

# — PA — Environment Digest

*An Update on  
Environmental  
Issues in  
Pennsylvania*

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Edited By David E. Hess, Holston & Crisci

February 14, 2005

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## Dueling Green Plans Greet Rendell Budget

Both the Senate and House moved legislation out of committee this week to address several key parts of the Growing Greener II environmental spending initiative Gov.

Rendell proposed in last year's budget (see separate article in this *Digest*).

Rendell noted this progress in his budget address and called on the General Assembly to take action on a green plan in time for the Spring Primary.

The basic budget proposed by the Governor cut significantly into the operating funds of key agencies with environmental programs, including the departments of Environmental Protection, Conservation and Natural Resources and Agriculture.

DEP alone said they would have to cut nearly \$20 million from operating expenses this coming year.

The Senate and House are both set to consider environmental spending legislation when they return to session February 14 and 15.

Their next scheduled voting session days are the week of March 14, after four weeks of budget hearings.

### Contents – On the Hill

- Growing Greener II Again Highlight of Governor's Environmental Budget
- Alternatives to Rendell's Growing Greener II Plan Move in Senate, House
- House Game & Fisheries Committee Hears Fish & Boat Annual Report
- Action on Other Environmental Bills

### Other News

- Ask EMAP for Free, Confidential Small Business Environmental Assistance
- Grants Still Available to Help Cut Waste, Energy Costs of Small Businesses

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**January Fog Lifting on the Delaware River.** *Contributed by Paul Hartelius, P.E. Print your own copy from the PDF file at the bottom of this webpage.*

## PA Environment Digest – Holston & Crisci

- Solid Waste Management Assistance Funds Available from EPA Region III
- EPA Small Business Green Technology Innovation Grant Apps Due in May
- Statewide Scientific and Research Projects Informational Meeting Feb. 23
- Comments Invited on Little Juniata River TMDL
- Schuylkill Senior Environment Corps Hosts Macroinvertebrate Training
- [No-Cost Internet-Based Environmental Training Available](#)
- Renewed Hope for 2005 Falcon Nesting Season in Harrisburg
- First Mid-Atlantic Highlands Biodiversity Conference in Johnstown
- Workshop on Natural Diversity Inventory Searches Feb. 23
- Fifth Goddard Forum - Putting the Market to Work for Conservation – April 5
- February Edition - Environmental Education & Higher Ed News Now Available
- National Environmental Education Week – April 10-16
- Westmoreland Looking for Smart Growth Award Nominees
- 100 Most Sustainable Global Companies Named
- Natural Heroes Public Television Series Wins 26<sup>th</sup> Annual Telly Award
- Quick Clips: Carbon Credits, Walkable Communities, Recycling Pays, Wind Power OK'd, Corn to Fuel

### Feature

- The New Math of Energy Production: Cows + Manure = Gas + Electricity

### Opinion

- Averting the Coming Chesapeake Bay Crisis: The Forgotten Role of the Private Sector By Mark Gutshall

**Calendar of Events** – Check out all the new items!

## On the Hill

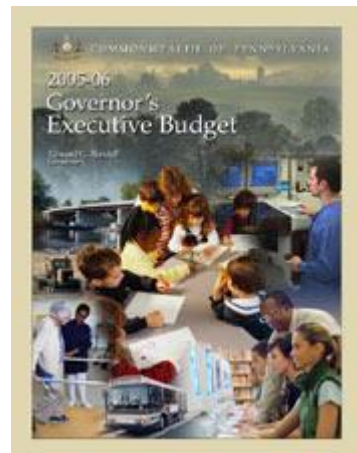
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### Growing Greener II Again Highlight of Governor's Environmental Budget

Gov. Rendell this week proposed a \$23.8 billion General Fund budget that included a two percent Corporate Net Income Tax decrease, \$101 million in new spending for higher education, and the [Growing Greener II environmental spending initiative](#) he asked the General Assembly to pass last year.

Rendell said the recent [Green PA Plan](#) proposed by House Republicans offers “some new ideas.”

“But best of all it recognizes that we must significantly invest in cleaning and preserving our environment now,” said Gov. Rendell. “I look forward to working with the House and the Senate in the weeks ahead to reach a consensus on this initiative. But it is time to give the voters a voice in this debate, too, by asking for their support of these environmental initiatives this spring at the polls.”



## PA Environment Digest – Holston & Crisci

“We can meet this deadline, but we must act together now. The Hazardous Sites Clean-up fund faces a complete shutdown for lack of funds. Likewise, without action this July we must significantly cut the funds used to preserve farmland. Our state is littered with polluted abandoned industrial sites that choke economic growth, and acid mine drainage that stains our rivers and streams.

“Growing Greener II must be enacted to address these critical issues and help maintain our treasured natural assets. I urge us all to remain focused on the goals we share across party lines to repair and preserve our environment and enact this vitally important legislation no later than March 17th so it can be voted on in the May election.”

Here are some notes on individual agency budgets.

### Department of Environmental Protection

- Overall budget would increase to \$660.7 million, from \$625.4 million for the current year, primarily due to \$46.8 million in proposed Growing Greener II spending. DEP’s total budget in fiscal 2002-03 was \$728.2 million (about half the difference is due to eliminating one program— the Act 339 sewage operating grants).
- \$5.2 million Black Fly Control Program eliminated
- \$7.5 million Safe Water Projects eliminated (legislative initiative)
- \$900,000 cut for Conservation District funding (between the DEP and Agriculture budgets)
- Work on Act 220 Water Resources Plan cut back to data collection
- \$5 million of \$10 million included for payback of Underground Storage Tank Indemnification Fund.

