of southwestern Pennsylvania to help guide siting decisions on wind power installations.
- **Pennsylvania State University:** \$30,000 to examine the relationship between soil type, underlying geology, soil calcium levels, snail abundance, ovenbird abundance, territory size and egg shell thickness related to forest acid rain deposition.
- **Pennsylvania Wildlife Federation:** \$25,000 to work with local stakeholders to develop and integrate a stewardship management plan for northeastern Pennsylvania to conserve important mammal habitat.
- **Slippery Rock University:** \$30,000 to inventory Northern goshawk, provide vegetative trend analysis at the landscape, patch and nest site levels, and a volunteer workshop to educate the public about Pennsylvania's largest hawk species.
- **University of Scranton:** \$20,000 to study the use of forested and upland shrub/scrub habitats by spring migrating landbirds in northeastern Pennsylvania.

Fish, Reptile, Amphibian and Aquatic Invertebrate-Related Projects

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- **Academy of Natural Sciences of Philadelphia:** \$24,000 for a set of studies on the current status and ecology of the bridled shiner, a rare fish currently listed as endangered in the state, in the Upper Delaware River.
- **Berks County Conservancy:** \$25,000 to convert 16.3 acres of fields to native grassland and protect two vernal pools to help conserve and manage for a Pennsylvania endangered species, the spadefoot toad.
- **California University of Pennsylvania:** \$10,000 to do a comprehensive survey of fish in the Tenmile Creek watershed to fill a data gap and complement ongoing river conservation planning efforts in southwestern Pennsylvania.
- **Pennsylvania Parks & Forests Foundation:** \$30,000 to pair Fish and Boat habitat restoration technicians with state park Friends groups to enhance park lakes for amphibians, reptiles, fish and other species and develop volunteer efforts to improve habitat.
- **Pennsylvania State University:** \$22,000 to examine the ecology of benthic fish assemblages in the Allegheny River through the use of stable isotope analysis to determine trophic interactions and food-web structure.
- **Pennsylvania State University:** \$36,000 to conduct fish surveys on the large river habitats of the Ohio, Allegheny and Monongahela rivers, particularly navigation channels, and evaluate different survey methods to develop fish survey protocols.
- **Western Pennsylvania Conservancy:** \$30,000 to develop a statewide classification system of seasonal pool ecosystems based on existing and new plant, animal and environmental survey data to help evaluate at-risk wetlands and help better inform management decisions.
- **Western Pennsylvania Conservancy:** \$48,000 for a malacologist to work on special aquatic conservation projects across the state, including efforts to reintroduce the extirpated Eastern Pearlshell mussel into creeks in southeastern Pennsylvania.

Insect-Related Projects

- **Carnegie Institute:** \$10,000 for an ongoing project to document the ground beetle fauna of Pennsylvania and create an interactive website.
- **Carnegie Institute:** \$10,000 to continue building a database and Web site focused on the occurrence and distribution of the long-horned beetle.
- **Carnegie Institute:** \$10,000 to study crane flies as indicators of aquatic and forest ecosystem health.
- **East Stroudsburg University:** \$14,000 to survey treehopper species diversity and seasonal abundance on scrub oak in the Pocono till barrens as biological indicators of fragile scrub oak systems.

Multi-Purpose Projects

- **Alliance for the Chesapeake Bay:** \$25,000 for an environmental management program to remove invasive species at Pin Hill Arboretum in Cumberland County.
- **Clarion University:** \$55,000 to conduct a natural heritage inventory for Clarion County, one of the few counties lacking a completed or in-progress inventory. The project will benefit special concern species and unique habitats in Clarion County by

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identifying and mapping their occurrence, by assessing threats and by providing recommendations for conservation and management.

