

# — PA — Environment Digest

*An Update on  
Environmental  
Issues in  
Pennsylvania*

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Edited By David E. Hess, Holston & Crisci

February 20, 2006

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## Groups Concerned About State Environmental Funding, Federal Cuts Hurt States

The Pennsylvania Conservation Voters Education League this week laid out an environmental agenda for 2006 that includes no backsliding on environmental funding and makes recommendations in 12 other issue areas.

Two other groups, the Pennsylvania Farm Bureau and PennFuture also expressed concerned about the environmental funding.

The League was joined by a bipartisan group of four legislators, Sen. Connie Williams (D-Montgomery), Rep. Glenn Grell (R-Cumberland), Rep. Stetler (D-York) and Rep. McIlhinney (R-Bucks).

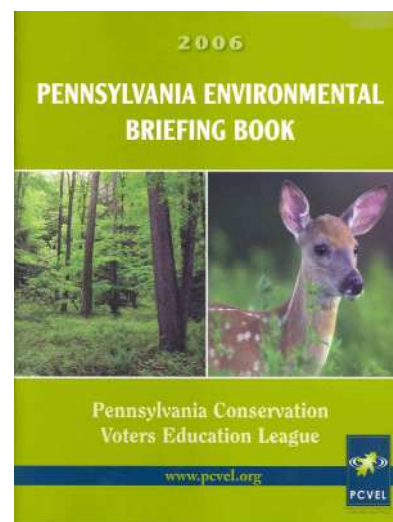
“Growing Greener II demonstrated that the people of this Commonwealth want us to be stewards of our land. We should not be afraid to take further action to ensure that our water is cleaner, our air is healthier, and thousands of acres remain forested, not paved,” commented Michael Fedor, Executive Director of PCVEL at a press conference this morning.

The 40-page “[Environmental Briefing Book](#)” is intended to be a background resource for public officials, staffers, journalists, voters and activists, but it also suggests solutions to the environmental problems faced by Pennsylvania today.

On the timely issue of [environmental funding](#), the Briefing Book highlights the successful passage of the Growing Greener II environmental bond issue in 2005, but notes “concern” over three year’s worth of state and federal budget cuts in environmental agencies like the departments of Environmental Protection and Conservation and Natural Resources.

In addition, it points to the need to revisit funding for the state’s Wild Resource Conservation Fund to support projects to conserve non-game species.

“While Pennsylvania’s voters made a significant investment in the environment by passing Growing Greener II in 2005, we need to make sure that funding we fought for in past years is maintained and that we do not see a loss of support for watershed groups and



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other projects from Growing Greener I as well as for agencies that are charged with enforcing our environmental laws and protecting our natural resources.”

These concerns about environmental funding echo comments made by PennFuture two weeks ago when they said the General Assembly and Governor [should not divert monies for debt service](#) from Growing Greener I programs.

The Pennsylvania Farm Bureau this week urged the General Assembly to restore funding to county conservation districts and the state Nutrient Management Fund that were reduced by Gov. Rendell’s budget proposal.

The Briefing Book covers water, air quality, agriculture, public health, solid waste and recycling, transportation, the Chesapeake Bay Tributary Strategy, State Forests and Parks, deer management, biodiversity, mining and land use issues.

Here’s a sampling of just a few of the recommendations from the Briefing Book-

**Water:** DEP should fully enforce requirements for avoiding and minimizing the destruction of wetlands and streams; DEP should amend Chapter 105 to provide better protection for headwater streams; DEP should issue the Stormwater BMP Manual; the General Assembly should provide adequate funding for stormwater management plans and water resources planning.

**Air Quality:** DEP should adopt a rule to reduce mercury emissions; citizens must demand DEP conduct a careful review of permit applications for new sources and reduce pollution to the fullest extent of the law; DEP should adopt California vehicle emission standards; DEP should expand toxics monitoring.

**Agriculture:** Farmers need technical and financial assistance to- find alternative manure uses, improve livestock feed efficiency, renovate barnyards near streams, provide incentives for cover crops and rotational grazing and to support other innovative technologies.

**Public Health:** Pennsylvania should pass legislation limiting the sale, use and distribution of mercury containing items.

**Solid Waste & Recycling:** Supports passage of House Bill 1902 removing the sunset for the \$2 Recycling Fee; impose a moratorium on new waste facilities; develop a state electronics recycling program.

**Transportation:** The state should implement a “fix-it-first” policy to bring current infrastructure up to a good or excellent condition before building new roads; find dedicated funding for mass transit; reduce the air pollution impacts of diesel engines.