### Department of Conservation & Natural Resources

- Overall budget would decrease to \$284 million, from \$297 million for the current year, even with an increase from the Growing Greener II spending proposal. DCNR’s total budget in fiscal 2002-03 was \$322.9 million.
- \$1.8 million Forest Land Beautification Program eliminated.
- General Government, State Park and State Forest Operations were trimmed \$1 or \$2 million each.

### Fish & Boat Commission

- Overall budget decreased slightly to \$45.8 million, from \$46.6 million for the current year. Fish & Boat’s budget in 2002-03 was \$43.3 million.

### Game Commission

- Overall budget would increase slightly to \$68.9 million, from \$68.8 million for the current year. Game Commission’s budget in 2002-03 was \$68.4 million.

The Governor’s Budget Address and background on major pieces of the budget proposal can be found at the [Governor’s 2005-06 Executive Budget webpage](#).

Information on previous state budgets can be found on the [Office of the Budget webpage](#).

**NewsClips:** [Environmental Cuts Portent Austere Year](#)

[Budget Underscores Commitment to Growing Greener II](#)

### Alternatives to Rendell’s Growing Greener II Plan Move in Senate, House

The Senate Environmental Resources and Energy Committee this week reported out [Senate Bill 149](#) (MJ.White- R-Venango) to provide \$34 million a year in funding for the

## PA Environment Digest – Holston & Crisci

Hazardous Sites Cleanup Fund. The bill was put in position for final Senate passage the week of February 14.

The proposal restores the earmark of one-quarter mill from the Capital Stock and Franchise Tax on business that originally funded part of the program until 2002. The legislation allows the transfer of funds for the current fiscal year, addressing a major concern about the program running out of money.

Earlier the Department of Environmental Protection indicated the Hazardous Sites Fund may need as much as \$50 to \$60 million a year to continue current expenditures.

The House Environmental Resources and Energy Committee meanwhile reported out [House Bill 2](#) and [House Bill 3](#), the House Republican [Green PA Plan](#) without amendments after a very lively, partisan two hour debate.

The Committee voted to report the bills along strict party lines, after defeating an amendment to House Bill 2 that would strip out the reference to the bond being paid off by “existing waste disposal fees.”

Rep. Adolph (R-Delaware), chair of the Committee, said the bills may be considered by the full House as early as next week.

"It was important for the committee to move forward on this legislative package today in order for the proposal to be able make its way through the legislative process and come before the voters of Pennsylvania this spring," said Adolph.

House Democrats said the Republican plan was a “death knell” for Growing Greener.

Minority Whip Mike Veon (D-Beaver) said, “The Republican plan would tie the hands of the legislature and the governor, denying the state needed resources that would be available without huge tax or fee increases. Not only is the ‘Green PA’ plan bad for the state’s environment, it would be an economic anchor when the funding ran out. We cannot mortgage the future for an inadequate plan today. We need to make real investments that keep Pennsylvania green.”

Rep. George (D-Clearfield) and 38 co-sponsors introduced Gov. Rendell’s proposed Growing Greener II bond issue proposal in the form of [House Bill 260](#) that was referred to the House Environmental Resources and Energy Committee later Tuesday.

George’s bill would put an \$800 million bond issue question on the ballot, and dividing the money this way-- \$330,000,000 for parks, open space, farmland preservation and the improvement of facilities for the Fish and Boat and Game Commissions, up to \$300,000,000 for environmental cleanup, and up to \$170,000,000 for revitalization of communities.

The House Bill 260 bond question includes a reference to the bond being paid by “fees on pollution and waste disposal activities.”

Rep. Adolph also announced a meeting of the bipartisan Green Ribbon Commission for February 14 to discuss specific recommendations for environmental spending.

**NewsClips:** [House Dems Call GOP Plan 7-Year Death for Growing Greener](#)  
[GOP Green Plan Heads to House Floor](#)  
[Consensus draws near on state environment](#)  
[Green PA is a promising sign](#)  
[DEP, DCNR Comparison of Green Plan, Growing Greener II](#)

## House Game & Fisheries Committee Hears Fish & Boat Annual Report



Dr. Douglas Austen, Executive Director of the Fish & Boat Commission, gave a presentation to the House Game and Fisheries Committee this week on the [Commission's activities in 2004](#).

Dr. Austen thanked the General Assembly for legislation increasing fees for the Commission that he said brought in much-needed revenue. He went on to outline some of the Commission's major accomplishments for the year--

**Dam removal and fish passage:** 12 dam removals were facilitated during 2004 and 50 more are currently in the works opening up more stream reaches for fish habitat.

**PA water trail program:** a program where each new water trail is a collaborative effort of many partners, local and statewide. The projects identify access points, points of interest and other useful information for the public.

**Rollout of the \$2 million Boating Infrastructure Program:** the program includes a [boating access grant program](#) and will expand internal capacity to maintain and improve existing facilities.

**State Wildlife Grant Program:** the program receives funding from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to enable the completion of critically important work on non-game species that are of conservation concern. Ongoing projects include work on bog turtles, paddlefish, massasauga, rattlesnake and sturgeon.

**Water rescue training:** the importance of water rescue training was highlighted by the flooding that followed after Hurricane Ivan passed through the state. The program is funded from fishing license and boat registration fees, yet the program is important to the entire Commonwealth. The Commission is asking that the State share the burden in funding the program.

