

-PA ——— Environment Digest

*An Update on
Environmental
Issues in
Pennsylvania*

Edited By David E. Hess, Crisci Associates

December 31, 2007

[PA Environment Digest Video Blog](#)

Watershed Groups, Businesses, Individuals Receive Environmental Awards in 2007

Thousands of watershed groups, businesses, local and state officials and individuals do great things to protect and restore the environment every day in Pennsylvania.

Throughout 2007 *PA Environment Digest* published many of their stories so they could serve as an inspiration to others.

Here are just some of the people and organizations that received recognition and awards for their environmental good works. Follow these links and find out how you can do the same thing too!



Gerry Sechrist, Thomas Kerr,
Harry Miller & Dr. Ruth
Patrick Receive Fish & Boat
Commission Awards

[PennDOT Anti-Litter Program Earns National Acclaim](#)

[State Forester, Landowners Honored for Forest Stewardship](#)

[Three Conservationists Recognized by Eastern Sports & Outdoor Show](#)

[Ralph Abele, Mahon Access for All, Boating Education Awards Presented](#)

[Pennsylvania Leads the Nation in College RecycleMania Participation](#)

[EPA Recognizes Pollution Reduction Efforts of Bethlehem, Allentown Companies](#)

[Sen. Ferlo, CMU Professor, PPG Researcher Win Shades of Green Awards](#)

[4 Townships Receive EAC Achievement Awards, Climate Change Issue Highlighted](#)

[Berks Conservancy Honors PA Environmental Council for Local Work](#)

[Rep. Stern, John Dawes Receive Susquehanna Watershed Protection Awards](#)

[Devin Fester Winner of Youth Hunter Essay Contest](#)

[Conservation Districts Recognize Farmers Working to Protect Chesapeake Bay](#)

[Video Blog – John Quimby Receives CBF Educator of the Year Award](#)

[PECO WIND Ranked in Top 10 By U.S. Department of Energy](#)

[Game Commission Recognized by Chestnut Ridge Chapter Trout Unlimited](#)

[Lehigh River Named Pennsylvania's River of the Year](#)

[Winners of 2007 Governor's Award for Environmental Excellence Announced](#)

[Dirt and Gravel Road Program Celebrates 10th Anniversary](#)

[EPA, PennVEST Recognize Mine Cleanup Work Bristol Drinking Water Facility](#)

[Pittsburgh's Bayer Corp Honored by Rachel Carson Homestead Association](#)

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[Innovative Municipalities, Individuals Recognized with Governor’s Awards](#)
[EPA Recognizes North Area Environmental Council in Allegheny County](#)
[Two Philadelphia Schools Honored With Environmental Community Service Award](#)
[Lehigh University Among EPA P3 Award Winners](#)
[PA CleanWays Announces Litter Hawk Youth Award Program Winners](#)

[Philadelphia Sustainability Award Winners Announced](#)
[PA Senior Environment Corp Volunteer, Others Named Leadership Fellows](#)
[House, Senate Celebrate 10th Anniversary of PA Senior Environment Corps](#)
[PennVEST’s Paul Marchetti Receives James McGirr Kelly Award](#)
[McNeil PPC in Lititz Winner of EPA Performance Track Award](#)

[Railpower Hybrid Corp. Among EPA Clean Air Award Winners](#)
[Schuylkill Partnership Recognizes Schools for Protecting Schuylkill River](#)
[Parks and Recreation Foundation Award Winners Honored](#)
[Dr. Chun, PA Senior Environment Corps, Wins Double Recognition](#)
[GreenTreks Network’s Natural Heroes Series Receives Regional Emmy](#)

[Chemsweep Program Wins 2007 Karl Mason Environmental Award](#)
[York County Team Wins State Envirothon Competition](#)
[EPA Honors 4 Philadelphia Hospital with Pollution Prevention Awards](#)
[Winners Announced for 2007 Western PA Environmental Awards](#)
[EPA Spotlights Watershed Restoration Efforts in Bedford, Huntingdon Counties](#)

[Shippenville Farm Regional Winner of 2007 Environmental Stewardship Award](#)
[Joanne Denworth, Joseph Manko Recognized with PEC’s Curtin Winsor Award](#)
[2007 Friends of the Lehigh River Award Recipients Recognized](#)
[Indigo Technologies Recognized at Air & Waste Management Assn. Conference](#)
[PA Student Places 2nd in Rachel Carson “A Sense of Wonder” Competition](#)

[PA Conservationists Recognized By State Conservation Commission](#)
[U. of Pennsylvania, PA Companies Among Top Green Power Purchasers](#)
[Hard Work, Local Involvement Improves Vintondale Flood Protection](#)
[EPA Lauds Infrastructure Success at Erie Drinking Water Facility](#)
[EPA Recognizes Erie’s Edward Kissell for Environmental Volunteerism](#)

[Nathan Renaudin Wins PA CleanWays’ Sue Wiseman Scholarship](#)
[York County Team Wins 2nd Place in International Envirothon Competition](#)
[Tom Kerr to Receive L.L. Bean Outdoor Hero Award](#)
[Three Students Receive Ralph Abele Conservation Scholarships](#)
[Hikers Recognized With Trail Challenge Award By DCNR](#)

[Three PA Businesses, Groups Among Those Honored for Energy Savings](#)
[PROP Announces 2007 Waste Watchers Award Winners](#)
[Keep PA Beautiful, PA Horticultural Society Present Community Greening Awards](#)
[Video Blog Feature – Ohio Watershed Celebration Honors Environmental Initiative](#)
[Springside 4th Grader Wins “Green Award” in the Great Green America Program](#)

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[EPA Honors Pittsburgh Hospitals for Exceptional Efforts to Protect Children](#)
[EPA Recognizes Marple Township for Energy Conservation](#)
[PA Trout Unlimited Announces Winners of Annual Awards](#)
[Pennsylvania, Berks County Achieve Farmland Preservation Milestones](#)
[Penn State Scientists Park of Nobel Peace Prize Winning UN Climate Change Panel](#)