**Tributary Strategy:** The General Assembly and Rendell Administration need to be accountable for reducing nutrients and sediment going to the Chesapeake Bay and provide funding to meet the commitments.

**State Forests and Parks:** Protect old forests and Wild Areas; develop a multiple species approach to State Forest management; minimize and reverse forest fragmentation; reduce

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the deer herd to sustainable levels; restore funding in State Parks for nondevelopmental purposes.

**Deer Management:** Follow the recommendations in the Audubon PA report “[Managing White-tailed Deer in Forest Habitat from an Ecosystem Perspective.](#)”

**Biodiversity:** DCNR should be designated as the coordinating agency on biodiversity conservation with adequate funding and staffing; dedicate a percentage of the Sales Tax on outdoor recreational equipment to support management and protection of fish and wildlife.

**Mining:** DEP should enforce the state Clean Streams Law to better protect streams, springs and ponds ahead of mining; supports reauthorization of federal Abandoned Mine Reclamation Fund.

**Land Use:** Provide financial incentives for historic preservation; work with the Farmer’s First Agenda to include additional economic incentives to farmers to preserve farmland; reforms of the Eminent Domain Code should not inhibit community revitalization efforts; reauthorization of the federal Farm Bill and its conservation provisions will have a major impact on supporting farm conservation efforts.

The Pennsylvania Conservation Voters Education League is a 501(c)(3) educational non-profit organization. Its mission is to provide education and training to increase the effective participation of environmentalists in the political arena and to educate policy-makers, the media, and the citizens of Pennsylvania about environmental issues.

A copy of the “[Environmental Briefing Book](#)” is available online.

For more information, contact Monica S. Willett, Program Manager, Pennsylvania League of Conservation Voters, by sending email to: [mwillett@palcv.org](mailto:mwillett@palcv.org) or calling 717-234-2651 or writing 300 N. Second St, Suite. 707, Harrisburg, PA 17101.

**Links:** [A Budget Message from DCNR](#)

### **Proposed Federal Budget Passes More Than 100% of EPA Cuts to the States**

The budget proposed last week for the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency cuts funding for states for the third year in a row, mirroring what has happened in Pennsylvania.

Like last year, the cuts to states are actually larger than the overall agency cut.

States stand to lose \$416 million out of the general State and Tribal Assistance Grants. This means EPA is effectively planning to keep \$26 million of the money formerly assigned to states for its own purposes.

Particularly hard hit are the clean air program support grants. EPA plans to cut state grants by \$35 million, a 15.9 percent reduction.

In water programs, the Clean Water State Revolving Fund was reduced from \$900 million to \$680 million, and the Section 319 non-point source water program was cut over \$10 million. Two other water programs were also cut a combined \$10 million.

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A \$50 million Clean Diesel Initiative was added, as well as an additional \$25 million for Underground Storage Tank programs to implement the Clean Diesel Act and the Energy Act, respectively.

The [Environmental Council of the States](#), a coalition of environmental protection secretaries from each of the states, put out a [summary of how EPA's proposed budget will impact states](#).

### Session Schedule

The House returns to session on March 6 and Senate returns March 13, but both will be holding [budget hearings](#) over the next three weeks.

### On the Hill

- On the Senate, House Agenda
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- EPA Display at Philadelphia Flower Show Features Native Plant Gardening
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- Become a Sponsor of the PA Biodiversity Conservation Plan
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- Aquatic Insects, Stream Ecology Teacher Education Program June 3-4
- Tools Released to Help Small Drinking-Water Systems
- New USGS Web-Based Tool Calculates Groundwater Recharge in Pennsylvania
- EPA Reports on Smart Growth Stormwater Management Best Practices
- Delaware Estuary Sponsors New Events, Education Message Boards
- \$1 Million in Boating Facilities Grants Awarded by Fish & Boat Commission
- Support Watershed Protection - Adams County Fishing/Outdoor Expo March 4 & 5
- Psssssst! Want to Know When They're Stocking Trout? Check It Out
- PA Chamber Environmental Conference & Trade Show Set for April 18 & 19

## See & Hear

- *LandSavers – Learn About Biodiversity in Pennsylvania*

## Feature

- *Desilting Basin Finds New Life as Wildlife Habitat, Educational Sanctuary*

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

## On the Hill

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### On the Senate, House Agenda

The Senate and House hearings on Gov. Rendell's 2006-07 budget proposal will take center stage over the next few weeks, but there are other things happening on the Hill. Here's the rundown...