**Completed strategic planning process:** the Commission is on the verge of publishing a new strategic plan that will set the course for the upcoming years.

Dr. Austen then explained several challenges faced by the Commission this year, including:

**Infrastructure:** operational funding issues were addressed with the increases authorized by [House Bill 2155](#), but now infrastructure needs to be addressed. Currently the Commission has a backlog of \$153 million in infrastructure needs--\$85 million in hatchery needs, \$56 million for dams, and \$10 million for access areas.

**Customer base:** License sales in 2004 increased 2 percent but the Commission projects an 8-11 percent decrease in license sales due to the increase in license fees. As the Commission looks to the future, it will work to enhance marketing and promotions with a newly hired marketing staff. Additionally, efforts to target known successful programs will be enhanced to draw in new anglers.

**Retirements:** in the next four years, 25 percent of the Commission's staff will be eligible for retirement. This will create opportunities for younger staff and a leadership vacuum that the Commission will address as an immediate concern. The Commission will develop a more comprehensive internal training program and redefine skills needed to be effective in positions.

**River Biology:** The Commission is working with a variety of partner groups to develop the Three Rivers Ecological Research Center, which would be a focal point for a variety of interests in the ecology and management of the rivers of western Pennsylvania.

**Lake Erie:** Development of the Lake Erie stamp to effectively and efficiently invest proceeds in the fishing and boating opportunities of Lake Erie and its watershed. Currently the Commission is developing the guidelines for a citizen advisory committee that will provide advice and ideas for the plans as well as act as emissaries for the plan. An internal staff team will be given the task of guiding the effort and making decisions regarding expenditures.

For a copy of Dr. Austen’s testimony, go to the [2004 Annual Report webpage](#).

### Action on Other Environmental Bills

**Wild Resource Conservation:** [Senate Bill 133](#) (Musto-D-Luzerne) eliminating the limitation on providing General Fund monies to the Wild Resource Conservation Fund was reported out of the Senate Environmental Resources & Energy Committee and is now in the Appropriations Committee for action.

**Stormwater Planning:** [House Bill 88](#) (Steil-R-Bucks) concerning stormwater planning was reported out of the House Environmental Resources & Energy Committee with the recommendation it go to the Local Government Committee.

**Open Space:** [House Bill 87](#) (Steil-R-Bucks) making changes to procedures for purchasing transferable development rights was reported out of the House Local Government Committee.

### In Other News

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#### Ask EMAP for Free, Confidential Small Business Environmental Assistance

Small businesses looking for help in complying with environmental requirements or to save money by cutting waste, water and energy use, now have a new partner—the [Environmental Management Assistance Program](#) (EMAP) run by Pennsylvania’s [Small Business Development Centers](#)

As part of a new partnership with the Department of Environmental Protection, EMAP has established a new toll-free and confidential hotline, **1.877.ask.emap**, for small businesses statewide to call with their environmental and energy questions.

The Pennsylvania Small Business Development Centers are a statewide consortium of sixteen universities working on local economic development issues, based at the University of Pennsylvania

“There are always so many issues small business owners must contend with, we are trying to make it a little easier by offering a convenient place, separate of the





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enforcement agencies, where business owners can go to ask questions and get confidential help with their regulatory concerns, permitting requirements, and environmental management strategies,” said Christopher J. Lynch, Director of the Environmental Management Assistance Program for the Pennsylvania Small Business Development Centers.

By making this type of assistance available, both the economy and the environment benefit.

“If businesses can make improvements to reduce their wastes, their emissions, or energy use, the environmental benefits are pretty clear,” according to Lynch. “What might not be so clear, however, are the economic benefits of these improvements. If a business is no longer spending its money on gas and electric utility bills, water utility bills, permit fees, waste disposal fees, and so on, then money is freed up to help the business be more competitive and make other investments in the business – investments in things like new equipment, new inventory, new marketing, and even new jobs.”

The Environmental Management Assistance Program, comprising a team of environmental professionals positioned statewide, already has an impressive record of helping over 1,100 businesses ensure environmental compliance and improve environmental and energy performance since 2000.

The program was also recognized in 2002 with a [Governor’s Award for Environmental Excellence](#).

Services available from EMAP include:

- **Regulatory compliance and permit applications:** The environmental professionals at EMAP assist business owners determine their regulatory requirements and the best environmental management strategies for meeting those requirements.
- **Site Visits:** Sometimes the best way to improve operations at a small business is by having an “extra set of eyes” take a look and give their suggestions. EMAP environmental professionals can walk through your facility to answer compliance questions and assist with regulatory paperwork.
- **Money Savings.** Often, the smartest environmental management strategies look for ways to reduce environmental impact and associated regulatory requirements by switching to less toxic materials or by reducing waste and production inefficiencies. Even the smallest of businesses are frequently surprised by how much money they can save by making modest investments in energy efficiency.

Small business owners can ask EMAP for information and understandable answers to their environmental questions by:

Call the toll-free confidential environmental hotline at **877.ask.emap** for fast and accurate answers to questions and to request other assistance or send email to: [questions@askemap.org](mailto:questions@askemap.org).

For more help, visit the [Professional Services Directory](#).

### Grants Still Available to Help Cut Waste, Energy Costs of Small Businesses

\$500,000 is available to small businesses to help them conduct an assessment of how they can reduce their waste disposal, water and energy costs. Grants from \$5,000 up to \$15,000 are available.

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Grant applications will be accepted through June 30.

A site assessment includes a detailed survey and evaluation of a company's business or manufacturing processes, operational procedures, systems, energy consumption and costs, raw material uses, waste streams and disposal costs. A private consultant will conduct the site assessment under the grant program.

