

-PA Environment Digest

*An Update on
Environmental
Issues in
Pennsylvania*

Edited By David E. Hess, Crisci Associates

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[PA Environment Digest Video Blog](#)

Eastern Sports & Outdoor Show Recognizes Conservation Achievement in Awards

Three Pennsylvania conservationists received Youth Mentor, Humanitarian and Conservation Achievement Awards from the [2008 Eastern Sports & Outdoor Show](#) which runs from February 2-10 at the Farm Show Complex in Harrisburg.

Robert H. Miles of Slippery Rock, Pa, a lifelong educator and conservationist, received the 2008 Eastern Sports & Outdoor Show Achievement Award for Conservation.

Miles recently retired after a 35-year career as a Special Education teacher at Laurel High School in New Castle, Pa. In 1982, while at Laurel High School, Miles established the Laurel Conservation Club. Twenty-five years later the club has grown into an award-winning, highly respected conservation organization.

Over the years the club has grown to an annual membership of over 180 students in grades 7-12. More than 3,000 students have been members since 1982.

Club activities have included: 25 years of wildlife habitat improvement and tree planting; 25 years of participation in the Lawrence County Council of Conservation Clubs; 24 years of assisting the Fish and Boat Commission with stocking trout in local streams; 22 years of raising trout in two club operated nurseries (7,000 trout per year); 22 years of raising and stocking quail and pheasants; 22 years of hosting the Sportsman's Night Out at Laurel High School; Participation in creating an Educational Stewardship Forest Project on the Laurel Campus; and countless hours of volunteer participation in the Annual Ducky Derby for the American Cancer Society, the PA CleanWays Road Cleanups, the annual clean up the Coachman's Lake, and additional community conservation projects when requested.

Under the leadership of Miles, the Laurel Conservation Club has received numerous awards at the county, state and national level. These include: the 1987 Fish and Boat Commission Outstanding Achievement Award; the 1989 Fish and Boat Commission Conservation Service Award; the 1990, '91 and '96 PA State Association of Township



Tom Fegley Maurice Umbenhaur Robert Miles

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Supervisors Milton W. Delancey Award; the 1990 PA Wildlife Federation Conservation "Youth Group of the Year"; the 1991 PA Federation of Sportsman's Clubs Conservation Leadership Award; the 1991 Game Commission Recognition of Excellence; the 2001 Lawrence County Conservation District Organization of the Year Award; the PA CleanWays Outstanding Group Effort Award; the 2004-05 Trout Unlimited Certificate of Appreciation; and Three Conservation Club members have been recognized as "Youth Conservationists of the Year" by the PA Wildlife Federation.

As the Advisor for the Laurel Conservation Club, Mr. Miles has received the following awards: the 1990 Lawrence County Conservation District Teacher of the Year; the 1993 Lawrence County Historical Society Hall of Fame Inductee for Outdoor Sports; Fish and Boat Commission NW Division Cooperative Nursery Manager of the Year; 1995 Three Rivers Environmental Award Finalist; the 2003 PA Outdoor Writers Association Youth Mentor of the Year; Lifetime Honorary Member of the Coachmen Club; 2007 Laurel Foundation Sports Hall of Fame Inductee; 2007 Wal-Mart Teacher of the Year; the 2007 "Bob Miles Conservation Award" was established at Laurel High School to honor one outstanding conservation club graduating senior member each year; and the 2007 Field and Stream "Hero of Conservation" Award.

The Eastern Sports & Outdoor Show Outdoor Achievement Award for Conservation is presented annually to an individual or organization in recognition of their demonstrated commitment to protecting and improving our outdoor resources and animal habitats.

Maurice "Reese" Umbenhauer Received the Eastern Sports & Outdoor Show Humanitarian Award.

Maurice "Reese" Umbenhauer, Schuylkill Haven, Pa, has received the 2008 Eastern Sports & Outdoor Show Humanitarian Award for his continuing work in promoting conservation efforts, youth outdoor education, and hunting and fishing organizations.

In 1980, Umbenhauer and a group of concerned sportsmen formed the Stoyer's Dam Committee to address the dam's deteriorating condition. With Umbenhauer serving as co-chairman, the committee successfully involved the community in fundraisers, and other projects until enough money and materials were obtained to repair the dam breast and the dam dredged, and build three silt catch basins where the creek flows into the dam.

An offshoot of the Stoyer's Dam project was the establishment of a cooperative trout hatchery which supplied fish for stocking the dam and nearby trout waters. Dredging the dam also insured the continuation of the Stoyer's Dam Trout Fishing Rodeo held for children up to age 15. Umbenhauer served as chairman of the Trout Rodeo.

Umbenhauer has been a member of the Hawk Mountain Boy Scout Council's Cub Scout day camp staff where he was in charge of the BB gun shooting range and he has taught Hunter-Trapper Education for more than 30 years, specializing in teaching trapping techniques and ethics.

Locally, Umbenhauer is a trustee of the East End Gun Club, an officer in the Schuylkill Haven Fish and Game Protective Association and a member of the Roedersville Game and Fish Association. He is also a member of the National Wild Turkey Federation; Delaware River Shad Fishermen's Association; the National Rifle Association; National Parks and Conservation Association; Pheasants Forever; and the World Wildlife fund.

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While representing the Schuylkill Haven Fish and Game Protective Association as club delegate to the Schuylkill County Sportsmen's Association he was elected its vice-president and served as the Association's President for more than 20 years.

Under his leadership, the Association grew to 48 clubs; restarted the Norm Thornburg Youth Conservation Camp, a three day overnight camp that has had 500 girls and boys take part in its program; begun the Schuylkill County Youth Field Day for children 10 to 15; contributed to the Wildlands Conservancy's Wildlands Preservation Fund; Youth Hunter Education Challenge; Women in the Outdoors; the Nature-Link program; browse cutting projects and the growing of switchgrass.

In addition to serving the county's sportsmen, he has served the state's sportsmen as both the Vice-president and President of the Southeast Division of the PA Federation of Sportsmen's Clubs and as the 2nd Vice-president and 1st Vice-president of the PA Federation of Sportsmen's Clubs.

The Eastern Sports & Outdoor Show Outdoor Humanitarian Award is presented annually to an individual or organization in recognition of their demonstrated commitment to using outdoors sports and events to benefit others.

Tom Fegely received the Eastern Sports & Outdoor Show Outdoor Youth Mentor Award.

Tom Fegely of Walnutport, Pa, has received the 2008 Eastern Sports & Outdoor Show Youth Mentor Award for his efforts in promoting the outdoors and outdoor sports to young people.

Fegely has spent his adult life working on outdoor related projects aimed at young people– including a half dozen years of volunteer work in the 1970's developing a weekend outdoor education program through the East Penn Schools that benefited more than 125 kids by helping to developing youth education study areas in the East Penn Elementary Schools.

That was followed by writing 10 youth books--five on nature, one on organic gardening, one on recycling, and three on deer and turkey hunting. Four of the children's books received awards by the National Science Teachers Association.

On his television show, Call of the Outdoors, broadcast on WGAL-TV in Lancaster, Fegely included youth-oriented programming on a regular basis with focus on young people of at least 15-20 percent of the 350 shows aired from 1979-1986.

In 1984, Fegely received the Distinguished Service Award from Lock Haven University for his public-service work in promoting the outdoors to young people. In 1985, Fegely received the Distinguished Service Award for youth and adult conservation education work from Lock Haven University Alumni Association.

In 1995, Fegely was honored with the Wildlands Conservancy Award of Distinction for "taking the high road and urging legions to follow, appreciate and preserve."

And, in 2002, Fegely and wife Betty Lou received the first Pennsylvania Outdoor Ambassador Award from the Department of Conservation and Natural Resource, Game Commission, Department of Community and Economic Development and Fish and Boat Commission.