### Calendars

The House will start March 6 with this environmental bill on its Calendar-- [House Bill 2067](#) setting limits on state spending through a constitutional amendment.

The Senate will start March 13 with these items on their Calendar-- [House Bill 213](#) establishing penalties for eco-terrorism; and [Senate Bill 1063](#) providing additional funding to expand the PA Small Business Development Centers.

### Committees

The House Environmental Resource & Energy Committee will hold an informational meeting to understand the general, scientific, environmental, health and economic issues associated with reducing mercury emissions from power plants; and the House Appropriations Committee will have a budget hearing on the Department of Conservation and Natural Resources.

**NOTE:** If you have cable, check out the schedule on [PCN TV](#) to find when budget hearings will be broadcast.

### Senate/House Bills Moving/Introduced

Legislation expanding the tire recycling program was signed into law by Gov. Rendell this week and legislation on clean vehicles, eco-terrorism, water shutoffs, Small Business Centers and alternative fuels tax incentives saw action. Here's a rundown.

### On the Governor's Desk

**Tire Recycling:** [House Bill 1114](#) expanding the waste tire recycling program was signed by the Governor and is now Act 7.

**NewsClip:** [Governor Signs Bill Requiring Registration of Tire Recycling Facilities](#)

## Senate

**Clean Car Program:** [Senate Bill 1025](#) (Madigan-R-Bradford) that would establish a Pennsylvania Clean Car Program by providing options to automakers for compliance that includes both the California II and federal Tier II emissions standards was amended and passed by the Senate on a largely party-line vote of 27 to 20, Democrats voting against.

**NewsClip:** [Rendell, Senate at Odds Over Vehicle Emissions](#)

**Eco-Terrorism:** [House Bill 213](#) (Godshall-R-Montgomery) establishing penalties for eco-terrorism was reported out of Senate Appropriations Committee and is awaiting action on the Senate Calendar.

**Water Shutoff:** [House Bill 893](#) (Semmel-R-Berks) changing procedures for shutting off water for nonpayment of sewage bills was reported out of Senate Appropriations Committee, amended and reported back to Senate Appropriations.

**Eminent Domain:** [House Bill 2054](#) (Grell-R-Cumberland) making changes to the eminent domain law in response to the *Kelo* Supreme Court decision was referred back to the Senate State Government Committee.

**Small Business Centers:** The Senate Community and Economic Development Committee was amended and reported out [Senate Bill 1063](#) (Pileggi-R-Montgomery) providing additional funding to expand the PA Small Business Development Centers (Centers provide the [EMAP environmental assistance services](#)) and is awaiting action on the Senate Calendar.

## House

**Energy Tax Credits:** [House Bill 1964](#) (Ross-R-Chester) creating investment tax credits for qualified alternative energy generators was referred to and out of House Appropriations Committee and passed by the full House. It now goes to the Senate.

**Vehicle Emissions Inspection:** Rep. Casorio (D-Westmoreland) attempted to attach an amendment to House Bill 2374 on the floor that would impose a moratorium on the state's vehicle emissions inspection program. The amendment failed by 79 to 118.

## Bills Introduced

**Public Review of DEP Documents:** [House Bill 2414](#) (Reed-R-Indiana) would amend the definition of “administrative regulation” in the Commonwealth Documents Law to include any DEP “manual, procedural manual, guideline, enforcement guideline, policy, strategy document, policy guidance manual or technical guidance manual or administrative opinion or legal opinion regarding the interpretation of a statute, court order or regulation used by the Department of Environmental Protection to implement a regulatory enforcement process” which would require this new set of documents to be reviewed by the Independent Regulatory Review Commission.



**Eminent Domain:** [House Resolution 597](#) (Metcalf-R-Butler) would memorialize Congress to adopt additional protections for property rights as a result of the Supreme Court's *Kelo* decision.

### **Senate Passes Clean Vehicle Bill, Requires Clean Air Stakeholder Groups**

The Senate amended and passed [Senate Bill 1025](#) (Madigan-R-Bradford) to establish a Clean Vehicle Program that gives automakers two options to comply— use the California II or federal Tier II vehicle emissions standards.

The legislation follows the same structure as the Clean Vehicle Program now in regulation, except for updating the rule to provide the California II vehicle emission standard option.

Automakers now comply with the federal Tier II vehicle standard and this is the only vehicle emission standard for which the state now takes credit under its clean air plans.