For more information go to the [Site Assessment Grant Program webpage](#).

### **Solid Waste Management Assistance Funds Available from EPA Region III**

Region III of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency is [soliciting pre-proposals](#) for grants or cooperative agreements that address solid waste generation and management issues at the local, state, regional and/or national levels.

Pre-proposals are due March 25.

These innovative projects should be reproducible throughout Delaware, the District of Columbia, Maryland, Pennsylvania, Virginia, and West Virginia and need to address any of the priorities areas, reducing the generation and disposal of municipal solid waste, especially paper and food waste, through reuse, recycling, composting, market development or product stewardship.

Eligible applications include state and local governments and non-profit organizations. Applicants are encouraged to partner and collaborate on projects with other organizations involved in similar efforts. The solicitation describes the program goals and priorities and gives general information on the application and selection process, pre-proposal format, and evaluation criteria.

Most awards are for less than \$15,000 and approximately \$40,000 is available.

For more information, visit the [Solid Waste Proposal webpage](#) or contact Mike Giuranna, EPA Region 3, by e-mail to [giuranna.mike@epa.gov](mailto:giuranna.mike@epa.gov) or call 215-814-3298.

### **EPA Small Business Green Technology Innovation Grant Apps Due in May**

Each year, EPA makes monetary awards through the [Small Business Innovation Research \(SBIR\) Program](#) to small, high-tech firms to develop and commercialize cutting-edge environmental technologies. The current solicitation closes on May 25.

On April 6, the EPA Region 3 Business Assistance Center in Philadelphia will hold its 6th annual workshop for small businesses on preparing competitive proposals for the SBIR solicitation.

For more information visit the [SBIR webpage](#) or call 800-490-9194.

### **Statewide Scientific and Research Projects Informational Meeting Feb. 23**

The Department of Environmental Protection will hold a meeting February 23 in Harrisburg to get public input on its intent to develop scientific research and development proposals related to the priority activities established in the Growing Greener Watershed, Source Water and Flood Protection Grant Application Package.

Ideas and research projects to be discussed should enhance watershed restoration and protection and have statewide application and be related to the Department's priority goals that were listed in the [Growing Greener Application Package](#):



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- Projects that assess the relationship of impacts to designated uses and habitat from changes in stream flow; and
- Projects that develop or refine measuring and assessment tools at a level effective enough to inform watershed management choices.

The meeting will take place on at 1 p.m. in the Susquehanna Room, Southcentral Regional Office Building, 909 Elmerton Avenue, Harrisburg.

For more information contact Patricia McSparran at 717-783-7404 or [pmcsparran@state.pa.us](mailto:pmcsparran@state.pa.us) .

### Comments Invited on Little Juniata River TMDL

The Department of Environmental Protection is inviting comments on a proposed Total Maximum Daily Loads (TMDL) for the Little Juniata Watershed in Blair County. Comments are due March 7.

For more information on this TMDL contact Lee McDonnell, 717-787-9637 or by email to : [lmcdonnell@state.pa.us](mailto:lmcdonnell@state.pa.us)

Copies of the TMDL are available on [DEP's TMDL webpage](#).

### Schuylkill Senior Environment Corps Hosts Macroinvertebrate Training

The [Senior Environment Corps](#) of Schuylkill County will be hosting a session on “Macroinvertebrate Study- Identification”, on April 2, registration deadline March 15.

The training will be from 9:00am to 4:30pm at the Sweet Arrow Lake County Park Clubhouse, and will be held rain or shine. The focus will be on Senior Environment Biosurvey Protocol and will include both classroom and field study. Facilitator for the session will be Kevin Kelly, Aquatic Biologist, PaDEP.

There is no registration fee, but lunch will be \$5.00. To register, or for more information or directions to the Park, contact Carol Bowen at Schuylkill County RSVP by phone: 570-622-3103 or E-mail: [cbowen@Co.Schuylkill.pa.us](mailto:cbowen@Co.Schuylkill.pa.us).

*(Courtesy Capital Region Senior Environment Corps)*

### Renewed Hope for 2005 Falcon Nesting Season in Harrisburg

From DEP's Falconwire this week: Of all the scenarios that could have played out at the Rachel Carson State Office Building peregrine falcon nest site in Harrisburg, the most hopeful has apparently happened.

On February 6, DEP staff spotted two peregrines flying together near the nest ledge. Later, they were seen on the ledge exhibiting ritual courtship behavior.

One question on the minds of falcon watchers for some time was, how long would an estranged female peregrine wait for her mate to return? Well, the answer, at least for this female is 52 days.

We all watched her for weeks as she perched at locations normally occupied by the male, seemingly to increase her odds of spotting him. Although peregrines do mate for life, they have an intense desire to reproduce and proliferate their species. So, they will take another mate under the right circumstances.

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There is no guarantee that this male will remain here with the female but this turn of events is very encouraging. More information will be provided as we learn more about the new male at the Rachel Carson site.

For more information and continuously updated photos of the falcon nesting site on the Rachel Carson Building, visit the [Falcon webpage](#).

### **First Mid-Atlantic Highlands Biodiversity Conference in Johnstown**

The first ever regional conference on biodiversity, [Mid-Atlantic Highlands Biodiversity: Making the Connection in Your Community](#), will be held June 16-18 at the University of Pittsburgh at Johnstown in southwestern Pennsylvania.