[Northeast Environmental Partners Recognize Local Environmental Achievements](#)
[8th Annual Green Power Awards Presented to 33 Individuals, Groups, Companies](#)
[Students Answer Challenge to Promote Green Energy in Poster Contest](#)
[Fayette County Mine Reclamation Project Wins Federal Award](#)
[PA Resources Council Honors Environmental Leaders at Awards Dinner](#)

[Larry Williamson to Be Honored as Conservationist of the Year](#)
[Lehigh/Berks Air Quality Partnership Honors Tom DiLazaro](#)
[EPA Partners Recognized for Improvements to Environment, Balance Sheets](#)
[Butler Conservation District Honors Margaret Dunn as Conservation Educator](#)
[Lower Perkiomen Valley Sewer Authority Recognized for Excellence](#)

[Leading Corporations Cutting Greenhouse Gases, Including 3 in PA](#)
[Sen. Noah Wenger Honored by Susquehanna River Basin Commission](#)

Take a Look Back at the Best of the PA Environment Digest Video Blog

Hearing people enthusiastically talk about what they know best—how to protect and restore Pennsylvania’s environment— has much more of an impact that simply reading words on a page.

In 2007 the *PA Environment Digest* [Video Blog](#) captured more than 100 short videos of people doing just that all across Pennsylvania.

Follow these links to just some of the [Video Blog](#) stories we published in 2007 and join the over 14,000 people who enjoyed them since the Blog went online--



Wiconisco Creek

[Raccoon Creek Watershed Cleanup Guided by Ingenuity, Volunteers](#)
[Volunteers Mitigate Acid Rain Impacts on Wiconisco Creek](#)
[First Restoration Project in Montour Run Watershed a Success](#)
[Fairmount Park in Philadelphia an Important Bird Area? Go Figure!](#)
[Treasury Dept., PA Environmental Council Partner on Green Investment Strategy](#)

[Cindy Dunn- Connecting People to Natural Resources](#)
[Chesapeake Bay Foundation Promotes Help for Farmers and the Environment](#)
[Exhibitors Show Off Watershed Initiatives at Schuylkill Watershed Congress](#)
[John Quimby Receives CBF Educator of the Year Award](#)
[Too Many Deer Damaging Forest Ecosystems, Agriculture](#)

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[Go Wild! With Native Plants As You Plan Your Next Landscaping Project](#)
[Capitol Area Senior Environment Corps Members Show How It's Done](#)
[A Visit to the Tom Ridge Environmental Center, Presque Isle, Erie](#)
[PA Senior Environment Corps in Action!](#)
[Art Students, PennDOT Combine for Unusual Recycling Project](#)

[NRCS Grant Supports Innovative Mine Reclamation Project Using Excess Manure](#)
[Quecreek Mine Rescue Anniversary Renews Call for Mine Safety Legislation](#)
[Buzz at Ag Progress Days About New \\$10 Million Farm Conservation Tax Credits](#)
[DCNR to Release Draft Carbon Management Plan](#)
[Litter Summit Attendees Learn About New Tools to Combat Litter](#)

[4 Game Commission Open Houses Remain on Deer Management](#)
[Ohio Watershed Celebration Honors Environmental Initiative](#)
[Clean Up Our American Lands Program Subject of Environmental Issues Forum](#)
[Exelon Supports Riparian Buffer Project for Multiple Benefits](#)
[PA Environmental Council Unveils Climate Roadmap for Pennsylvania](#)

[Doc Fritchey T.U. Guides Spring Creek Restoration Efforts](#)
[Legacy Sediments and Floodplain Restoration](#)
[Over 400 Learn About REAP Farm Conservation Tax Credit Program](#)
[Ned Smith Center Connects People, Art Nature](#)

[PA Environment Digest Video Blog](#)

New Environmental Laws in 2007 Lead by REAP Farm Conservation Tax Credit



Blessing the Cow Promotes
REAP Farm Tax Credit

A variety of new environmental laws were put on the books during 2007, but leading the pack was the new \$10 million [Resource Enhancement and Protection Program](#) (REAP) farm conservation tax credit program adopted through the efforts of the Chesapeake Bay Foundation, PA Farm Bureau and a broad coalition of farm, environmental, hunting, angling and business groups.

Landowner Liability: [House Bill 13](#) (Readshaw-D-Allegheny) relating to landowner liability opening land to recreation was signed into law and is now Act 11.

Storage Tanks: [Senate Bill 815](#) (Musto-D-Luzerne) extending the storage tank pollution prevention programs through 2012 was signed into law and is now Act 20.

Deer Management: [House Bill 881](#) (Haluska-D-Cambria) expands the authority of the Game Commission to issue permits to individuals to protect agricultural crops and making other changes to the Game Code was signed into law by the Governor as Act 26.

Nuclear Plant Fees: [House Bill 496](#) (George-D-Clearfield) that would increase fees on nuclear power plants and for transportation escorts was signed into law by the Governor as Act 31.

Electric Distribution: [House Bill 1530](#) (Dermody-D-Allegheny) providing for long-term electric supplier contracts was amended to narrow the focus to help major companies in Western Pennsylvania and signed into law by the Governor as Act 36.

Ownership of Renewable Energy Credits: [House Bill 1203](#) (Hornaman-D-Erie) clarifying the ownership of renewable energy credits under the Alternative Energy Portfolio Standards is now Act 35.

REAP Farm Conservation Tax Credits: [Senate Bill 97](#) (D.White-R-Indiana) Tax Code changes including increasing film production tax credit, Education Improvement Credit, creating the Resource Enhancement and Protection tax credit and making changes to the Neighborhood Tax credit is now Act 55.