The Eastern Sports & Outdoor Show Outdoor Youth Mentor Award is presented annually to an individual or organization in recognition of their demonstrated commitment to using their knowledge of the outdoors and outdoor sports to educate and help young people.

For more information, visit the [2008 Eastern Sports & Outdoor Show website](#).

Feb. 2 the World Turns to Punxsutawney for Winter Prognostication

The eyes of the world will once again turn to Punxsutawney, Pa during the early dawn hours of February 2 as the Prognosticator of Prognosticators-- Punxsutawney Phil-- makes his annual prediction about the fate of winter.

And as it has been since 1995, the [Pennsylvania Cable Network](#) will provide coverage of all the excitement live from Gobbler's Knob beginning at 6:00 a.m.

[Live coverage is also available on the VisitPa website.](#)



PCN's cameras will be on hand to bring viewers the proclamations by local dignitaries, music and entertainment, and comments from the early morning crowd. The main event will be the official pronouncement when superstar, Punxsutawney Phil, emerges from his den to make his prediction on whether winter will come to an early end or last for six more weeks.

Folks have been planning their spring preparations around Phil's predictions since the first observance of Groundhog Day in 1886. The legend is that when Phil comes out of his den after a long winter's nap, he looks for his shadow. If he sees it, he regards it as a bad omen of six more weeks of bad weather and returns to his hole. If he does not see his shadow, then the prediction is for an early spring.

For official Groundhog Day news, turn to the [Punxsutawney Groundhog Day website](#).

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On the Hill

Session Schedule

The Senate and House will return to voting session the week of January 28.

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

On the Senate/House Agenda/Bills Introduced

The Senate and House published committee schedules and floor Calendars for the week of January 28—

Calendars

House (January 28): [House Bill 1705](#) (Harkins-D-Erie) authorizing Pennsylvania to join the Great Lakes Compact governing water withdrawals in the Lake Erie Basin; [House Bill 1742](#) (Pashinski-D-Luzerne) the Scrap Material Theft Prevention Act; [House Resolution 546](#) (George-D-Clearfield) urging Congress to investigate gas and energy prices.

Senate (January 28): [Senate Bill 497](#) (Robbins-R-Mercer) limiting the liability of landowners making property available for recreational purposes.

Committees

House: the Environmental Resources and Energy Committee meets to consider [House Bill 792](#) (George-D-Clearfield) requiring municipalities to conduct sewage sludge testing on certain lands, [House Bill 1970](#) (DeWeese-D-Greene) requiring DCNR to make in-lieu of tax payments for State Parks from Gaming Fund revenues, [Senate Bill 913](#) (MJ.White-R-Venango) providing for additional reporting of expenditures from the Hazardous Sites Cleanup Fund; the Local Government Committee meets to consider [House Bill 1812](#) (Gillespie-R-York) amending the Municipalities Planning Code related to mediation; the Consumer Affairs Committee holds a hearing on electric rate cap legislation-- [House Bill 2200](#) (George-D-Clearfield) requiring utilities to adopt energy efficiency and demand-side management programs and [House Bill 2201](#) (McCall-D-Carbon) amend Title 66 providing for a transition to market-based electric rates, requiring assistance to low-income customers and providing for advance payments of electric bills.

Senate: the Transportation Committee meets to consider [Senate Bill 295](#) (Browne-R-Lehigh) relating to diesel idling and [Senate Bill 1096](#) (Gordner-R-Columbia) providing for the disposition of fines for trespass in an account reserved for snowmobiles and ATVs.

Bills Introduced

The following bill of interest were introduced this week—

LIHEAP ID: [House Bill 2194](#) (Cutler-R-Lancaster) providing for LIHEAP identification cards and computerized income verification system.

Biodiesel Use: [Special Session House Bill 53](#) (Perry-R-Cumberland) requiring the use of biodiesel in Commonwealth-owned vehicles.

Yucca Mountain: [Special Session House Resolution 7](#) (Perry-R-Cumberland) urging the Nuclear Regulatory Commission/U.S. Department of Energy to advance Yucca Mountain Project licensing for storage of nuclear waste.

House Environmental Committee Meets on Sludge, In-Lieu of Tax, HSCA Reporting

The House Environmental Resources and Energy Committee will meet Tuesday to consider legislation requiring testing of sewage sludge, providing in-lieu of tax payments to municipalities for State Park lands and additional reporting of expenditures from the Hazardous Sites Cleanup Fund. The bills include:

- [House Bill 792](#) (George-D-Clearfield) requiring municipalities to conduct sewage sludge testing on certain lands;
- [House Bill 1970](#) (DeWeese-D-Greene) requiring DCNR to make in-lieu of tax payments for State Parks from Gaming Fund revenues; and
- [Senate Bill 913](#) (MJ.White-R-Venango) providing for additional reporting of expenditures from the Hazardous Sites Cleanup Fund.

The Majority Chairman of the House Environmental Committee is Rep. Bud George (D-Clearfield) and the Minority Chair is Rep. Scott Hutchinson (R-Venango).

Joint Conservation Committee Environmental Synopsis Newsletter Now Online

The [January issue of the Environmental Synopsis](#) newsletter published by the Joint Legislative Air and Water Pollution Control and Conservation Committee is now available online.

This month's issue highlights the work of the Joint Committee in 2007, cities going green, emissions reduction and power generation, solar energy and more.

The Joint Committee is chaired by Rep. Scott Hutchinson (R-Venango) and the vice-chair is Sen. Ray Musto (D-Luzerne).

Other News

PEC Climate Change Roadmap Featured In Focus the Nation Climate Events

The [Pennsylvania Environmental Council](#) will make presentations about the [Climate Change Roadmap for Pennsylvania](#) at seven programs about global warming on January 30 to February 13 as part of [Focus the Nation](#), a national grassroots effort to raise awareness about climate change by using universities, colleges, and high schools as locales for awareness-raising events.



PEC authored the Climate Change Roadmap for Pennsylvania with 38 recommendations for reducing climate-changing greenhouse gas emissions in the state. The Roadmap was developed with the help of business, farm, energy generation and environmental stakeholders.

PEC President Brian Hill said, "Climate change will have a tremendous impact on public health, our economy, our environment and overall quality of life in Pennsylvania. It's imperative that we act decisively to stop global warming. The Roadmap is designed to show us the way to solutions and opportunities to address climate change in ways that work for Pennsylvania and, importantly, in ways our stakeholders could agree on."

The scheduled PEC presentations are as follows:

- **January 30**, 5 to 6:30 p.m., at Ursinus College Pfahlher Auditorium, Collegeville, PA, featuring PEC President Brian Hill along with Nancy Cole, Outreach Director for the Union of Concerned Scientists.
- **January 31**, 9:30 a.m., at Carnegie Mellon University, Pittsburgh, featuring PEC Legal Affairs Director John Walliser.
- **January 31**, 12:30 p.m., at Indiana University of Pennsylvania HUB Student Union, Indiana, PA, featuring PEC Communications Director Brad Clemenson.
- **January 31**, 3 p.m., at the University of Pittsburgh at Johnstown Student Union Cambria Room, Johnstown, PA, featuring PEC Communications Director Brad Clemenson.
- **January 31**, 7:30 p.m., at Allegheny College Ford Chapel, Meadville, PA, featuring PEC President Brian Hill along with Nancy Cole, Outreach Director for the Union of Concerned Scientists.
- **January 31**, 7:30 p.m., at Shippensburg State University Cedia Union Building multipurpose room, Shippensburg, featuring Scott Van de Mark, PEC director of special projects who helped to develop the Roadmap.

- **February 13**, 7 p.m., at the University of Scranton Patrick and Margaret DeNaples Center, featuring PEC President Brian Hill.