A multidisciplinary consortium of community and conservation groups have come together across local areas and state borders to host a conference on biodiversity conservation and how it impacts the ecology, culture and economy of Mid-Atlantic Highlands communities.

The goal of this conference is to empower civic organizations and civic-minded individuals to demonstrate how biodiversity conservation work can be used to enhance the missions of a variety of organizations and enhance their own communities throughout the Mid-Atlantic Highlands. Biodiversity conservation is one important tool that communities can use to enhance natural and recreational resources, improve community aesthetics, and even contribute to economic wealth.

Conference organizers are also accepting presentation proposals for the conference through March 15. Categories of presentations include: Projects & Partnerships, Community & Economics, Impacts & Connections, Technology & Innovation. Please submit presentation proposals via e-mail to: [ksewak@naturalbiodiversity.org](mailto:ksewak@naturalbiodiversity.org).

For more information, inquiries, or to be added to the conference mailing list, send an e-mail message with “Conference” as the subject to: [nbd\\_staff@naturalbiodiversity.org](mailto:nbd_staff@naturalbiodiversity.org).

### **Workshop on Natural Diversity Inventory Searches Feb. 23**

An evening workshop on web-based searches of the Pennsylvania Natural Diversity Inventory will be held February 23 in Corapolis, Allegheny County.

The event is sponsored by the Western Division of the [PA Environmental Professionals Association](#), Women in Transportation and the Southwest Section [Pennsylvania Planning Association](#).

Michael Bialousz, Central Data Manager for the Pennsylvania Natural Heritage Program is the featured speaker.

For reservations contact Tammy Sherwin at 724-452-8242, for questions contact Brian Pancher 724-981-0155.

### **Fifth Goddard Forum - Putting the Market to Work for Conservation – April 5**

The [Fifth Goddard Forum](#) on April 5 in Harrisburg will feature a discussion of traditional and nontraditional market-based mechanisms for achieving environmental improvement.

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The program is an outreach effort of Penn State's Maurice K. Goddard Chair in Forestry and Environmental Resources Conservation. The chair is currently held by [Robert B. McKinstry, Jr.](#)

Market-based mechanisms have the potential to achieve environmental improvement goals while minimizing costs and conflicts. Mechanisms such as air pollutant trading, limited water pollutant trading, wetlands banking, habitat banking, and use of transfer development rights have already achieved considerable successes in reducing a variety of air pollutants, achieving more effective wetlands mitigation, and encouraging and conservation and "smart growth."

Their use is being expanded to other air pollutants, efforts to control global warming, water pollutants, habitat conservation and enhancement, and multimedia and even cross-media trading.

Despite these successes, there are limitations on the use of these mechanisms and on the areas where their use could be broadened or made more effective. Moreover, although these innovations are often touted as alternatives to "command and control" approaches, more traditional approaches sometimes may use the market more effectively and are often necessary to support markets.

The Fifth Goddard Forum will examine the current use of market-based mechanisms, the limitations and potential for these mechanisms, and the practical issues involved in implementing these approaches. It will examine specific existing and proposed programs for air, water, habitat, land conservation and multimedia trading.

The keynote luncheon speaker will be DEP Secretary Kathleen McGinty and the Forum is sponsored, in part, by PPL Corporation.

More information on the [Forum agenda](#) and [registration information](#) is available online. Registration deadline is March 18.

### February Edition - Environmental Education & Higher Ed News Now Available

The [Pennsylvania Center for Environmental Education](#) has just published the February issue of "EE and Higher Education" featuring articles on an upcoming meeting of EE educators in Penn State, National Environmental Education Week, the World Wildlife Fund Smart Consumers Initiative, new EE grants available and much more.

The Center also announced its "EE Connections" newsletter will be coming out in a new format to serve a broader audience of educators and organizations interested in environmental education issues and resources in Higher Education, K-12 Education, and to a general audience.

The first electronic "[EE Connections](#)" should be available in March 2005.

For more information visit the [Pennsylvania Center for Environmental Education webpage](#).

A copy of the "EE and Higher Education" newsletter is attached on this webpage.



## National Environmental Education Week – April 10-16

[National Environmental Education Week](#) is a full week of educational preparation for Earth Day and will involve some 400,000 educators and 15 million students. Educators can participate by conducting environmental education programming during the Week.

Check out the "To-Do List" and "Tools and Links" sections on the EE Week website for suggested activities, ideas, and resources to involve, educate, and inspire.

EE Week is coordinated by the National Environmental Education & Training Foundation (NEETF) in cooperation with many other EE organizations and agencies. Sign-up to participate!

*(Courtesy PA Center for Environmental Education)*



## Westmoreland Looking for Smart Growth Award Nominees

The Smart Growth Partnership of Westmoreland County is looking to recognize smart growth developments, plans, and individuals/groups who have distinguished themselves by achieving the smart growth cause at its third annual dinner in May.

The deadline for nominations is April 4.

The categories for awards include: community service, existing development, proposed development, student award and municipal plan implementation.

The criteria for judging nominees will be 10 smart growth principles: 1. Mix land uses; 2. Take advantage of compact building design; 3. Create a range of housing opportunities and choices; 4. Create walkable neighborhoods; 5. Foster distinctive, attractive communities with a strong sense of place; 6. Preserve open space, farmland, natural beauty, and critical environmental areas; 7. Strengthen and direct development towards existing communities; 8. Provide a variety of transportation choices; 9. Make development decisions predictable, fair, and cost effective; 10. Encourage community and stakeholder collaboration in development decisions

For more information contact the [Smart Growth Partnership](#) at 724-836-7048.