Mine Families First: [House Bill 483](#) (Bastian-R-Somerset) establishing the Mine Families First Act prompted by the 2002 Quecreek Mine Rescue in Somerset county into law as Act 57.

Hazardous Sites Cleanup Fund: [Senate Bill 1100](#) (Pileggi-R-Delaware) that would provide a dedicated source of funding for the Hazardous Sites Cleanup Program by taking \$17 million from legislative accounts to fund the program for the remainder of this fiscal year and re-establishes the earmark of \$40 million in revenues from the Capital Stock and Franchise Tax annually through fiscal year 2010-11 was signed into law as Act 77.

Environmental Covenants: [House Bill 43](#) (Rubley-R-Chester), establishing uniform environmental covenants for brownfield sites was signed into law as Act 68.

On the Legislative Agenda for the Environment in 2008

Much work on environmental issues was left undone in 2007 and will be on the agenda again in 2008, chief among them will be putting together enough votes in the House and Senate to pass an Energy Independence Plan.

But, one of the first items on the agenda will be the budget, which for at least one environmental agency last year, was described this way, “We cut into things you might be hearing about, we cut through the meat and into the bone.” And that [was a description](#) by Department of Environmental Protection Secretary Kathleen McGinty.

This coming year isn’t likely to get any better, especially funding for bread and butter permit review



Will the PA Senior Environment Corp Be Funded in 2008?

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programs that aren't splashy and new.

While a funding solution was put in place for the Hazardous Sites Cleanup and Radiation Protection programs in 2007, the Growing Greener Watershed Restoration Program will again see a challenge by those wanting to take the debt service to pay for the Growing Greener II bond issue from the Environmental Stewardship Fund, further reducing watershed restoration funding.

County conservation districts are being faced with an increasing conservation planning workload as many farmers plant corn and soybeans to take advantage of biofuels-driven prices, directives to cleanup water quality through the local Total Maximum Daily Nutrient Loading Plans across the state and programs like those restoring the Chesapeake Bay.

Funding for the [PA Senior Environmental Corps Program](#), which puts over 2,900 seniors in the field doing water quality monitoring, environmental education and other good works, was ended in 2007 and it remains to be seen whether that funding will be restored in 2008.

This all at a time when states in the Chesapeake Bay watershed, Pennsylvania included, acknowledged they do not have the programs in place to meet the 2010 water quality improvement goals.

Funds from the Growing Greener II bond issue itself will run out in four more years, right after the next gubernatorial election, leaving watershed restoration, state abandoned mine reclamation and parks and recreation projects with dramatically less funding.

On a brighter note, DEP will be proposing a plan to spend the \$1.4 billion the Commonwealth expects to receive for abandoned mine reclamation from the federal government over the next 15 years for sites with significant public safety concerns and for mine discharge cleanups.

The Senate and House also have to finish their work on a 2007-08 Capital Budget that includes hundreds of environmental, recreation and other projects—[House Bill 1589](#) (Evans-D-Philadelphia).

Link: [Watershed, Environmental Groups Need Your Help](#)

Beyond funding, here are some other environmental issues pending:

Energy Independence: Both the Senate and House have passed competing versions of major parts of an Energy Independence Plan proposed by Gov. Rendell, but much more work remains to reconcile the differences and fill in pieces that Gov. Rendell sees as missing.

The Senate passed [Special Session Senate Bill 1](#) (MJ.White-R-Venango) which outlines a \$650 million investment plan to support alternative and renewable energy use, [Special Session Senate Bill 22](#) (Tomlinson-R-Bucks) that includes an incentive program for the use of biofuels in transportation and [Special Session Senate Bill 36](#) (MJ.White) that includes a biodiesel mandate. ([12/17/07 Pa Environment Digest](#))

The House has passed [House Bill 1200](#) (DePasquale-D-York) creating a grant and loan program to encourage the use of renewable energy at the PA Energy Development Authority (but without a funding source) and [House Bill 1202](#) (Gerber-D-Montgomery) that includes a renewable transportation fuels mandate. ([6/25/07 Pa Environment Digest](#))

Further consideration of the biofuels mandates passed by the Senate and House will no doubt be influenced by the new federal energy bill signed into law in December that

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dramatically increases the mandate for using ethanol and biofuels in transportation. ([12/24/07 Pa Environment Digest](#))

The portion of the energy package related to transitioning from electric rate caps to a competitive electric market has seen a number of hearings, but no action was taken by the full Senate or House. The bills include [House Bill 1201](#) (George-D-Clearfield) ([6/18/07 Pa Environment Digest](#)) and [Senate Bill 1134](#) (Tomlinson-R-Bucks) ([11/26/07 Pa Environment Digest](#)).

Other energy-related legislation is also likely to be considered that is not part of the primary Energy Independence Package.

For example, [Special Session House Bill 5](#) (M.Smith-D-Montgomery) establishing High-Performance Green Building Tax Credit Program, [House Bill 894](#) (Leach-D-Montgomery) increasing state reimbursements for school buildings built using green technology, [Special Session House Bill 8](#) (Leach-D-Montgomery) providing an exclusion from Sales Tax for fluorescent bulbs, [Special Session House Bill 11](#) (Parker-D-Philadelphia) providing an exclusion from Sales Tax for EnergyStar appliances and [House Bill 690](#) (Cohen-D-Philadelphia) creating a plug-in hybrid vehicle task force were all passed the House and are now in the Senate and [House Bill 656](#) (Bastian-R-Somerset) allowing preserved farms to lease property for the development of wind farms is still in the House.

Climate Change: The Senate and House have both passed legislation directing the state to come up with a Climate Change Action Plan and now will have to resolve the differences between the two by deciding whose bill to move: [Senate Bill 266](#) (Erickson-R-Delaware) or [House Bill 110](#) (Vitali-D-Delaware). ([11/26/07 Pa Environment Digest](#))

Phosphate Dish Detergent Ban: [Senate Bill 1017](#) (Brubaker-R-Lancaster) banning dishwasher detergents with phosphates was passed by the Senate and now is in the House.