The Climate Change Roadmap sets a goal of reducing greenhouse gas emissions by 25 percent by 2025, from 2000 levels. In addition, the Roadmap:

- Recommends capping these emissions and joining a nationwide system that allows the trading of credits to promote least-cost solutions to reducing greenhouse gas emissions;
- Updates the state’s 2003 inventory of greenhouse gas emissions so we have a good foundation to work from;
- Establishes a model, based on the inventory, that will help us look at the impact of alternatives for reducing greenhouse gases and their impact on achieving our goal; and
- Makes 38 recommendations on reducing greenhouse gas emissions in energy supply, transportation, residential, commercial and industrial buildings, agriculture, forestry, land use, carbon sequestration and more.

“Pennsylvania alone generates about 1 percent of the world’s greenhouse gases, putting us in the same group with the top 25 emitting nations in the world,” said Hill. “We’re a big part of the problem – we need to be a big part of the solution.”

More information, visit the [FTN campaign website](#) and for information about Climate Roadmap for PA, visit the [PEC website](#).

Conservation Commission Closes Successful REAP Tax Credit Application Period



After receiving \$1 million a day in applications during the first 10 days for the [Resource Enhancement and Protection Act \(REAP\)](#) farm conservation tax credit program, the State Conservation Commission said it would close the application period on February 8.

Successful applications will likely use up the \$10 million in REAP tax credits authorized during the first year of the program.

“The response by Pennsylvania farmers has been overwhelming,” said Department of Agriculture Secretary Dennis Wolff. “Farmers are doing their part to help protect the environment. REAP is helping them do that by cutting costs for implementing conservation practices that will reduce soil and nutrient loss impacting Pennsylvania’s streams and watersheds.”

More than 300 applications requesting more than \$11.3 million in tax credits have been submitted. Applications are currently being reviewed by the commission on a first-come, first-served basis.

The commission has 60 days to review each application from the date received. If the application meets the requirements and is considered eligible, the commission will notify the applicant in writing.

The commission then informs the Department of Revenue of the eligible projects and tax credit amounts. The department also has 60 days to issue a letter stating the amount is credited to the applicant’s account.

Farmers and businesses are eligible for REAP tax credits in exchange for implementing best management practices that will enhance farm production and protect natural resources. The amount of tax credit available to a recipient is dependent on the type of best management practice implemented and the ability to meet the cost-share requirements.

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For more information, visit the [REAP webpage](#) or contact the program administrator Mary Bender at 717-787-8821 or send email to: mabender@state.pa.us .

Lower Susquehanna Center for Land and Water Holds First Planning Session

The Chesapeake Bay Foundation has joined forces with other interested conservation partners to establish a center in the Lower Susquehanna region that will help local groups and communities deal with land and water issues.

The coalition took a major step forward this month. On January 3, more than thirty individuals representing CBF and other state and local conservation groups, county, and local government, state agencies, and local colleges and high schools attended an initial strategic planning session to discuss the formation of the Lower Susquehanna Center for Land and Water.

“We are thrilled with the level of interest and diversity of groups represented at our first meeting,” said Matt Royer, CBF’s Pennsylvania Staff Attorney. “This initiative is about sharing resources and expertise, avoiding duplication of effort, and getting more things done on the ground with greater success. Ultimately, we hope it will play a major role in making sure this region remains a wonderful place to live.”

The Center will galvanize area conservation groups and local governments so that their missions of enhancing the quality of land, water, and communities in the region can be met. It will provide technical assistance, serve as an informational clearinghouse, and facilitate partnerships to more effectively and efficiently address land use and water quality challenges in the Lower Susquehanna region. Educational opportunities will be offered to students of Milton Hershey School and area school districts.

The Center’s initial focus will be on the Swatara, Conewago, Conoy, and Chiques Creek watersheds in Lebanon, Dauphin, and Lancaster Counties, but its geographic reach could be expanded in the future.

The Center is developing a strategic plan that will serve as the operational blueprint for the coalition. The planning sessions are being facilitated by Keystone Conservation Trust pursuant to a grant from the Pennsylvania Department of Conservation and Natural Resources.

The County of Lebanon is administering the grant on behalf of the coalition. Future planning meetings are scheduled through the spring, with a final plan expected by June 2008.

For more information, contact Matt Royer at 717-234.5550 or send email to: mroyer@cbf.org .

Drinking Water, Wastewater and Other Infrastructure Grants and Loans Awarded

Two sets of water infrastructure loans and grants and sewage facility enforcements grants were announced this week by the Pennsylvania Infrastructure Investment Authority and the Department of Environmental Protection.

PennVEST awarded \$82.9 million in low interest loans and grants for 21 drinking water, wastewater and brownfields projects in 18 counties.

The awards range from a \$332,140 loan to develop a new well and construct drinking water storage facilities for a community in Wyoming County to a \$15.4 million

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loan and grant combination that will eliminate raw sewage discharges in Somerset County caused by malfunctioning on-lot septic systems.

[A list of awards granted is available online.](#)

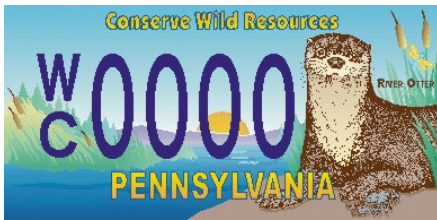
A total of \$1.7 million in sewage facility enforcement and planning grants were awarded by DEP.

\$568,230 in sewage facilities enforcement grants will help 188 municipalities enforce on-lot sewage system requirements. The grants reimburse local governments for costs associated with permitting these systems.

Another \$1 million in sewage facilities planning grants was awarded to municipalities, counties and authorities to reimburse the costs associated with preparing and revising official plans that ensure the adequate operation and maintenance of sewage facilities.

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

\$1.2 Million in Wild Resource Conservation Grants Announced



The Department of Conservation and Natural Resources this week awarded \$1.2 million in the [Wild Resource Conservation Program](#) grants to help protect native plants, fish and animals.

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

The Wild Resource Conservation Program, which is providing 26 grants through the state's Growing Greener program, works with the Game Commission and the Fish and Boat Commission to administer the program.

"All of the projects aided by these grants will make important contributions to the three pillars the Wild Resource Conservation Program uses to support biodiversity in Pennsylvania: research, conservation, and education," said DCNR Secretary Michael DiBerardinis. "Whether it's tracking migration of the eastern red bat or charting mussel populations in the Susquehanna River, each one of these studies is invaluable in the conservation of our natural resources."

Launched in 1982, the Wild Resource Conservation Program primarily finances research and protection efforts for native, non-game and wild plant species. Funds from the program have supported 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 Wild Resource Conservation Program relies on state income tax refund donations, license plate proceeds and donations to support its work to protect and identify species of special concern.

Learn how you can support the Wild Resource Program through the income tax check-off when you fill out your state tax return, by purchasing educational books, videos and posters and by making a donation by going to the [Wild Resource Conservation Program webpage](#).

NewsClip: [Conservation Program Awards \\$1.2 Million](#)

Ecological Society of America's Mid-Atlantic Chapter Meets on April 19-20

The [Ecological Society of America's Mid-Atlantic Chapter](#) will hold its annual meeting on April 19-20 at Wilkes University in Wilkes-Barre.

Ecologists throughout the region will give oral and poster presentations covering all phases of ecology. The theme of the meeting is "Ecology in a Region of Changing Landscapes."

For more information, visit the [Ecological Society of America's Mid-Atlantic Chapter webpage](#).

Largest Private Land Purchase Added to a Pittsburgh Park in Decades

The [Allegheny Land Trust](#) announced the purchase this week of an 11.3-acre parcel from a private owner to be added to the Duquesne Heights side of the 228-acre Grand View Scenic Byway Park, bringing the total park acreage up to 239 acres.