- **Heritage Conservancy:** \$7,000 to work with Durham Township, Bucks County, to develop a model ordinance that encourages protection and enlargement of existing forest habitat and creation of new forest habitat in this rapidly developing area.
- **Manada Conservancy:** \$20,000 to incorporate native plant species into the built environment in central Pennsylvania to counter loss of biodiversity due to development.
- **Pennsylvania Association of Conservation Districts:** \$30,000 to support the Game Commission's program to develop and fund wildlife habitat enhancement projects on school and community grounds providing excellent opportunities for teaching students and residents about wildlife habitat and foster a conservation ethic.
- **Pennsylvania Landscape and Nursery Association:** \$16,500 to develop, print and distribute a "Guide to Gardening with nature" that will provide information to the public on gardening practices that will conserve water, reduce pesticide use and avoid the use of plants with invasive tendencies.
- **Western Pennsylvania Conservancy:** \$345,000 to initiate new county inventories in Venango, Armstrong, Clarion and Cameron counties, and continue ongoing inventories in other western counties. County inventories collect and provide important ecological information concerning rare species, exemplary natural communities and intact landscapes.

For more information, visit the [Wild Resource Conservation Program webpage](#).

Goddard Forum: PA's Third Forest - Challenges and Opportunities



On January 29 and 30 the [Seventh Goddard Forum](#) will feature presentations and discussion on the topic of "PA's Third Forest: Challenges and Opportunities in the Next Century."

Pennsylvania's forests have undergone significant changes from the forest that greeted the first Quaker settlers who arrived at Penn's Landing on the Friendship in 1692.

The second forest is today's even-aged product of the age of exploitation that removed that first forest to feed the growing mines, railroads, and eastern cities between 1865 and 1915.

Today's forest covers approximately 60 percent of Pennsylvania's twenty-nine million acres, and one-quarter of that is publicly owned.

The Seventh Goddard Forum will examine what Pennsylvania's third forest will look like and how we can impact its development, focusing particularly on the thirteen million acres in private ownership.

Issues such as urbanization and sprawl; climate change and acid precipitation; invasive species; increasing demands for fiber, energy, recreation, and second homes; and increasing parcelization and fragmentation present challenges as well as opportunities.

The 2007 Goddard Forum will focus on crucial issues that will arise over the next century, including ecologic changes and challenges, climate-change challenges in the forest and opportunities, social and human issues, water resource issues, economic issues, and more.

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The forum will focus first on the current state of the forest and on issues that must be addressed for the next century, examining some of the problems faced by private forest lands, sprawl, use of forest resources, water resource issues, and climate change.

In breakout sessions the participants will then identify the problems warranting the highest priority. A second series of panel discussions will examine a variety of policies that might address the issues for the future. In a final series of breakout sessions the participants will select a suite of policies to create a third "Penn's Woods" that will best meet the needs of our grandchildren.

People who will benefit from this conference include members of the conservation community, whether in industry, land trusts, environmental groups, or government; forest landowners; those involved in forestry and energy industries that currently rely or will rely on the forest for their livelihood; planners interested in conservation of open space or rural development; those interested in examining the role of the forests in mitigating climate change and how we can adapt to climate change; companies and groups concerned about the quantity and quality of our water supply; and persons involved in research on issues related to forestry, energy, the water supply, climate change, forest ecology, urban sprawl, and sustainable futures.

For and the most up-to-date program and contact information, visit the [Seventh Goddard Forum webpage](#).

Revisiting the 21st Century Environmental Commission Report December 20

WELCOME TO THE



The Department of Environmental Protection Southeast Region is hosting a Roundtable December 20 to look back at the progress made in implementing the recommendations in Gov. Tom Ridge's 1998 [21st Century Environmental Commission Report](#).

A panel of speakers will provide an overview of the effort, discuss what they feel are successes as well as disappointments, and share thoughts on what can be accomplished in the future.

Former committee members participating in the panel include Rep. Carole A. Rubley (R-Chester), Joanne Denworth, Governor's Office of Policy, Lou Guerra, former DEP Office of Policy, John W. Rogers, Keystone Conservation Trust and Philip Wallis, Keystone Conservation Trust.

The meeting will be held at the DEP Southeast Regional Office, 2 East Main Street in Norristown.

In case of inclement weather, meeting cancellation information will be available by calling Community Relations Coordinator Lynda Rebarchak at 484-250-5820 after 7:30 the morning of the meeting.

Visit the [DEP Southeast Regional Office webpage](#) for directions and public transportation information.

Scrap Tires Can Be Used to Filter Wastewater Penn State Researcher Shows

Every year, Pennsylvania drivers produce about 12 million scrap tires that clog landfills and become breeding areas for pests. Finding adequate uses for castoff tires is a continuing challenge and illegal dumping has become a serious problem throughout the state.