Great Lakes Compact: [House Bill 1705](#) (Harkins-D-Erie) that would adopt the Great Lakes Compact on water withdrawals affecting the Lake Erie drainage basin is now in the House Appropriations Committee. ([12/17/07 Pa Environment Digest](#))

Deep Mine Safety: Five and a half years after the Quecreek Mine Accident, the coal industry, mine workers and the Rendell Administration have now apparently agreed on the draft of a bill to adopt recommendations made by the 2002 Governor's Commission formed after the accident and to make sweeping updates to Pennsylvania's deep mine safety law. The bill is due to be introduced in the Senate as Senate Bill 949, which echoes the "9 for 9" comment Gov. Schweiker used to announce the successful rescue.

Center for Environmental Education: [Senate Bill 356](#) (MJ.White-R-Venango) establishing the [Pennsylvania Center for Environmental Education](#) in law was passed by the Senate and is now in the House Appropriations Committee.

Historic Preservation Grants: [House Bill 221](#) (Tangretti-R-Westmoreland) establishing a Historic Preservation Grant Program passed the House and is now in the Senate Community, Economic and Recreation Development Committee.

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Public Review of Clean Air Plans: [Senate Bill 355](#) (MJ.White-R-Venango) requiring further public review of State Clean Air Implementation Plans passed by the Senate and is now in the House Environmental Resources and Energy Committee.

EQB Legal Advice: [Senate Bill 105](#) (Musto-D-Luzerne) requiring independent legal advice for the Environmental Quality Board was passed by the Senate and is now in the House.

Justifying Regulations: [Senate Bill 752](#) (Erickson-R-Delaware) requiring a detailed justification prior to the adoption of regulations through the Independent Regulatory Review Commission process was passed by the Senate and is now in the House.

Keystone Fund Reporting: [Senate Bill 1069](#) (MJ.White-R-Venango) requiring a detailed annual report by DCNR on expenditures from the Keystone Recreation, Park and Conservation Fund was passed by the Senate and is now in the House.

County Waste Management Fee: [House Bill 934](#) (Scavello-R-Monroe) authorizing a county solid waste management fee was reported from the House Environmental Resources and Energy Committee and is now on the House Tabled Bill Calendar.

Conservation District Law Update: [Senate Bill 1020](#) (Wonderling-R-Montgomery) update of the 1945 county conservation district law was reported from the Senate Agriculture and Rural Affairs Committee and is now in Senate Appropriations.

Game Commission Board: [House Bill 1214](#) (Surra-D-Elk) changing the terms of members of the Game Commission Board in order to make them more responsive to hunters' interests passed the House and is now in the Senate.

Elk Damage Fund: [House Bill 1078](#) (Hanna-D-Centre) creating the Elk Damage Fund was passed by the House and is now in the Senate.

Appalachian Trail: [House Bill 1281](#) (Freeman-D-Lehigh) directing local governments to better protect the Appalachian Trail passed the House and is now in the Senate.

Local Planning: [House Bill 1280](#) (Freeman-D-Lehigh) further defining traditional neighborhood development, [House Bill 420](#) (Hickernell-R-Lancaster) further defining downtown development under the Main Street Program, [House Bill 1329](#) (Kessler-D-Berks) and [House Bill 1330](#) (Kessler) further providing for appeals from land development ordinances and [House Bill 1787](#) (M.Smith-D-Montgomery) further providing for curative amendments were passed by the House and are now in the Senate.

“Improve Your Habitat” 2008 Calendar, Others Available

Crisci Associates is again this year offering a free “Improve Your Habitat In 2008” Calendar. [Download it now.](#) *(For best results, print the first page on photo paper.)*

The Wild Resource Conservation Program is offering a free [Rare and Endangered Plants Calendar](#) for 2008.

You can also order the “[Beauty of Pennsylvania’s State Parks](#)” Calendar and the Game Commission 2008 is available [at the Outdoor Shop](#).

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On the Hill

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- On the Senate/House Agenda

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- Public-Private Partnership Protects 3,500+ acres in Southcentral PA
- Counties Reminded to Take Advantage of Unspent Landfill Closure Account Money
- Metals Now Removed from Ash at the Lancaster Resource Recovery Facility
- Deadline for Host Municipality Inspector Grant Applications March 31
- Innovative Farming Methods Conference Set for January 23 in Greensburg

Spotlight

- GreenTreks Highlights Year of Innovation in Online Environmental Messaging

Feature

- What’s Your Green New Year’s Resolution?

Grants & Awards

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

On the Hill

Session Schedule

The Senate and House will return to Harrisburg to open the 2008 session briefly on January 1 and return to voting session January 14.

House 2008 Session Days—

January	1 (Non-voting), 14, 15, 16, 28, 29, and 30
February	4, 5, 6, 11, 12, and 13
March	10, 11, 12, 17, 18, and 31
April	1, 2, 7, 8, and 9
May	5, 6, 7, 12, 13, and 14
June	2, 3, 4, 9, 10, 11, 16, 17, 18, 23, 24, 25, 26, 27, 28, 29, and 30

Senate 2008 Session Days--

January 1, 14, 15, 16, 28, 29, 30

February 4, 5, 6, 11, 12

March 10, 11, 12, 17, 18, 31

April 1, 2, 7, 8, 9, 28, 29, 30

May 5, 6, 7, 12, 13, 14, 19, 20, 21

June 2, 3, 4, 9, 10, 11, 16, 17, 18, 23, 24, 25, 26, 27, 30

You can watch the [Senate Floor Session](#) and [House Floor Session](#) live online.