The parcel overlooks Route 51 and the West End.

"The purchase was four years in the making," said Roy Kraynyk, Executive Director of ALT, who has been working closely with the Mt. Washington Community Development Corporation on this acquisition. "It is a wonderful parcel to help expand this unique urban park and greenway that provides trails, maintains scenic landscapes and helps to manage stormwater and air quality. Pittsburgh's reputation as a green city just got a little bit greener."

It is anticipated that the parcel will be transferred to the City with restrictions to keep the land as permanent green space. MWCDC is a non-profit organization with co-stewardship agreements with both the city and ALT to help fundraise and improve the Grand View Scenic Byway Park.

Allegheny Land Trust, using funds from The Heinz Endowments, the Colcom Foundation, Katherine Mabis McKenna Foundation, The Pittsburgh Foundation and the Department of Conservation and Natural Resources, purchased the land for \$200,000. The wooded parcel will need some restoration and replanting work to enhance and improve it.

District 2 Councilman Dan Deasy, who introduced legislation at City Council in 2005 to create the Grand View Scenic Byway Park, notes, "This latest purchase, and the whole effort behind creating the GVSBP, is exactly the kind of grassroots, public and private funding collaboration we love to see in this city. Pittsburgh's pretty special for having these kinds of partnerships, and I think we're all creating a legacy for future generations."

"We're fortunate to have a partner like Allegheny Land Trust who has eagerly gone above and beyond the call of duty in helping us protect this vital urban green space," says Ilyssa Manspeizer, the MWCDC's Park Resources Manager. "The GVSBP is built upon the grassroots vision and dedication of countless volunteers, and its future depends upon the strong partnerships we are developing with city, state, non-profit, and foundation partners. Thanks to the hard work of all of these players, the Park is well on its way towards becoming both a keystone of conservation and development for the neighborhood, as well as an icon for the greening of our region."

A celebration event will be held in the spring, when Pittsburgh Mayor Ravenstahl, City Council, state representatives and other key stakeholders will join the community to formally dedicate this long-awaited parcel into the park.

EPA Awards Sustainability Design Grants to College Projects, 5 in PA

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency this week awarded fifty-eight university teams \$580,000 in [People, Prosperity and the Planet](#) (P3) Sustainability Design Competition grants, including grants to five colleges in Pennsylvania.

The Pennsylvania projects include:

- [Carnegie Mellon University](#): replacing petroleum-based styrene with a biosynthesized yeast;
- [Drexel University](#): a reactor design for efficient product of biodiesel from high free fatty acid oils;
- [Elizabethtown College](#): a standalone green community center building hydrogen generation system;
- [Pennsylvania State University](#): use of sustainable sources of feed stocks for biodiesel production; and
- [Lehigh University](#): Phase 2 grant for research into the removal of arsenic from drinking water in remote Indiana Villages;

Businesses and consumers have learned that sustainable development or "green technology" results in both environmental protection and economic growth. And with some help from EPA, college students around the country are also catching the "green wave."

Since 2004, the People, Prosperity and the Planet (P3) sustainability design competition has encouraged university teams to design and develop projects that:

- Benefit People by providing healthier home and work environments;
- Promote Prosperity by developing local economies and creating small businesses, and
- Protect the Planet by conserving resources and minimizing pollution.

"We want to tap the enthusiasm and knowledge of the next generation of scientists, engineers and decision-makers to make the world a better place," said George Gray, assistant administrator for the Office of Research and Development. "And we're succeeding. Past P3 projects have become new commercial ventures. The P3 competition has created several small businesses that are helping promote sustainability in India, South America, Africa, and the U.S."

A student from a former P3 team from Oberlin College is now the owner of a center that sells general energy efficiency supplies, runs a shop where cars are converted for vegetable oil use, and serves as a hub for energy-related educational initiatives. This unique resource center also plans to begin retail sales of ethanol and various biodiesel blends at the pump and run a biodiesel production coop using a bike-powered processor.

These student projects will be demonstrated on the National Mall in Washington, D.C., on April 20-22, when the 58 new teams will compete for EPA's P3 Awards. The P3 awards are given to the six highest-rated student designs and include additional funding up to \$75,000 for the teams to further develop their designs, test their projects in the field, and move them to the marketplace.

For more information, visit the [People, Prosperity and the Planet](#) (P3) Sustainability Design Competition webpage.

Applications Due for Annual Litter Hawk Youth Award Program



PA CleanWays is now accepting applications for its annual [Litter Hawk Youth Award](#) Program open to students from 10 to 18.

Nominations are due March 31.

The Litter Hawk program gives youth an opportunity to express their concern about littering and illegal dumping, and preventative measures such as recycling, proper disposal, beautification, and stewardship through visual arts, language arts, and community outreach.

This program includes two age groups, 10 and under and 11 to 18, and is ideal for organized youth groups, a classroom activity, or an individual project. Entries will be judged on creativity and the project's ability to convey the chosen subject.

Three winning entries in each age group will receive gift cards to a bookstore in the amount of \$75 (10 and under) and \$100 (11-18). Awards will be announced during Earth Month in April.

The Litter Hawk Youth Award Program is not open to PA CleanWay's employees or the immediate relatives of PA CleanWays employees. Only one entry per youth allowed.

Since 1990, PA CleanWays has facilitated over 700 illegal dump cleanups resulting in the removal of 9,394 tons of trash, 2,006 tons of scrap metal and 331,692 tires statewide. PA CleanWays community-based approach has involved more than 41,000 volunteers.

Program brochures are available by submitting an online web-form on the [PA CleanWays website](#) or by contacting the PA CleanWays' office toll free at 877-772-3673.

DEP Now Accepting Applications for Recycling Development Grants



The Department of Environmental Protection [this week announced](#) it would now be accepting applications from counties, municipalities and authorities for [Section 902 recycling development grants](#) through June 20.

Applicants requesting support for the following (and demonstrating how the request will lead toward greater program self-sufficiency) will receive priority for funding:

- Development and implementation of an incentive based pricing and collection program designed to increase the quantities and types of recyclable materials and reduce the quantity of waste collected.
- Vehicles for the curbside collection of materials from residents that utilize an energy source other than, or in addition to, petroleum products. Pick-up trucks will not be considered eligible for funding.
- Multi-municipal collection, processing and materials marketing programs where a formal intergovernmental agreement/program exists for cost sharing.
- Equipment and education necessary to collect and/or process fiber (corrugated, junk mail, mixed paper, and the like) not currently included in the applicant's recycling program.

Applicants must submit a plan as part of their funding request that includes definitive actions and strategies for optimizing program self-sufficiency. The plan shall

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include, at a minimum, strategies for reducing costs and generating revenues, provisions for establishing incentives associated with waste reduction and recycling, mechanisms for public outreach and stakeholder input and tracking mechanisms to document progress toward sustainability milestones until optimum sustainability is realized.

The Department's technical report on [Building Financially Sustainable Recycling Programs](#) can provide assistance in developing such methods and strategies. Applicants that fail to complete the Sustainability Plan portion of the application will not be considered for funding.

For more information, visit DEP's [Recycling Grants webpage](#).

Reminder: Nominations Being Accepted for the 2008 Karl Mason Award



The [Pennsylvania Association of Environmental Professionals](#) are now accepting nominations for the [2008 Karl Mason Award](#). Nominations are due March 31.

Each year, at the PAEP Annual Meeting and Conference, the Karl Mason Award is presented to meritorious nominees selected by the Board from two general categories: an individual who has demonstrated exemplary leadership in the field of environmental management and an organization, project or program that has made a significant contribution toward maintenance or restoration of Pennsylvania's environmental quality.