[Dr. Yuefeng Xie](#), associate professor of environmental engineering at Penn State Harrisburg, has developed a method that uses crumb rubber to filter wastewater, which can help ease the tire problem and clean up the environment at the same time.

"My research has found that crumb rubber, derived from waste tires, can be used as a filter media," Xie explains. "The crumb rubber could be used for treating wastewater, ship ballast water, and storm water."

Crumb rubber is produced by chopping up and grinding up waste tires to a desired size, cleaning the rubber and removing any metal particles. It is currently being used in highway pavement, athletic track surfaces, playgrounds, landfill liners, compost bulking agents, various manufactured products, energy recovery and even as artificial reefs for aquatic life.

For traditional wastewater filtration, gravity downflow granular filters using sand or anthracite as a medium are commonly used. One major problem with these filters is that upon backwashing the particles, the larger ones settle at a greater rate than the smaller.

The Penn State researcher explains that this causes the top of the filter bed to hold the smallest medium particles and the bottom to hold the largest with the small medium particles or top layer of the filter tending to become clogged quickly.

In his research, he has proved that crumb rubber is not a rigid material; instead it can be easily bent or compressed. Through the crumb rubber method, the larger solids are removed at the top layer of the filter and the smaller solids at a lower level, greatly minimizing the clogging problem.

Several studies conducted by Xie show that the crumb rubber filter is much more cost effective than conventional sand or anthracite filters. Because of substantially higher water filtration rates and lighter weight in comparison to sand or anthracite, crumb rubber filters may also be used in a mobile treatment unit for disaster relief operations, he adds.

Because the crumb rubber is compressible, the porosity of the particles is decreased which resembling an ideal filter medium configuration. It can then be used at higher filter rates while performing similarly to other media now in use. The crumb rubber media provide better effluent qualities and larger media allow longer filter runs at higher flow rates.

Also a Professional Engineer, Xie holds a U.S. patent on the technology. With more than 20 years of research experience in water and wastewater treatment, he focuses his work on water disinfection, disinfection byproduct control, water reuse and acid mine abatement.

Dr. Xie can be contacted by sending email to: yxx4@psu.edu or at 717-948-6415.
NewsClip: [Area Researcher Turns Tire Rubber Into Water Filters](#)

Link: [DEP Waste Tire Program](#)

Energy Harvest Initiative to be Featured at 2007 Pennsylvania Farm Show

The [2007 Pennsylvania Farm Show](#) (January 6-13) in Harrisburg will feature Pennsylvania's advances in agricultural renewable energy in a special Energy Harvest Exhibit again this year.

More than 40 exhibits will show how renewable energy can be harnessed in every county across



Pennsylvania from resources like crops, trees, wind, the sun and water. Renewable energy in the form of biofuels can also be used in the transportation sector to reduce our dependence on foreign oil.

Gov. Rendell recently launched the PennSecurity Fuels initiative, ensuring that after 10 years Pennsylvania will generate 900 million gallons annually of domestically-produced fuel for the state's gasoline and diesel supplies.

As part of that initiative, the Governor also created the Pennsylvania Agricultural Renewable Energy Council. By building an agricultural renewable energy industry, the state will open new markets to farmers, securing agriculture's position as the top industry in the state.

For more information, visit the [2007 Pennsylvania Farm Show webpage](#).

Eagle Named Donovan Mending While on Disabled List

High school teacher Kathy Uhler, who also runs the [Pocono Wildlife Rehabilitation Center](#), was recently involved in rescuing and rehabilitating an Eagle named, appropriately enough, Donovan from a creek in Hamilton Township, Monroe County.

The bird was suffering from lead poisoning, most likely caused by ingesting an animal hit with lead shot or a fish that swallowed a lead sinker.

Donovan (named after Philadelphia Eagles' quarterback Donovan McNabb) was taken to a veterinary clinic and is now recovering at the rehab center and may survive.

Donovan is scheduled to return to Wright's Veterinary Medical Center in Bethlehem once a week for blood tests. The Wild Resource Conservation Fund awarded a \$1,000 matching to the center this week to help defray some of the cost of the eagle's recovery.