On the Senate/House Agenda

The Senate and House floor Calendars for January—

Calendars

House (January 1): [House Resolution 506](#) (George-D-Clearfield) directing DEP and the PUC to evaluate measures to manage the transition from electricity price caps and to minimize the impact on residential customers.

Senate (January 14): [Senate Bill 497](#) (Robbins-R-Mercer) limiting the liability of landowners making property available for recreational purposes.

Other News

Pittsburgh Ringing in New Year with Environmentally Friendly Ball

Did you know that Pittsburghers are ringing in a green New Year? Again this year, [Highmark's](#) "The Future of Pittsburgh" ball, which is made from environmentally friendly materials, will light the sky in downtown Pittsburgh as part of the Pittsburgh Cultural Trust's First Night celebration.

The outer shell and the design on the ball were made from [3Form Ecoresin](#) material and light emitting diodes. Ecoresin is made with recycled post-consumer content and is not hazardous or toxic to the environment. LED lamps last longer and are more energy efficient than traditional light bulbs, and therefore emit less pollution into the atmosphere.

The structural steel roof platform and the aluminum framing within the ball also contain recycled post-consumer content. Steel is the most recycled product in North America because products made from recycled steel can be recycled again at the end of their useful lives.

[Sustainable Pittsburgh](#), a local nonprofit that seeks to bring sustainable solutions to communities and businesses in the Pittsburgh region, will mitigate the carbon emissions associated with lighting and lifting the ball through the purchase of carbon credits from Pennsylvania farm energy systems. Purchasing carbon credits helps build and support new clean and renewable sources of energy, creating sustainable economic benefits for local communities. Overall, the ball will use approximately 6,000 watts of energy.

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"Creating a healthier environment also helps to create healthier communities and healthier people," said Byron Falchetti, president of Standard Property Corporation, the real estate subsidiary of Highmark. "The Future of Pittsburgh ball is a visible example to the city of Pittsburgh of our goal to implement sustainable, eco-friendly and green practices to help make Pittsburgh a better and healthier place to live."

The ball, weighing approximately 1,000 pounds, reaches 6 feet 7 inches in diameter and touches a height of 74 feet above the roof of Penn Avenue Place in downtown Pittsburgh. The best place to view the launch of the ball will be at the Highmark Stage located at the corner of Stanwix Street and Penn Avenue. The grand finale and countdown to midnight will begin at 10:30 p.m. with a live performance by celebrated Pittsburgh band The Clarks.

"Raising 'The Future of Pittsburgh' has become the biggest highlight of the First Night festivities, and we are very grateful to Highmark for spearheading this great Pittsburgh tradition," said J. Kevin McMahon, president and CEO of The Pittsburgh Cultural Trust. "The future of the Cultural District and Pittsburgh is bright, and there is no better place to celebrate our successes as a region than at the corner of Stanwix and Penn Avenue on New Year's Eve."

A strategic objective of Highmark is to apply traditional process improvement tools like Six Sigma to the evaluation of resource consumption across the company and its effects on the environment.

Highmark's sustainable, eco-friendly, green business practices include the operation of a Silver LEED certified Data Center near Hershey, Pa., paper and utilities conservation initiatives and the use of certified green seal cleaning supplies in Highmark's facilities.

PA Farm Show Offers Learning Stations, Biofuels Exhibit January 5-12



Petting an alpaca, meeting a dairy princess and identifying unusual products that contain wood are just a few of the things visitors to the 2008 [Pennsylvania Farm Show](#) can do at 11 hands-on learning stations designed to teach visitors about agriculture, Agriculture Secretary Dennis Wolff said this week.

"The Farm Show is an excellent way for both children and adults to learn more about Pennsylvania agriculture and how it affects our daily lives,"

Secretary Wolff said. "The learning stations will help visitors explore different aspects of agriculture through memorable activities including live animals and games."

The 11 educational sites will be marked with the "Farm Show Farmer" learning station icon. The learning stations can also be found on the map in the souvenir booklet, which can be purchased at the show.

Visitors will also have access to educational opportunities regarding wind, solar, biogas, biofuels and biomass energy harvested here in the Commonwealth. Visit the Expo Hall to find the latest in this innovative technology.

The Pennsylvania Farm Show is the largest indoor agricultural event in the nation, featuring nearly 8,000 animals, 10,000 competitive exhibits and 270 commercial exhibitors. The eight-day show is Jan. 5-12, at the Farm Show Complex & Expo Center. Admission is free and parking is \$5.

For more information, including a complete list of the 11 learning stations, visit the [Pennsylvania Farm Show website](#).

Public-Private Partnership Protects 3,500+ acres in Southcentral PA



A broad-based coalition of private and public partners announced today the protection of more than 3,500 acres of forestland across Bedford, Fulton, Huntingdon, Cumberland and York counties.

[The Conservation Fund](#), a national non-profit land and water conservation organization, purchased the properties for \$9 million from [Glatfelter Pulp Wood Company](#). The company is in the process of selling more than 20,000 acres of land throughout

southern Pennsylvania.

TCF worked with the Department of Conservation and Natural Resources, the counties and the [Western Pennsylvania Conservancy](#) to identify parcels that were the highest conservation priorities.

The nine tracts identified make up the 3,500-acre land purchase package. Many of these parcels lie within Pennsylvania's ridge and valley system and are adjacent to existing public lands.

"This acquisition will help us enhance what we treasure in Pennsylvania - our beautiful forests, streams and natural areas," State Forester Dan Devlin said. "Adding this piece of Pennsylvania's great outdoors to four state forest tracts will mean we are able to protect wildlife habitat, and that future generations will be able to enjoy the land for outdoor recreation, including hunting, fishing and hiking."

All but one parcel will be transferred to DCNR's Bureau of Forestry as additions to existing state forests. The remaining parcel, consisting of 150-plus acres along the lower Susquehanna River, will be owned by York County to expand Apollo County Park.