Nominations should include a complete concise description of the individual, organization, project or program, specifically outlining the accomplishments and/or attributes warranting this prestigious recognition.

Please forward entries (e-mail preferred) to: PAEP 174 Crestview Drive, Bellefonte, PA 16823 or send email to: info@paep.org.

For more information, visit the [2008 Karl Mason Award webpage](#).

2008 Annual Environmental Regulations & Technologies Conference April 1-2

The Pennsylvania Chamber of Business and Industry will hold its annual [Environmental Regulations & Technologies Conference](#) at the Eden Resort Inn & Suites in Lancaster on April 1-2.

Seventy-five percent of the topics covered at this conference will be new with more than 20 breakout sessions to help companies not only understand environmental laws and regulations, but also learn about the latest technologies and processes to stay ahead of the curve.

The keynote speaker will be Glenn Uterberger, Ballard Spahr Andrews & Ingersoll who, along with other presenters, will give an overview of the climate change issue and developing corporate objectives.

For more information and to register, visit the [Environmental Regulations & Technologies Conference webpage](#).

PPL Seeks to Let Customers Buy Additional Renewable Energy Credits

[PPL Electric Utilities](#) this week filed a proposal with the Public Utility Commission that would give residential and small business customers the opportunity to support the continued development of clean, renewable sources of electricity over an above the renewable energy required by the Alternative Energy Portfolio Standards.

The company has asked the PUC to approve a new PPL Electric Green Power program offered in partnership with [Community Energy Inc.](#), a leading marketer and developer of renewable energy.

“Customer support for renewable sources of power will help protect the environment, reduce our nation’s dependency on fossil fuels, and help ensure that more wind and other renewable generation projects are built,” said David G. DeCampi, president of PPL Electric Utilities.

“That’s good for the environment today and for future generations that will call eastern and central Pennsylvania home,” he said.

DeCampi said the voluntary PPL Electric Green Power option would enable customers to buy 100 kilowatt-hour blocks of renewable energy credits, which are the result of energy generated by wind and hydroelectric projects.

For each block purchased, \$2.50 would be added each month to the customer’s regular PPL Electric Utilities bill. PPL Electric Utilities would not profit from those purchases. Rather, the payment for those credits provides a financial incentive to developers to build more renewable energy projects.

“As part of our [e-power initiative](#), we continue to look for ways we can give our customers more tools and options — options for paying their bills and managing their account, tools for learning how they can save electricity and money, and now choices about supporting environmental initiatives,” DeCampi said.

The PPL Electric Green Power program must be approved by the PUC.

To implement the program and support continued investment in renewable resources, PPL Electric Utilities will buy approximately 500,000 renewable energy credits over four years from Community Energy Inc.

Those credits represent more than 500 million kilowatt-hours of clean energy, which has the same environmental benefit as adding more than 95,000 acres of forest or taking about 67,000 cars off the road for one year, according to U.S. Environmental Protection Agency data.

Any of the 500,000 credits left over following customer purchases would be used by PPL Electric Utilities toward Pennsylvania’s alternative energy requirement.

Community Energy Inc. is headquartered in Radnor, Pa., and is a wholly-owned subsidiary of IBERDROLA — one of the largest owners and operators of renewable energy facilities in the world.

CEI developed and jointly owns the Jersey-Atlantic Wind Farm and the Bear Creek Wind Farm, and IBERDROLA has wind projects under development in the Northeast, Mid-Atlantic, Midwestern and Rocky Mountain states.

NewsClip: [PPL Seeks to Sell Energy Credits](#)

Cambria County Steel Producer Cut Energy, Waste Costs by \$1.3 Million

Cambria County-based steel producer [Gautier Steel Ltd](#) saved money and improved the environment by using energy more efficiently and reducing waste.

Gautier Steel is one of the nation's leading steel producers of hot rolled carbon and alloy flats, sharp cornered squares and special sections, received a \$100,000 loan from the [Small Business Pollution Prevention Assistance Account](#) Program.

Gautier used the funds to improve the efficiency of its operation by converting the company's electrical supply from 25 cycle to 60 cycle, thereby eliminating the need for a frequency converter. This conversion greatly reduced the amount of electricity that the company used.

The company also realized a reduction in its water consumption used in the mill cooling and a reduction of the amount of natural gas used for its reheat furnace.

During the last three years, Gautier has reported saving 10,836 MWH (megawatt hours) of electricity, 48,614 MCF (thousand cubic feet) of natural gas and 121,021 MGALS (megagallons) of water.

This amounted to a savings of approximately \$1.3 million in the three years since implementing the project. The company has already achieved its projected payback timeframe and the savings have already paid for the cost of the project.

In order to help small businesses implement pollution prevention and energy efficiency projects, DEP and the Department of Community and Economic Development administer the PPAA loan program. Since the inception of the loan program in 1999, DEP has received 171 loan applications totaling more than \$8.4 million.

The loan program is available to any small business owner whose pollution prevention/energy efficiency project is located in Pennsylvania. The business must have 100 or fewer full-time employees and be a separate legal business entity. The loan must be used to purchase or upgrade equipment, or to implement a process change, that reduces or reuses raw materials on-site, reduces the production of waste at the source or significantly reduces energy consumption.

Equipment and processes that focus on recycling or pollution control (scrubbers, filters, dust collectors, etc.) are ineligible for the loan. The project must have a payback period less than or equal to the term of the loan and the expected benefits must extend beyond the term of the loan.

The maximum loan amount is \$100,000 with a 2 percent fixed interest rate and a maximum term of ten years.

For more information, visit DEP's [Small Business Pollution Prevention Assistance Account webpage](#) or contact Gene DelVecchio at 717-772-8951 or send e-mail to: gdelvecchi@state.pa.us .

Save Energy, Money: Fan System Assessment Tool Workshop February 28

Manufacturers and other businesses are invited to attend the February 28 Fan System Assessment Tool Workshop to learn how you can make your facilities more energy efficient.

The workshop will be held at the [Penn State Allegheny Campus](#) in McKeesport.

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The Fan System Assessment Tool was developed by the U.S. Department of Energy to help quantify the potential benefit of using a more optimally configured fan system to serve industrial processes and to calculate energy savings and efficiencies.

The workshop is co-sponsored by Allegheny Power, the Department of Environmental Protection, PennTAP and the Penn State Greater Allegheny Campus.

There is a \$50 fee to attend.

For more information, contact Melanie Brletic, 412-675-9040 or send email to: mcb12@psu.edu .

Kings Gap Environmental Issues Conference to Focus on Renewable Energy

The DCNR, [Kings Gap Environmental Education Center](#), will sponsor the 19th annual environmental issues conference, "Going Greener: Renewable Energy Realities" on March 12 at [Shippensburg University](#).

Climbing energy prices and the growing awareness of climate change are focusing renewed attention on the importance of renewable energy sources as an alternative to fossil fuels. While the technologies involved range from age-old to semiconductors, the bottom line is to create energy in a sustainable, cost-effective way that minimizes or eliminates dependence on finite fuels.

Many plans using renewable systems and resources already exist and are functional. However, these are not mainstream, even though they may be successful on a small scale. Current efforts at the local level might include expanding and incorporating such systems into the mainstream energy grid. Some regions have realized the potential of designing small systems to supply the energy needs of community industries and homes, thus reducing dependence on the national grid while reaping financial returns for excess energy production.

This conference will highlight a selection of existing and potential programs and processes within Pennsylvania that envision a future where oil dependency and energy consumption, as well as associated pollution and political ramifications, will be significantly reduced.

Opening speaker will be Greg Pahl, a Vermont-based journalist and author of five books who has been involved in renewable energy issues for more than 25 years. His presentation, "Community Supported Renewable Energy," will provide an overview of this exciting and rapidly growing new movement. A time-tested and highly successful strategy in Europe, community or cooperative ownership of local renewable energy projects is finally gaining momentum in North America.