## 100 Most Sustainable Global Companies Named

The [World Economic Forum](#) released its list of the [100 most sustainable global companies](#). On the list were: BP, GlaxoSmithKline, Pepsico, and Reed Elsevier PLC.

Companies were rated on such criteria as strategic governance, environmental initiatives, and human capital/labor relations practices. Research and analysis was conducted by Innovest, a leading environmental investment advisory firm with offices in New York, London and Toronto.

“How companies perform on environmental, social, and strategic governance issues is having a rapidly-growing impact on their competitiveness, profitability, and share price performance,” said Dr. Matthew Kiernan, founder and CEO of Innovest Strategic Value Advisors. “We at Innovest congratulate the Top 100 sustainability

companies; we consider each of them to be particularly well-positioned to capture opportunities in this new world we are all entering.”

As an example, one of the winners-- U.K.-based BP PLC, the world’s second largest oil and gas company-- owns a cutting edge solar power business and is introducing lower-emissions fuels such as natural gas at its retail outlets. BP has also invested in renewable energy technology (fuel cells, wind energy, and photovoltaic) and entered cross-industry R&D sustainability partnerships.

**NewsClip:** [100 Most Sustainable Global Companies Named](#)

### **Natural Heroes Public Television Series Wins 26<sup>th</sup> Annual Telly Award**

The Natural Heroes television series produced by GreenTreks Network, Inc. and California public television station [KRCB-TV](#), won a Telly Award in the category of nature and wildlife film or video.



The series captured the activities of ordinary citizens all over the United States taking positive steps to preserve open space, clean up the air and their streams, protect endangered species and ensure safe schools and neighborhoods.

There's more to come: a second season of Natural Heroes is in development and currently seeking underwriting support.

If you missed the initial release of Natural Heroes, don't worry, Season One will begin re-airing on public television stations across the country in March.

To view the series online or check to see if a public television station near you is airing the series, visit the [Natural Heroes webpage](#) on the GreenTreks Network website.

For more information, contact Barry Lewis at 215-545-5880 or email to: [blewis@greentreks.org](mailto:blewis@greentreks.org).

### **Quick Clips**

[Elks honors recycling entrepreneur](#)

[Residents' recycling pays off](#)

[Wind turbines given OK with restrictions](#)

[State-of-the-art power plant reclaiming waste heaps](#)

[Plan to convert corn to fuel](#)

[Carbon dioxide cap and trade plans see widespread interest](#)

[Carbon Credits, Buy'em, Trade'em](#)

[Organization Hopes to Create Walkable Community](#)

## Feature

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### The New Math of Energy Production: Cows + Manure = Gas + Electricity

6,800 dairy cows in Blair and Bedford counties could soon be producing 2.5 megawatts of electricity a day, enough to power over 1,700 homes.

No, treadmills are not involved.

The proposed Cove Area Regional Digester will use manure from dairy herds in an anaerobic digester to produce over 1 million cubic feet of methane biogas daily that will be used to fuel an on-site electrical generator and make soil treatment products.



There are few options for managing the over 380,000 gallons of liquid manure (200 tons of solids) that are produced every day in the Cove area of the Clover Creek Watershed.

Located in a karst geologic region, agricultural runoff has steadily increased nitrate levels in groundwater to the point that two of the four wells that supply Martinsburg Borough now require treatment because they exceed 10 mg/l drinking water standard for nitrates. In addition, private wells and water supplies have been affected by the runoff.

Faced with these concerns and changes in State Conservation Commission regulations setting a phosphorous standard for land applying manure, the Cove Area Regional Digester Project was formed as a non-profit group to develop a proposal for managing animal waste in the area.

The original partners in the project were the [Southern Alleghenies Conservancy](#) and the Southern Alleghenies Resource Conservation and Development Council which, through their Agriculture Today and Tomorrow Committee, developed the digester concept.

“A regional anaerobic digester with advanced technology was the only option that met all of our goals, while providing the agricultural community with a long-term solution to manure management” said Julie Dick, Project Manager with the Cove Area Regional Digester.

The Project established seven goals: remove manure from the farm; remove nitrates from the water effluent; produce electricity; produce bedding; provide nutrients in liquid form for return to the farm; process bio-solids and produce a marketable product; and be self-sustaining (i.e. make a profit).

Now in detailed design stage through [Herbert, Rowland & Grubic, Inc.](#) Engineers in State College, the Project has attracted considerable attention for its sustainable approach and integration of manure treatment and biosolids reuse. Overall, the estimate cost of the project is about \$23 million with expected annual revenue of \$ 1.7 million resulting from the sale of electricity, tipping fees for biosolids disposal, and sale of soil amendment products.



## PA Environment Digest – Holston & Crisci

“The handling and treatment of this quantity of manure is very challenging.” said Jason Wert, of HRG, “It’s organically the equivalent of over 40 Million Gallons per Day of domestic wastewater, but has a tremendous amount of energy that can be recovered for a variety of uses. In order to harness this energy and cost-effectively treat the manure, we had to look to technologies outside traditional agricultural digesters and drew heavily upon the industrial and municipal communities’ experiences.”

The digester is expected to reduce ammonia gas loadings to the atmosphere by an annual amount of approximately 506,000 pounds; nitrogen loadings to groundwater and surface water by about 579,000 pounds a year; phosphorus loadings to groundwater and surface water by 25,000 pounds; create more than 17,000 tons of bedding or soil amendment products annually for resale within the community and outside the region; and produce approximately 2.5 Megawatts of power on a daily basis for resale and use within the community and outside the region.