"This acquisition protects some of the most important [formerly] privately held conservation lands along the southern tier of Pennsylvania," said Todd McNew, Pennsylvania representative for TCF. "Glatfelter's cooperation and commitment to working with this partnership was key to ensuring that these lands have permanent conservation status and will be forever open to the public."

"Cumberland County is pleased to be part of this public-private partnership," said Cumberland County Commissioner Gary Eichelberger. "Preservation of our forested ridgetops is essential to the quality of life in our region, particularly for clean drinking water for generations to come."

Funding for the acquisition was supported by a mix of private and public sources. TCF raised more than \$3 million in private funds, more than half of which came from the Pittsburgh-based [Richard King Mellon Foundation](#). DCNR contributed more than \$5.5 million. Additional funding came from York County, Cumberland County and WPC.

"The Western Pennsylvania Conservancy is pleased to partner with TCF in this great conservation effort," said Greg Socha, senior director of forest conservation for Western Pennsylvania Conservancy. "The acquisition of the Glatfelter tracts provides protection of a larger conservation landscape in the Chesapeake Bay watershed. We are particularly excited that one of the Glatfelter tracts is adjacent to land previously protected

by WPC, which is also planned to become an addition to [Buchanan State Forest](#). We look forward to partnering with TCF and DCNR to continue to protect Pennsylvania's natural heritage."

"In today's world, one must truly work at preservation in order to pass treasures on to future generations," said Lori O. Mitrick, president of York County Board of Commissioners.

NewsClip: [3,500 Acres of Forest Acquired for PA](#)

Counties Reminded to Take Advantage of Unspent Landfill Closure Account Money

The Department of Environmental Protection is reminding 15 counties that county funds are still available for land use planning, watershed protection, farmland preservation and open space projects through unused landfill closure accounts.

Currently, 15 counties have a balance remaining. They include: Bedford, Butler, Centre, Chester, Clarion, Clearfield, Erie, Jefferson, Lackawanna, Lancaster, McKean, Mercer, Tioga and Washington Counties.

Counties may use unspent funds for Growing Greener projects. Under the Environmental Stewardship and Watershed Protection Act (Act 68 of 1999), commonly referred to as Growing Greener, counties may utilize money set aside in landfill post-closure accounts for various environmental, conservation and recreation improvement projects.

The landfill post-closure accounts were established to provide funding for environmental remediation efforts after a landfill was no longer operating. The funding was determined to be unnecessary by DEP and the General Assembly due to adoption of new bonding requirements, and the funding was redirected to Growing Greener as part of Act 68.

If you are interested in learning how to access this funding, contact Tom Woy in DEP's Bureau of Waste Management at 717-787-7381 or send e-mail twoy@state.pa.us.

Metals Now Removed from Ash at the Lancaster Resource Recovery Facility

The [Lancaster County Solid Waste Management Authority](#) has recovered over 102,300 tons of ferrous metals from the ash of its resource recover facility since the facility began operation in 1991 and has generated an income of over \$200,000 annually.

The system is designed to remove aluminum, brass, copper and precious metals, the system was installed by the facility operator, Covanta Lancaster, at no cost to the Authority.

Since the Resource Recovery Facility began commercial operations in 1991, over 102,300 tons of ferrous metals have been removed from the ash and recycled. An additional 250 tons a year of nonferrous metals are expected to be recovered from the ash.

These recovered metals will be sold to recycling markets and the proceeds, estimated at \$200,000 per year will be split evenly between the Authority and Covanta Lancaster.

"Adding the nonferrous recovery system at this time makes economic and operational sense. The recovery technology has matured and become reliable. Removing the nonferrous and precious metals from the ash further refines the County's recycling efforts." said Jim Warner, LCSWMA Executive Director.

Jim Klecko, Covanta Lancaster General Manager said, “Nonferrous recovery systems are also being installed in other Covanta Energy-from-Waste (EfW) facilities in the United States. About 30 percent of all EfW in the U.S. have non-ferrous recovery systems and we’re proud to be a part of that number.”

NewsClip: [DEP Approves American Ash Recycling Process Request](#)

Deadline for Host Municipality Inspector Grant Applications March 31

The Department of Environmental Protection deadline for applications for host municipality landfill and waste facility inspector grants is March 31. ([Pa Bulletin 12/29/07 page 6960](#))

For more information, visit the [Host Municipality Programs webpage](#).

Innovative Farming Methods Conference Set for January 23 in Greensburg

A consortium of local agriculture and conservation agencies is sponsoring a regional conference on the practical applications of no- and minimum-till practices on January 23 from 9:00 to 3:30 p.m., at Giannilli’s II on Route 30 in Greensburg.

It takes more than 500 years for nature to create just one inch of topsoil.

So instead of plowing it up and hastening the erosion of this foundational material of farming, more and more farmers are preparing their fields for planting in a new way -- by doing only a minimal amount of tilling or, often, no tilling at all.

Not only does this innovative, ‘low-impact’ approach do a good job of keeping the soil in place, it actually helps to create more soil because it allows some of the previous season’s crop – the stalks and roots and residue – to remain in the field. Additional benefits of the method include improved tilth and productivity of the soil, less time spent plowing, bigger crop yields, and reduced fuel costs.

Penn’s Corner Resource Conservation & Development, Penn State Cooperative Extension, the U.S. Department of Agriculture’s Natural Resources Conservation Service, and the Westmoreland and Indiana County Conservation Districts have teamed up to bring in experts to talk on some of the most common challenges farmers face – spreading manure, and controlling weeds and insects – and how each of these is addressed when no-till methods are used.

Scheduled speakers and their topics include: Dr. Ron Hammond, field crop entomology extension specialist at Ohio State University, “Slugs and Other Insect Control Concerns in No-till Field Crops”; and Jim Hoorman, extension educator with Ohio State University Extension, “Nutrient Recycling with Cover Crops and No-till.”