This is an idea whose time has definitely come, especially in light of the increasing price volatility in the fossil fuel markets, concerns about energy supplies, ongoing controversy about commercial-scale wind farms in some locations, and growing alarm about global warming.

Topics covered will include examples of successful initiatives, the many advantages of community-based energy, as well as some of the obstacles that stand in the way of achieving greater community control of energy resources. A question and answer period will follow the presentation.

Pahl is a founding member of the Vermont Biofuels Association and the Addison County Relocalization Network, and is active with that group's energy committee. His

latest book, *The Citizen-Powered Energy Handbook: Community Solutions to a Global Crisis*, was published in February 2007 by Chelsea Green Publishing Co.

Concurrent conference sessions will highlight energy initiatives in Pennsylvania, including wind, solar, biofuels, hydropower and geothermal applications, as well as legislative endeavors.

The early registration fee of \$35 will include lunch, breaks, and registration materials. Full-time students may register for \$20.

For registration information, contact Kings Gap at 717-486-3799 or send e-mail to: kingsgapsp@state.pa.us.

Gov. Rendell Outlines Major Accomplishments in New Performance Report

In preparation for his February 5 Budget Address, Gov. Rendell this week said Pennsylvanians who want to know how their tax dollars are being used can find answers in the first *Governor's Report on State Performance*.

The report describes work of 25 state agencies and offices, during the 2006-07 fiscal year, that oversee vital services in education, economic and community development, health and human services, consumer protection, the environment, public safety, infrastructure and managing state government.

"Pennsylvania taxpayers have a right to know how the Commonwealth spends their hard-earned tax dollars," Gov. Rendell said. "This report provides those crucial answers. It shows we are making progress, but we have more work to do.

The report highlighted the Rendell Administration's accomplishments in promoting renewable energy, saying: in 2004, Gov. Rendell revived the long-dormant Pennsylvania Energy Development Authority and the authority has provided \$32.2 million in grants and loans to 81 clean energy projects that are leveraging another \$362 million in private investment. Recipients of PEDDA grants and loans made in 2006-07 are implementing projects that will eliminate pollution and help meet the state's electricity needs.

The report also highlighted the environmental project funding made available by the \$625 million Growing Greener II bond issue.

Accomplishments by the Department of Environmental Protection were grouped into several major agency objectives for 2006-07:

- Limit exposure to unsafe levels of air pollutants;
- Protect water quality and enhance Pennsylvania's watersheds and wetlands;
- Encourage waste reduction, reuse, recycling and safe waste disposal, and restore contaminated land;
- Promote policies and initiatives that foster a climate of environmentally sound, sustained economic growth and transform environmental threats and community eyesores into areas of growth;
- Reduce mining accidents;
- Provide for dams that protect life, property and the environment; and
- Promote clean energy innovation and lessen the nation's dependence on foreign fuels.

Performance measures used to chart the results of environmental spending from 2004-05 to 2006-07 showed an increase in the percentage of population in counties attaining the ozone standard, an increase in municipal waste recycled, an increase in advanced energy development, an increase in acres of abandoned mines reclaimed, an

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increase in population served by water systems meeting drinking water standards and an increase in breeding areas treated to control West Nile Virus.

Performance measures showing a decrease included acres of stream buffers installed and brownfield cleanups.

The report noted DEP's 2006-07 budget was \$672.1 million and its authorized complement is 3,076. DEP's budget in 2002-03 was \$728.2 million and its authorized complement was 3,211.

Accomplishments for the Department of Conservation and Natural Resources were grouped into these categories:

- Improve stewardship and management of state parks and forests;
- Promote statewide land conservation;
- Create outdoor connections for citizens and visitors; and
- Build and maintain sustainable and attractive communities.

Performance measures for DCNR between 2004-05 and 2006-07 included an increase in State Park attendance, an increase in land conservation and an increase in attendance for environmental education programs.

DCNR's 2006-07 budget was \$363.4 million and authorized complement is 1,407. In 2002-03 DCNR's budget was \$322.9 million and authorized complement 1,391.

The [Governor's Report on State Performance](#) is available online.

NewsClip: [Rendell Assesses His Own Administration's Performance](#)

Ned Smith Center Presents “A Sense of Wonder” Based on the Life of Rachel Carson



The [Ned Smith Center for Nature and Art](#) is sponsoring a special live presentation of “A Sense of Wonder,” a play based on the life of [Rachel Carson](#) on March 8 at the C. Ted Lick Wildwood Conference Center at the Harrisburg Area Community College Campus in Harrisburg.

Nationally acclaimed actress Kaiulani Lee stars in this one woman show which has toured throughout the U.S.

[Pennsylvania-born Rachel Carson](#) is best known for her book *Silent Spring*, which drew attention to the impact DDT was having to bird populations, has often been called the founder of the modern environmental movement.

The event sponsor is the Bradenbaugh/Hottenstein Foundation. A reception will start at 6:30 p.m. and the play at 7:30 p.m..

For tickets and more information call 717-692-3699. Tickets are \$27 in advance and for Ned Smith Center members and \$30 the day of the event. Student tickets are \$15.

Transition: G.R. “Randy” Klinefelter of Ephrata, Pa



In December, the Chesapeake Bay lost a friend, trustee, and one-of-a-kind supporter of the Chesapeake Bay Foundation—G.R. “Randy” Klinefelter of Ephrata, Pa.

In 1988, Klinefelter made an unusual gift to CBF: a 250-acre island and in doing so, he and his family established CBF's largest residential education center, [Port Isobel](#), and opened up a

treasured and historic piece of the Chesapeake to thousands of students, teachers, and citizens.

Named after his wife, Isobel, the former family getaway is a stone's throw away from its sister island Tangier, home to one of the Chesapeake's last remaining watermen's communities.

Over the past 20 years, students, teachers, and decision makers have traveled by boat to Port Isobel to explore the island's marshes, beach, and woodlands.

The Klinefelter family owned the property for 30 years before donating it to CBF, and during that time instituted soil conservation measures and other environmental improvements.

The Klinefelters recognized the connection between their home state in the northern watershed and the downstream Chesapeake Bay.

Mr. Klinefelter served on the CBF Board of Trustees from 1988 to 1999. Memorial gifts in his honor will be accepted at: Randy Klinefelter Memorials, CBF, 6 Herndon Ave., Annapolis, MD 21403

Spotlight

Floodplain Restoration Program to Help Golf Courses “Go Green”

Golf courses have the potential to become more “green” – on their greens and in everything they do -- if they use an interactive, online “Green Toolbox” that is being developed by the [Pennsylvania Environmental Council](#) and [LandStudies, Inc.](#), based in Lititz, Pa.



The golf course “Green Toolbox” will identify multiple environmental benefits that can be achieved through best management practices. The project is funded by a Department of Environmental Protection Growing Greener Watershed Grant Program.

Practices such as riparian buffer installation, floodplain and wetland restoration, and manure compost usage can reduce maintenance costs while also reducing nutrient and sediment runoff, which have the potential to generate water quality trading credits that can be sold. The toolbox also will enable golf courses to improve stormwater management, aquifer recharge and filtration, water usage, native plant communities and wildlife habitat, and will help courses and municipalities meet water-related regulations.

PEC and LandStudies will meet with golf course industry representatives and local environmental action committees to gather information and help coordinate local support and implementation among golf course superintendents and municipal planners.

John Chassard, Director of Grounds at the Lehigh Country Club, and Jeff Broadbelt, President, Agrostis Golf Management, will help organize and coordinate this phase of the project.

Brian Hill, PEC President, said, “As someone who enjoys golfing and also cares deeply about conservation and good water quality, I believe this project provides an

opportunity to develop and implement best management practices that will help golf course managers and enhance environmental quality. It is the classic ‘win-win’ situation.”