Liquid manure taken to the facility will be processed to remove moisture to a point where it is at least 10 percent solids. Then it will go to an anaerobic digester with a capacity of about 1.2 millions. During a residence time of about twelve days, the manure will give off about 1 million cubic feet of biogas a day.

After processing, the digested solids are dewatered to improve its handling characteristics and reduce excess water content and dried for bedding, greenhouse potting soil, soil amendments and other products.

The digester will have the capability to receive municipal biosolids for drying and beneficial use. The drying technology is capable of rendering the material biological and pathogenically free, in compliance with EPA 503 Regulations to produce a Class A Biosolid. The biosolids will be handled in a completely separate process so the dewatered manure and dewatered biosolids are never co-mingled.

All wastewater on the site will be combined and treated using membrane bioreactors, supplemented with over 20 tons per day of pure oxygen, and will exceed both state and federal water quality standards for nutrient discharges. All waste sludge from the wastewater handling facilities will be reprocessed through the anaerobic digester.

The facility will have odor-control to contain and treat any off gassing from the treatment technologies, along with full site security, including fencing and closed-circuit television. Equipped with remote monitoring via Supervisory Control and Data Acquisition system, the facility is highly automated and will require three to five full time personnel.

The detailed design of the facility should be completed by mid-2006 and the Project sponsors hope to arrange final financing and have a groundbreaking by early 2007.

The [U.S. Department of Energy estimates](#) Pennsylvania has enough biomass power generation potential from wood, agricultural, industrial and urban residuals to generate 10.8 billion kWh of electricity a year, enough to meet the needs of over 1 million homes, or 26 percent of the Commonwealth’s electricity needs.

For more information on the project, contact Julie Dick, Project Coordinator, Cove Area Regional Digester, 814-693-4660 or email: [CoveDigester@verizon.net](mailto:CoveDigester@verizon.net) or Jason Wert, PE, HRG Engineers, 814-238-7117 or email: [jwert@hrg-inc.com](mailto:jwert@hrg-inc.com).

**NewsClips:** [Farmers Favor Compost Facility](#) [Biomass Spotlight: Pennsylvania](#)

Opinion

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**Averting the Coming Chesapeake Bay Crisis:  
The Forgotten Role of the Private Sector**

**By Mark Gutshall**



Mark Gutshall,  
LandStudies, Inc.

The bad news is that we're heading for an ecological catastrophe in the greater Chesapeake Bay watershed. The good news is that if the public and private sectors work together, we might just be able to fix this one.

Partnership is the current buzz word when it comes to saving the Chesapeake Bay. Governors from Pennsylvania, Maryland, and Virginia recently announced plans to launch a combined lobbying effort designed to convince the federal government to help them fund a \$15 billion Bay clean up by 2010 on an 80-20 basis (80 percent of the funds from the federal government, 20 percent from the cash-strapped states).

Pennsylvania Governor Ed Rendell even promised that the Bay states would partner with states from other regions seeking federal dollars for their own critical environmental needs. The only partnership the governors didn't highlight, however, was the one that might matter most in the long run – a true public-private initiative.

The private sector typically gets ignored (or even vilified) in most efforts to "Save the Bay," but the truth is that the number one cause of sedimentation and nutrient pollution in the Chesapeake Bay is not industrial pollution, runoff from development, or modern-day agricultural activities.

The leading cause of degradation in the Bay comes from poor land use practices that were undertaken over one hundred years ago, which created a problem known as "legacy sediments."

Following the first permanent European settlements at Jamestown, the ecological balance of the region shifted in substantial and often harmful ways. The worst damage was done during the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries when wholesale land clearing for timber and farming set off widespread erosion. Untold tons of soil rich in phosphorus from multiple sources moved downhill to the low-lying stream and river valleys.

The construction of thousands of dams for water-powered mills caused water behind the dams to slow, and the eroded sediments built up behind them. Stream channels and their floodplains subsequently grew higher as nutrient-laden sediments accumulated.

The higher elevation of the floodplain is actually the key to our present-day problems. Most floodplains of the Upper Chesapeake were once at least four to five feet lower than they are today. In areas near old mill dams, the disparity can be 10 feet or higher. As dams have fallen into disrepair or have been removed, stream channels have cut back down toward their historical elevation, but the adjacent floodplains have not.

Streams flowing along straight, high, unvegetated banks are a common sight in the Chesapeake Bay watershed – so common that we believe that's the way streams should look. Yet those bare banks are composed not of the terrain's original soils, but

instead of polluted legacy sediments that erode into the stream every time rain or snow melt creates a high flow. Root zones on elevated floodplains are too high above groundwater levels to absorb nitrogen compounds from the water, so nitrogen, too, enters the downstream flow.

Channels that have worked their way down toward their earlier elevation can't release excess water and its energy onto the modern, elevated floodplain. That is why sediments and nutrients have been accumulating in the rivers and streams of the region and literally choking the life out of the Bay.

People fear and detest floods, but nothing could improve the long-term ecology of the Chesapeake Bay better than more regular (and naturally contained) flooding in the Upper Chesapeake region. Floodplains are nature's buffer zones. Our regional water is being polluted because floodplains are no longer functioning properly.

To clean up the Bay and its tributaries, we need to focus on the land surrounding them. We can do this through a technique that restores both stream channels and their adjacent floodplains. Stream bank stabilization and stream channel restoration are increasingly common practices, but without floodplain restoration, they are merely temporary solutions.

Here is where the private sector can play an essential role.