"He is doing very well right now- eating and not seeming too ill from the CaEDTA... but the next blood test at the end of the week will tell a better story. I have to thank those who spent probably an entire day working on helping us financially. That is deeply appreciated," added Uhler.

Uhler has her hands full with the bird, which takes two people to safely handle and feed, and is currently paying the medical bills out of her own pocket. Uhler was in Harrisburg two weeks ago to help the WRCP with its annual holiday sale, and brought rescued barn and saw-whet owls and several snakes as part of her educational program.

To help support the eagle recovery effort, send a tax-deductible donation directly to: [Pocono Wildlife Rehabilitation Center](#), c/o "Rescue Donovan," 361 Cherry Drive Stroudsburg, PA 18360

(Reprinted from [DCNR's Resource Newsletter December 6, 2006](#))

Dam Safety Officials Offering Scholarships to Undergraduates

The U.S. Association of State Dam Safety Officials is taking applications for its [Dam Safety Scholarship Program](#) which offers a \$10,000 award to undergraduates.

Applications for the 2007-08 school year are due March 30.

Successful applicants must demonstrate an interest in pursuing a career in hydraulics, hydrology or geotechnical disciplines, or in another discipline related to the design, construction and operation of dams.

An announcement of successful candidates will be made in June 2007.

For more information, visit the [Dam Safety Scholarship Program webpage](#).

Feature

Dickinson Students Engage the People and Places of the Chesapeake Bay and the Lower Mississippi River Watershed

by Audrey Fisher
Dickinson College, '07



This fall, thanks to a generous grant from the [Henry Luce Foundation](#), sixteen students from the [Environmental Studies Department at Dickinson College](#) took part in an integrated watershed studies field semester.

The program, which will be offered again fall 2007, involves daily lecture on aquatic science and environmental policy, labs, and independent research. Believing in the importance of first-hand experience to educate and inspire students, Professors [Candie Wilderman](#) and [Michael Heiman](#) designed a

unique curriculum that includes field trips to the places discussed in the classroom.

The first field trip consisted of a weekend of kayaking along the West Branch of the Susquehanna River. Here students gained an understanding of water quality issues and testing procedures. They also experienced first-hand the reasons for aquatic resource protection through hours of paddling on the water and camping in the woods.

After reading about the challenges facing the Chesapeake Bay, the students traveled to Smith Island, [Assateague National Seashore](#), Ocean City, MD, [Blackwater National Wildlife Refuge](#), and [Horn Point Environmental Laboratory](#). Here they met the people who depend on and are working to understand and protect the resources of the Bay, such as the marsh grass, crabs, and oysters.

In culmination of a semester of analyzing and comparing the problems around wetland loss and natural resource use in the Chesapeake Bay and coastal Louisiana, students got to see for themselves how the landscape and communities are changing. Stops along the way included the coal fields of western Pennsylvania and West Virginia, the birthplace of the Blues (Clarksdale, Mississippi), and the Old River Control Structure (at the confluence of the Atchafalaya and Mississippi Rivers).

In Louisiana, students helped restore marsh grass, studied barrier island formation, met influential research scientists, enjoyed Cajun cuisine with the Houma Native American community, learned about the impact of the petrochemical industry along the Chemical Corridor, and listened to the stories of those affected by Hurricane Katrina.

Through hands-on experience in the field and personal conversations with scientists and community leaders, students now have an understanding of the complexity of environmental problems from both the natural and social sciences perspectives.

To read more about and see pictures from the three week trip to Louisiana, check out the [student's own blog](#).