Chassard notes, “Today’s golf course managers and superintendents are true stewards of the environment. Once completed, the ‘Green Toolbox’ will be a resource no manager or superintendent will want to be without.”

Broadbelt, who manages three golf courses and represents the [Pennsylvania Golf Course Owners Association](#), adds, “I can assure you that I and other owner-operators are highly motivated to implement BMPs that address water quality, runoff, and groundwater recharge. Our motivation stems from the simple logic that if we improve our water resource conditions, we will have a better stabilized golf course and a more efficiently run program.”

The toolbox will provide a range of information on specific BMPs and benefits, implementation guidelines, and cost ranges that can be integrated into course management. The toolbox will include a framework that quantifies environmental credits that potentially can be sold. The final product will be published in a handbook, available in both hard copy and web-based formats.

The project will be completed by June.

More information, contact Mark Gutshall, LandStudies, Inc., at 717-627-4440 or send email to: Mark@LandStudies.com.

Opinion

A Sensible Plan on Alternative Energy and Bio-Fuels By Senator Mary Jo White

Last July, Senate Republicans agreed to take a close look at a variety of alternative energy and bio-fuels proposals, including those put forth by Governor Rendell. But we insisted that any proposals be evaluated on their own merits – not under threat of a government shutdown.

As part of this effort, Gov. Rendell convened a special session on energy in September. Several notable bills, which address investments in alternative energy and increased production of biodiesel, recently passed the Senate with strong, bi-partisan input and support.

[Senate Bill 1](#) authorizes spending \$650 million over 10 years through a combination of grants, loans and tax-credits. Up to \$250 million may be borrowed through the Commonwealth Financing Authority – more borrowing than some members wanted, less than others wanted. There was little support for borrowing \$850 million as proposed by the Governor – an amount that would be funded with a tax on consumer’s electric bills and exhausted in just three to four years.

Under the Senate plan, residents, businesses, schools and local governments would be eligible for funding for projects which use alternative and renewable energy sources and increase energy conservation and efficiency. Consumers –homeowners, small businesses and larger commercial enterprises – would finally have access to financial assistance to install systems using solar, geothermal, wind, biomass and other renewable energy.



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Additionally, \$130 million in tax credits would be available for businesses which incorporate renewable energy into their manufacturing or production processes. With energy costs a major component of any business' bottom line, such changes can lead to significant savings.

We also set aside seed money to assist the Ben Franklin Technology Development partners. The partners have a proven track record of turning today's good ideas into tomorrow's realities, and there are a lot of good ideas out there that could benefit from a little financial encouragement.

Low-income residents would also see an infusion of \$100 million into home energy assistance funding, as well as a revolving loan fund administered by the Housing Finance Agency to expand energy efficiency and weatherization. As the saying goes, the cheapest energy is the energy you don't use. We have an aging housing stock in Pennsylvania, and many residents would benefit from new windows and doors, air ducts, vents, insulation and other energy-efficiency improvements.

The Senate plan does not include Gov. Rendell's proposal to enact a new \$70 million annual tax on electric users. Instead, we use the anticipated growth in the Commonwealth's gross receipts tax revenue. With energy costs expected to go up regardless of what plan ultimately passes, it is imperative that the Commonwealth live within its means.

There has been some criticism regarding a provision to assist small power plants meet expensive new federal and state pollution control upgrades. This criticism is shortsighted. Coal provides about 60 percent of the electricity we use, and will for the foreseeable future. The large generators have already installed these controls. If the business decision is made not to retrofit the small marginal plants we could lose 10 percent of our generating capacity just as the rate caps come off, further driving up prices.

The Senate also took a major step forward to develop our fledgling biodiesel industry. Under [Senate Bill 36](#), all diesel fuel offered for sale in the Commonwealth will be required to contain escalating amounts of biodiesel.

To protect consumers the bill requires that engine warranty protections and adequate infrastructure be in place before any mandates take effect. Additionally, the mandated-content triggers are set at more modest levels than those contained in the House-passed version – ensuring that we do not inadvertently pass legislation which would require us to import our biodiesel fuel.

[Senate Bill 22](#) provides up to 75 cents per gallon incentive for biodiesel production. It expands the alternative fuels incentive rebate program to other alternative-fueled vehicles and increases outreach efforts to make car dealers and consumers aware of the program.

Energy independence is probably a misnomer – no feasible plan will entirely reduce our dependence on energy sources from outside our Commonwealth – but we can do our part to make Pennsylvania less dependent on unstable foreign sources while providing incentives for the Commonwealth's agricultural community.

Working with the House of Representatives and Governor, we can ensure that Pennsylvania is guided by a responsible energy policy that meets the needs of our residents.

Senator Mary Jo White (R-Venango) is the Chairman of the [Senate Special Session Committee on Energy Policies](#).

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—

- **February 1** – PA Land Trust Assn. [Government Leadership Award Nominations](#).
- **February 1**— [PA Rural Water Assn. Annual Awards](#)
- **February 8** – [PA American Water Watershed Art Contest](#)
- **February 8**—**NEW**. [REAP Farm Conservation Tax Credit Closes](#)
- **February 15**— [AEP Acquisition, Restoration Project Proposals](#)
- **February 19** – PennVEST [Infrastructure Loans/Grants for April 15 Meeting](#).
- **February 20**— [USDA Conservation Innovation Grants](#)
- **February 22**— [Allegheny County Global Warming Poster Contest](#)
- **February 22**— [Clean Water Begins and Ends With You Student Art Contest](#)
- **February 29**— [Chesapeake Bay Small Watershed Grants](#)
- **February 29**— [Chesapeake Bay Stewardship Fund Grants](#)
- **March 17**— [Community Action for a Renewed Environment Grants](#)
- **March 31** – PAEP [Karl Mason Environmental Award](#).
- **March 31**—[DEP Host Municipality Inspector Grants](#)
- **March 31**—**NEW**. [Pa CleanWays Litter Hawk Youth Award Program](#)
- **April 2** – [WREN Water Resources Education Project Grants](#)
- **May 20** – PennVEST [Infrastructure Loans/Grants for April 15 Meeting](#).
- **June 20**—**NEW**. DEP [Section 902 Recycling Development Grants](#)

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

Quick Clips

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

[Creature Teacher Education Students on Wildlife](#)

[Huge Changes Possible for Hunters](#)

[PGC Hunting Proposal Would Affect 4 WMUs](#)

[Changes for Deer Hunters to Consider](#)

[Wilderness Area Compromised with Gap's Buffer Zone Pact](#)

[Bethlehem Water Authority Sells 522 Acres to Nonprofit](#)

[Berks Allocates \\$5.1 Million to Preserve Farms](#)

[UPJ Set to Host Conference on Global Warming](#)

[Consultant to Suggest Ways to Boost Efficiency](#)

[Go Green: Taking the Sting Out of Heating Fuel Prices](#)

[Go Green: Market Prices to Drop Once Mass Production Grows](#)

[Go Green: College Students Get Experience with Renewable Energy Projects](#)

[Editorial: Natural Gas Discovery Not Final Answer](#)

[Southern Looks at Solar Energy as Cost Cutter](#)