The daylong event also will feature a panel discussion in which area farmers who use no-till methods share their own personal experience. Panel members are: Stan Fabin, who is co-owner of Fabin Brother Farms, a 1,500-acre cash grain and beef farm near Homer City, Indiana County, where he has been using no-till for eight years; John Piwowar, a Fayette County dairy farmer who has been no-till farming for close to a decade on his 370-acre property in Uniontown; and Bill Selembo, a no-till farmer who owns a 220-acre dairy farm in Salem Township, Westmoreland County.

In the afternoon, the conference features a series of breakout sessions: Dr. Ron Hammond will focus on “Insect Issues in No-till Crops,” Jim Hoorman will address “Cover Crops and Manure,” and Dwight Lingenfelter, weed specialist with the Department

of Crop and Soil Sciences at Penn State University, will lead the discussion on “Weed Control in No-till Systems.”

The conference also will feature a vendor show and door prizes.

The deadline to register is January 16. The \$25 registration fee includes materials, morning refreshments, and lunch.

For more information, contact Bobbi Bailey, at [Penn’s Corner Resource Conservation & Development](#), 724-834-9063, ext. 116 or send email to: bobbi.bailey@pa.usda.gov .

Spotlight

GreenTreks Highlights Year of Innovation in Online Environmental Messaging



The Pennsylvania-based [GreenTreks Network](#) is a non-profit group long recognized for its innovative use of online video and web programming talent for environmental education and messaging and the projects it undertook in 2007 were no exceptions.

Here’s just a taste of what they did this past year.

Connecting Curriculum to Kids’ Everyday Worlds: Teachers recognize the power of visual storytelling and have used our television programs in their classrooms over the years because they are local, relevant, and take a pro-active approach.

We expected the introduction of environment and ecology standards to increase interest, but conversations with curriculum developers revealed that the recent emphasis on standardized testing left teachers with less time for innovation than ever. In response, we developed [EcoExpress](#).

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This exciting teacher’s resource center takes the best programs from our library and culls them into subject-specific video shorts, aligns them with curriculum standards, lesson plans, and community based service learning projects, and makes them available online.

Feedback from a beta test has been resoundingly positive and we’re hoping to release the fully functional PA edition in 2008. Our long term plan is to expand into other states, with local stories that speak to each region’s curriculum needs.

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Natural Heroes/Storytelling: We take pride in our award-winning storytelling ability, but we're just as proud of the collaborations that have provided venues for others with lessons to share and stories to tell.

The [Natural Heroes](#) series we co-produce with California-based KRCB-TV has given many independent filmmakers exposure they would have had a hard time achieving alone. Season Two of the “eco-film festival for television” won a regional Emmy Award, and the third season was released in September.

On a local level, our mentoring program at [Green Woods Charter School](#) led to a “final exam” during which students presented multimedia stories about the personal lessons they learned in the woods.

And the web-based [American Water Hydro School](#) gives younger children the chance to share their personal connection to water through their own pictures and words.

Strategies for On-the-Ground Change: How best to handle runoff has long been a subject of debate in Pennsylvania, and while last January's release of the Department of Environmental Protection's [Stormwater BMP Manual](#) was intended to provide clarity, many organizations working on the issue fear the massive technical document is so overwhelming that it won't be put into use.

Our work with a broad array of partners has resulted in an innovative program to help municipalities, engineers, and developers understand their roles and responsibilities in stormwater management—and to help them see the many benefits and opportunities of “doing it right.”

[StormwaterPA](#) will debut in 2008 with a media rich web site, video series, and multi-faceted outreach campaign.

Other Projects: We've continued our work with all kinds of organizations throughout the year. Of special note:

- a video making the case for the creation of the Pennypack Greenway (Greenspace Alliance);
- a video series on using technology to connect citizens with government (CT United Way);
- a video celebration of America's coastlines (Assn. of National Estuary Programs); and
- website strategy and development to meet a range of education and advocacy goals (Amazon Center for Environmental Education and Research, Delaware Riverkeeper Network, GreenWoods Charter School, Keep Pennsylvania Beautiful, EAC Network, and more.)

To talk about a project for your organization or to support the GreenTreks Network, contact Barry Lewis, GreenTreks Network at 215-545-5811 or send email to: BLewis@Greentreks.org .

Feature

What's Your Green New Year's Resolution?

PA Environment Digest – Crisci Associates

The [Watershed Alliance of York](#) published a special Way E-Newsletter this month that outlines steps you can take to protect your watershed and lead a more sustainable lifestyle.

The December 17 newsletter contains dozens of links to help reduce your carbon footprint, travel and eat green, explore biodiversity, use green power and educate others on sustainability.

So, what's your green New Year's Resolution going to be?

[Download the Way E-Newsletter](#) and get some great ideas!

The newsletter is edited by Gary Peacock, Watershed Specialist for the York County Conservation District. He can be contacted by sending email to: GPeacock@YorkCCD.org or by calling 717-840-7430. You can also contact Gary by email to get on the Way E-News email list to enjoy future issues.