Link: [Alliance for Resource Monitoring](#)

Quick Clips

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

[Court Ruling Jeopardizes Recycling Programs](#)
[Gifted Students Participate in Recycling Program](#)
[Editorial: Global Warming](#)
[State to Blame Lightning in Sago Mine Accident](#)
[Miners' Certificates Suspended in Schuylkill Mine Accident](#)
[Mining Companies Urge Many Changes](#)
[Tobyhanna Army Depot Undertakes Green Experiment](#)
[Plans Call for Green School](#)
[Penn State Starts Energy Initiative](#)
[Heat's On For Churches to Learn to Manage Energy Use](#)
[Regulators Re-Examine Electricity Law](#)
[New Study Confirms Electricity Markets Savings](#)
[Chambersburg Electric Bills to Increase](#)
[Quakertown to Hike Electric Rates](#)
[PPL Billing By the Hour](#)
[Duquesne Light Rate Hike Greeted Like Speed Bump](#)
[Concerns Raised About Wind Turbines, Harm to Birds](#)
[State Tax Law Benefits Wind Farms](#)
[Ethanol Plant Water Use Approved by SRBC](#)
[State Approves Lower Saucon Methane Power Plant](#)
[Scrubbers to Reduce Emissions at Elderton Plant](#)
[Professors Warn Public of Global Climate Change Threat](#)
[Citizen Input Needed on Pike Open Space Plan](#)
[Editorial: landowners Shouldn't Be Sued Over Hunting Accidents](#)
[State Donates \\$25,000 to Battle Invasive Garlic Mustard Weed](#)
[Elk to Benefit from Land Acquisition](#)
[Centennial Events to Recognize Rachel Carson's Life, Work](#)
[Rachel Carson Impact Celebrated](#)

Watershed NewsClips

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

Latest Issue: [PA Sea Grant *Keystone Shorelines*](#)

[PA Watersheds Data System Celebrates First Year!](#)
[ClearWater Conservancy Gets Watershed Grant](#)
[Reclamation Tax Faces Renewal Deadline](#)
[The Art and Science of Predicting Local Flooding](#)
[Conservation Districts Tackle Wide Range of Issues](#)

[Editorial: Help Keep Watershed Land Open](#)
[Firm Unveils Plan to Restore Creek in Camp Hill](#)
[Sportsmen Lobbies to Protect Area Waters](#)
[Monroe County Stormwater Plan Created](#)
[Task Force Paints Stark Picture of Flooding Along Delaware River](#)
[Op-Ed: Share Views on Delaware Waterfront](#)

Regulations

The Department of Environmental Protection published a final regulation [adopting the California vehicle emissions standards](#) and the Fish and Boat Commission published [final rules establishing its automated license sales system](#).

NewsClip: [Clean Vehicles Program to Become Final](#)

[Pennsylvania Bulletin – December 9, 2006](#)

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

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

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

Technical Guidance & Permits

The Department of Environmental Protection published a final policy on [use of land clearing waste](#).

Final: DEP ID: 254-2000-715. Use of Waste from Land Clearing, Grubbing and Excavation (LCGE) and the Use of Concrete or Other Clean Fill Materials Containing Protruding Rebar or Other Metal as Clean Fill. This policy provides guidance for the use of waste from land clearing, grubbing and excavation (LCGE) as clean fill, including provisions for the use of concrete containing protruding rebar as clean fill.

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

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

Calendar of Upcoming Events

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

- [New No-Cost Internet Training Courses Offered](#)

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- **December 12** – **CANCELLED**. [Coal and Clay Mine Subsidence Insurance Board meeting](#).
- **December 12** – **CANCELLED**. [Laboratory Accreditation Advisory Committee meeting](#)
- **December 12** – [Delaware River Basin Commission meeting](#) to release Flood Mitigation Task Force recommendations and other issues. 25 State Police Drive, West Trenton, NJ. 10:15.
- **December 14** – [Coal and Clay Mine Subsidence Insurance Board meeting](#). 14th Floor Conference Room, Rachel Carson Building, Harrisburg. 10:00.
- **December 19** – **CANCELLED**. [Environmental Quality Board meeting](#).
- **December 19** - [DEP public hearing](#) on Greene County Ozone Implementation Plan.
- **December 19** – [DEP public hearing](#) on Ozone Implementation Plan for Reading.

[DEP Calendar of Events](#)

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

[Environmental Education Workshop/Training Calendar](#)

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

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

Helpful Web Links

[PA Environment Digest Video Blog](#)

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

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

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

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

Note: We've Moved Our Server and Our Offices!

We moved our Internet Server this week with our offices so you might experience a brief interruption in access to *PA Environment Digest* and our email.

You can find us at 204 State Street, right down from the Capitol steps.

Stories Invited

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

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