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[Benninghoff, Saylor Speak on PSU's Energy Efficiency](#)
[Lafayette College Makes Commitment to Go Green](#)
[Keystone College Looks to Wind Power](#)
[Editorial: LIHEAP, Chairties Help Heating Bills, But Nation needs Affordable Energy](#)
[Students Brew Biodiesel from Used Cooking Oil](#)
[Fuel Cell Firm Gains Market Power](#)
[PPL Plans New Power Line](#)
[PPL Proposes Green Choices for Electric Customers](#)
[Senator Out to Kill Electric Deregulation](#)
[Proposal Would Limit Engine Idling Time](#)
[Gov. Rendell Decries EPA's Waiver Denial of California Vehicle Standards](#)
[Northampton Community College Takes Next Step as Recycling Leader](#)
[Editorial: Recycling Cell Phones](#)
[Editorial: Public Debate a Good Thing for Energy Plant](#)
[Development Freezes Considered by House](#)
[State Bill Would Protect Appalachian Trail Corridor](#)
[Adams County Greenway Plans Subject of Meetings](#)
[Fallingwater In Line for Prestigious UN Honor](#)
[Internet-Based Training Reaches All-Time High](#)
[Outdoor Show Honors Local Sportsmen](#)
[Bird Lovers Protest Proposed Game Commission Ban](#)
[Mine Law Overhaul Overdue](#)
[Cleanup Programs Start Putting Brakes on Litter](#)

Watershed NewsClips

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

[DEP Secretary Would Back Study of Chesapeake Bay Cleanup Cost](#)
[Editorial: Hard Work Now Means Cleaner Land for Future Generations](#)
[A Gnawing Suspicion of Tree Damage in Stream Buffer](#)
[Official: Penn's Creek Wildlife at Risk](#)
[Pittsburgh Officials Fishing for Another Bass Tourney](#)
[Clarion County Seeks Stormwater Management Input](#)
[City to Open Treasure Trove of Wildlife Habitat to Boaters](#)
[DVD Promotes Watershed Health](#)
[New Fence to Surround Mine Water Treatment Ponds](#)
[Derry Township Explores Lawsuit Against Chesapeake Bay Cleanup Rules](#)
[Push on for Delaware River Flood Plan](#)
[Elizabeth Authority Ordered to Stop Sewage Overflows into Yough](#)
[Environmentally Sensitive Expansion Planned for Fulton County Park](#)

Regulations

No new regulations were published this week. [Pennsylvania Bulletin – January 26, 2008](#)

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 draft guidance](#) for reporting radiological contaminants in drinking water systems.

Draft: DEP ID: 383-3301-205 Laboratory Reporting Instructions for Radiological Contaminants in Drinking Water Systems. This guidance provides instructions to all community public water systems and certified laboratories for the reporting of drinking water radiological monitoring results for gross alpha, radium 226, radium 228, uranium, gross beta, tritium, strontium-90 and iodine-131, as required by the Federal Radionuclides Rule and as implemented in Chapter 109 (relating to water quality). Comments due: February 25.

[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](#)

- [DEP published notice of Water Resources Regional Committee meetings for 2008](#)
- **January 29**—**NEW**. House Environmental Resources and Energy Committee meets to consider [House Bill 792](#) (George-D-Clearfield) requiring municipalities to conduct sewage sludge testing on certain lands, [House Bill 1970](#) (DeWeese-D-Greene) requiring DCNR to make in-lieu of tax payments for State Parks from Gaming Fund revenues, [Senate Bill 913](#) (MJ.White-R-Venango) providing for additional reporting of expenditures from the Hazardous Sites Cleanup Fund. Room G-50 Irvis Building. 9:00.
- **January 29**—**NEW**. Senate Transportation Committee meets to consider [Senate Bill 295](#) (Browne-R-Lehigh) relating to diesel idling, [Senate Bill 1096](#) (Gordner-R-Columbia) providing for the disposition of fines for trespass in an account reserved for snowmobiles and ATVs. Room 461. 10:00.
- **January 30**— House Local Government Committee meets to consider [House Bill 1812](#) (Gillespie-R-York) amending the Municipalities Planning Code related to mediation. Room 205 Ryan. 9:30.

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- **January 31**— **New Time**. House Consumer Affairs Committee hearing on electric rate cap legislation-- [House Bill 2200](#) (George-D-Clearfield) requiring utilities to adopt energy efficiency and demand-side management programs and [House Bill 2201](#) (McCall-D-Carbon) amend Title 66 providing for a transition to market-based electric rates, requiring assistance to low-income customers and providing for advance payments of electric bills Room 140. 9:00.
- **February 2**— [Groundhog Day](#).
- **February 5**— Governor’s Budget Address. 11:00.
- **February 5**— House Consumer Affairs Committee meeting to consider energy bills. Room G-50 Irvis. 9:00.
- **February 13**— House Game and Fisheries Committee meets for a presentation of the Game Commission annual report. Room 205 Ryan Building. 9:00.
- **February 14**— House Game and Fisheries Committee meets for a presentation of the Fish & Boat Commission annual report. Room 205 Ryan Building. 9:00.
- **February 19**— House Appropriations Committee budget hearing – Department of Agriculture. Room 140. 2:00.
- **February 22-23** – 2008 [Keystone Coldwater Conference](#). State College.
- **February 25**— House Appropriations Committee budget hearing – Public Utility Commission. Room 140. 9:00.
- **February 25**— House Appropriations Committee budget hearing – PEMA, Homeland Security, Fire Commissioner. Room 140. 10:00.
- **February 25**— Senate Appropriations Committee Budget Hearing – Budget Secretary. Hearing Room 1, North Office Building. 3:00.
- **February 26**— Senate Appropriations Committee Budget Hearing – Department of Insurance. Hearing Room 1, North Office Building. 10:30.
- **February 26**— House Appropriations Committee budget hearing – Department of Community and Economic Development. Room 140. 2:00.
- **February 27**— House Appropriations Committee budget hearing – Department of Transportation. Room 140. 9:00.
- **February 27**— House Appropriations Committee budget hearing – Office of Consumer Advocate and Small Business Advocate. Room 140. 1:00.
- **February 26**—[PA Chamber Energy Summit](#). Harrisburg Hilton.
- **February 28**— Senate Appropriations Committee Budget Hearing – Department of Agriculture. Hearing Room 1, North Office Building. 9:00.
- **February 28**— Senate Appropriations Committee Budget Hearing – Department of Health. Hearing Room 1, North Office Building. 10:30.
- **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 1-2**—**NEW**. [Schuylkill Watershed Congress](#). Montgomery County Community College, Pottstown.
- **March 3**— House Appropriations Committee budget hearing – Department of Environmental Protection. Room 140. 9:00.
- **March 3**— House Appropriations Committee budget hearing – Department of Conservation and Natural Resources. Room 140. 10:00.

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- **March 4**— Senate Appropriations Committee Budget Hearing – Department of Conservation and Natural Resources. Hearing Room 1, North Office Building. 9:00.
- **March 4**— Senate Appropriations Committee Budget Hearing – Department of Transportation. Hearing Room 1, North Office Building. 1:15.
- **March 5**— Senate Appropriations Committee Budget Hearing – Department of Environmental Protection. Hearing Room 1, North Office Building. 3:00.
- **March 6**— Senate Appropriations Committee Budget Hearing – Department of Community and Economic Development. Hearing Room 1, North Office Building. 1:15.
- **March 19**— Capital Region Water Board Meeting. Susquehanna River Basin Commission Building. 1:00. Contact: Cindy Rock, Cindy.L.Rock@comcast.net or call 717-633-7959.
- **March 28**— Lehigh Valley Watershed Conference and Shad Symposium. Holiday Inn, Fogelsville. Information, send email to: rkennedy@lehighconservation.org.
- **March 29**— [PennFuture's Annual Watershed Conference](#). Chadd's Ford.
- **April 1-2**—**NEW**. The Pennsylvania Chamber of Business and Industry 2008 [Environmental Regulations & Technologies Conference](#). Eden Resort Inn & Suites, Lancaster.
- **April 17**—**NEW**. Sewage Task Force, [Joint Legislative Air and Water Pollution Control and Conservation Committee](#) meeting. Penn Stater, State College. 10:00.
- **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.

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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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