Grants & Awards

This section gives you a heads up on upcoming deadlines for grants and financial assistance as well as nominations for awards and other recognition programs. **NEW** means from last week—

- **December 31** – Fish & Boat Commission [Sportfishing/Aquatic Ed Grants](#)
- **December 31**— [Nominations for Green Chemistry Challenge Awards](#)
- **January 1** – Environ. Concerns [Schoolyard Wetland Habitat Grants](#)
- **January 4** – [PA Conservation Corps Grants](#)
- **January 15**— [International Children's Painting Competition](#)
- **January 15**— [National Wetlands Awards Program Nominations](#)
- **February 1** – PA Land Trust Assn. [Government Leadership Award Nominations](#).
- **February 8** – [PA American Water Watershed Art Contest](#)
- **February 19** – PennVEST [Infrastructure Loans/Grants for April 15 Meeting](#).
- **February 20**— [USDA Conservation Innovation Grants](#)
- **February 22**— [Allegheny County Global Warming Poster Contest](#)
- **March 31** – PAEP [Karl Mason Environmental Award](#).
- **March 31**—**NEW**. [DEP Host Municipality Inspector Grants](#)
- **April 2** – [WREN Water Resources Education Project Grants](#)

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

Quick Clips

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

[Column: Troubled Water, Area Recalls Giardiasis Outbreak
Healy Called Unsung Hero
Giardiasis Outbreak Provoked State Action](#)

[Op-Ed: Restoring Habitat a Must
State Preserves Areas of Old Growth Trees](#)

[State Forest Land to Grow Next Year](#)
[Outdoor Fun Gets Costlier in State Parks](#)
[PA Lands in Top Five in Country for Hunting, Fishing](#)
[Coalition Opposes ATVs on Some Roads](#)
[Forest Coalition: ATVs on Roads Bad Idea](#)
[Birders Began Their Interest in All Things Avian as Kids](#)
[California School District Joins Audubon Project](#)
[Concerns Continue at Many Levels with Deer Program](#)
[Op-Ed: Putting Off the Cleanup of Car Emissions](#)
[Editorial: EPA Delays the Inevitable on Auto Emissions](#)
[Scenic Byway Plan Endorsed](#)
[Clarion Greenways Proposal Advances](#)
[Development Restricted on 70 Acres](#)
[North Versailles Housing Plan Would Elevate Green Development](#)
[Editorial: Pedestrian Friendly Walkways Coming Back](#)
[Big Wake-Up to Global Warming](#)
[Column: Stabilizing the Planet – Herb Field](#)
[Editorial: Energy Efficiency and Climate Would Benefit](#)
[Clean Air Council: Fighting for a Cleaner Future](#)
[Chester County Making Green Efforts](#)
[Editorial: EPA on Shaky Ground Denying States Auto Standards](#)
[Higher Fuel Efficiency Standards Signal Rough Road for Steel](#)
[Ethanol Production Comes With Concerns](#)
[Op-Ed: Another Lost Year on Energy](#)
[Editorial: Dim Bulbs](#)
[Editorial: New Energy Law Will Bring Results](#)
[Editorial: Finally We Have An Energy Plan](#)
[Editorial: New PPL Nuke Would Be Timely](#)
[Official: Public Would Back Reactor](#)
[Green Bus Should Roll Through Bucks This Summer](#)
[PA Gas Drilling Attracts Out of State Companies](#)
[Conference to Mark Greening of Pittsburgh](#)
[Creativity Gets KO Sixth-Grader a Spot in National Radon Contest](#)
[Environmental Institute Has Big Plans for Future](#)
[Developer Offers Lesson in Recycling](#)

Watershed NewsClips

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

[Op-Ed: Most Don't Appreciate That Water is a Gift](#)
[Survey Aims for Clear Picture of Allegheny River](#)
[Creek Crew Students Dive Into Science](#)
[Editorial: The Merck Settlement, A Lasting Impact](#)
[Pittsburgh Region's Abundance of Water Raises Risks](#)
[Lawmakers Sue Over Casino's Right to Build on Riverbanks](#)
[Omnibus Federal Funding Bill Cuts Funding to Chesapeake Cleanup](#)

[Water Monitoring Vital to Health of Chesapeake Bay](#)
[Penn Hill Hopes Letter Campaign Will Lift Sewer Consent Decree](#)
[Ephrata Science Students Have Clear Goal on Cocalico Creek](#)
[Hanover Objects to Watershed Mandates](#)

Regulations

The [Delaware River Basin Commission](#) has scheduled a hearing on the [Flexible Flow Management Program for New York Reservoirs](#) on January 16 at the Trenton Volunteer Fire Company, Trenton, NJ.

Nancy Sabol Frantz, a partner in the law firm of White and Williams in Philadelphia, has been appointed by House Minority Leader Sam Smith to be a member of the Independent Regulatory Review Commission.

[Pennsylvania Bulletin – December 29, 2007](#)

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

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

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

Technical Guidance & Permits

No new policies were published this week.

[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. **NEW** indicates new from last week. [Go To: PA Environment Digest Calendar Page](#)

- **NEW.** The Department of Environmental Protection published a schedule of meetings by its boards and advisory committees for 2008. [The schedule is available online.](#)
- **January 14**—Environmental Issues Forum featuring Kathleen Cowles Paul, Director of the [PA Center for Environmental Education](#). Room 205 Ryan Building. Noon.
- **January 16**—**NEW.** [Delaware River Basin Commission](#) hearing on [Flexible Flow Management Program for New York Reservoirs](#). Trenton Volunteer Fire Company, Trenton, NJ.
- **February 22-23** – 2008 [Keystone Coldwater Conference](#). State College.

PA Environment Digest – Crisci Associates

- **February 26**—[PA Chamber Energy Summit](#). Harrisburg Hilton.
- **February 28**—[Pennsylvania Wild Resources Symposium](#). [Powdermill Nature Reserve](#). Pittsburgh.
- **February 28-March 2**—[PA Assn. of Environmental Educators Conference](#). Antiochian Village Camp and Conference Center near Ligonier, Pa.
- **March 28**— Lehigh Valley Watershed Conference and Shad Symposium. Holiday Inn, Fogelsville.
- **May 13-15**—[PA Water/Wastewater Association](#) annual conference. Valley Forge.

[DEP Calendar of Events](#)

[Environmental Education Workshop/Training Calendar](#)

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

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

You can watch the [Senate Floor Session](#) and [House Floor Session](#) live online.

Helpful Web Links

[PA Environment Digest Video Blog](#)

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

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

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

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

Stories Invited

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

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