Corporations, farmers, developers, and others engaged in the marketplace should be encouraged to finance ambitious floodplain restoration projects that would address their regulatory obligations while helping local governments comply with theirs. In return for financing such projects and saving the public sector and the taxpayers up to \$15 billion to clean up the Bay, the private sector should receive streamlined permitting and multiple credits toward fulfilling their various discharge requirements.

Political leaders and environmentalists must become more focused on developing such public-private partnerships. More federal dollars are wonderful – if they ever actually arrive. In the meantime, some states such as Pennsylvania do not yet recognize stream corridor and floodplain restoration as a best management practice. They should do so quickly, because developers and municipalities are facing new, tougher federal standards for run-off management.

In addition, other Bay states can build on an experiment that Pennsylvania has wisely initiated which provides nutrient-trading options for sources that discharge into the waterways. Creating a "marketplace" for discharge trading might sound counter-intuitive, but it has worked to help regulate air emissions and could help clean up our water.

The Chesapeake Bay-area governors vowed in January to seek partners anywhere they could find them. They should begin with their own constituents whose livelihoods may depend on economic development in the Chesapeake Bay region, but whose lives still depend on preserving the future health of North America's largest estuary.

**Mark Gutshall** is the president of [Land Studies, Inc.](#), an [award-winning](#) environmental engineering firm based in Lititz, Pennsylvania. Send email to: [land@landstudies.com](mailto:land@landstudies.com).

## **Watershed NewsClips**

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[Local Inventory Of Illegal Dumpsites Under Way](#)

[Authority may sell reservoir site to watershed group](#)  
[POWR Signs on as Conserve Our Ocean Legacy Supporter](#)  
[Federal Funds to Fix Abandoned Mines Drying Up](#)  
[Abandoned Mines Prone to Flooding](#)  
[Foundation Plans Concert Series to Benefit Great Lakes](#)  
[Budget Cuts Hamper River Warning System](#)  
[Municipalities must plan to improve stream quality](#)  
[Mine reclamation site reused as theater](#)  
[Wyalusing Creek Stabilization Project update](#)  
[Manatawny Creek signs in place](#)  
[Pittsburgh Region Sewer Mapping for EPA on Schedule](#)  
[Luzerne Conservation District to unveil long-range plan](#)  
[Watershed Pollution Prevention Meetings Set](#)  
[Walnut Springs Park wetlands Project gets OK](#)

## **Regulations**

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The Environmental Quality Board published these notice of [Final Triennial Review of Water Quality Standards](#)

The Independent Regulatory Review Commission published notice of its comments on the Environmental Quality Board's [proposed rule exempting certain hazardous wastes](#) (Reg. 7-393)

### **Pennsylvania Bulletin – February 12, 2005**

**Comment Deadlines:** [Regulations](#) [Technical Guidance](#)

[Copies of Proposed Regulations](#)      [Status of Regulations, 6-Month Calendar](#)

## **Technical Guidance & Permits**

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The Department of Environmental Protection published its final [Water Quality Toxics Management Strategy](#) in the Pa Bulletin this week.

DEP also published were these [notices of changes in technical guidance](#):

- Final: DEP ID: 258-2000-764. Title: Residual Waste and Special Handling Waste Streams.
- Rescinded: DEP ID: 258-2000-768. Title: Form R and Form U Implementation Guidance because it was incorporated into No. 258-2000-764: Residual Waste and Special Handling Waste Streams
- Rescinded: DEP ID: 363-2134-010. Title: Earth Disturbance Permit Policies and Procedures due to changes in Chapter 102 regulations.

Formal notice of March 4 deadline for next round of [Growing Greener Watershed Protection Grants](#).

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

## **Calendar of Upcoming Events**

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- [Public Meetings on Schuylkill County Water System Watershed Assessments Set](#)
- **February 14** – Green Ribbon Commission
- **February 15** – House Judiciary Committee to consider [House Bill 213](#) (Godshall-R-Montgomery) relating to eco-terrorism.
- **February 15** – House Professional Licensure Committee meeting on proposed fee changes for Engineers, Land Surveyors and Geologists.
- **February 15** – DEP Citizens Advisory Council meeting Harrisburg.
- **February 23** – DCNR Citizens Advisory Council meeting Harrisburg.
- **March 2** – [Pennsylvania Energy Development Authority Board meeting](#).
- **March 2** – Senate Budget Hearing on DCNR.
- **March 3** – House Budget Hearing on DCNR, DEP
- **March 5** – [Schuylkill Watershed Congress](#), Montgomery County Community College, Pottstown
- **March 9** – Senate Budget Hearing on DEP
- **April 4-5** – [Environmental Issues for Energy Generation](#) in the Non-Utility Sector. Arlington, VA.
- **May 6-7** - West Branch Susquehanna Restoration Symposium -\_Location: Penn Stater Conference Center Hotel, State College, PA \_Contact: Amy Wolfe at 570-726-3118 or [awolfe@tu.org](mailto:awolfe@tu.org)

### **DEP Calendar of Events**

#### **Watershed Events**

*(courtesy [PA Organizations for Watersheds & Rivers](#))*

#### **Environmental Education Workshop/Training Calendar**

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

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

## **Helpful Web Links**

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

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

## Contributions Invited

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Send your stories about environmental issues, programs and positive actions to **PA Environment Digest** - [DHess@HolstonCrisci.com](mailto:DHess@HolstonCrisci.com) or go to [www.PaEnvironmentDigest.com](http://www.PaEnvironmentDigest.com) .

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