The option to use the California II vehicle standard would start with vehicle model year 2008, like in the proposed regulation the Department of Environmental Protection published for comment on February 11.

Any actual clean air benefits from the California II standards would not happen until sufficient numbers of the new vehicles would start entering Pennsylvania's vehicle fleet— in about 2013 or 2015—well after the 2010 federal deadline to comply with the 8-hour ozone standard.

The bill also directs the Department of Environmental Protection to form stakeholder groups in areas not expected to meet the 2010 deadline for complying with the federal ozone standard to make recommendations on meeting that standard from mobile or stationary sources of air pollution.

Stakeholder groups formed by DEP are to include fair representation from motorist, public health, environmental, public utility, automotive manufacturers, business and industry organizations and local, state and federal officials.

Action on the bill follows a Senate hearing on this topic [in December](#) and more recently [in the House](#). The bill now moves to the House.

**NewsClip:** [Senate Approves Amendment to Clean Vehicles Bill](#)  
[California Car Rules Hit a Bump in Senate](#)  
[Rendell, Senate at Odds Over Vehicle Emissions](#)

### **Alternative Energy Tax Credit Legislation Passes House**

[House Bill 1964](#) (Ross-R-Chester), that will help reduce Pennsylvania's dependence on foreign sources of energy by establishing tax credits for alternative energy businesses, was passed unanimously by the House this week.

"This legislation is designed to help reduce our country's dependence on oil and natural gas by encouraging the development of businesses engaged in the production of alternative fuels, alternative fueled vehicles and alternative energy equipment," said Rep. Ross. "By helping businesses run environmentally friendly operations, we can look forward to a safer, cleaner environment."

[House Bill 1964](#) would create a Renewable Energy Tax Credit and allow businesses to offset the Personal Income Tax, Corporate Net Income Tax or Capital Stock and Franchise Tax by an amount equal to 15 percent of the cost of capital equipment directly related to qualified alternative energy activities.

The total amount of all renewable energy investment tax credits allowed would not exceed \$15 million in any one fiscal year.

"With energy costs rising throughout the winter and many residents struggling to pay home heating bills, I am hopeful this bill will provide another incentive to continue researching and using alternative forms of energy," Rep. Ross said.

### **House Committee Told Conservation Most Cost Effective Help on Energy Problems**

The PUC's Consumer Advocate and the non-profit Energy Coordinating Agency both told the House Environmental Resources and Energy Committee this week that energy conservation is a cost-effective way to help solve the state's energy problems, but less than 11 percent of the state's spending supports such programs.

[Sonny Popowsky](#), the [Consumer Advocate at the Public Utility Commission](#), said "the cheapest kilowatt hour or cubic foot of natural gas is always the one that is not used."

Popowsky said Pennsylvania electricity users face significant price increases between now and 2010 when electric rate caps imposed as part of deregulation come off.

If the PUC does not take steps now to mitigate that impact by adopting rules that stagger bringing electric generation to the market and not relying on the spot market to set prices, electricity rates could increase by over 50 percent.

He pointed to a recent experience with the Pike County Light and Power Company where electricity rates increased 129 percent and electric companies in Delaware and New Jersey saw rates go up 59 percent and 55 percent respectively.

Popowsky said the price of natural gas is driving the cost of electricity because the clean burning fuel has been used to power more and more electric generation capacity.

He said more needed to be done to reduce the demand for electricity, like setting energy efficiency standards for appliances, charging different rates for electricity at different times of the day or week when generation costs are less using advanced metering systems and under the Alternative Portfolio Standards Program using energy efficiency and demand side management as a direct alternative to electric generation.

[Liz Robinson](#), Executive Director of the [Energy Coordinating Agency](#) in Philadelphia, told the Committee, "Pennsylvania is allocating almost 90 percent of all current funding to treat the symptoms of this problem: high bills, and only 11 percent in ways that can actually reduce the size of the problem."

"There simply is not enough money to span the affordability gap (in energy costs) with cash," said Robinson. "In fact, the longer we try to do so, the more time and money we will waste."

Energy costs are expected to go up by at least 6 percent a year, which Robinson said means over the next 20 years heating costs for low income families will increase to \$8,000 a year if demand is not reduced.

Robinson said conservation is the cheapest and cleanest form of energy that achieves four important goals—



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1. Conservation immediately and permanently reduces the amount of money required to meet energy needs;
2. Conservation reduces upward pressure on prices – the American Council for an Energy Efficient Economy estimates if energy consumption is reduced by 5 percent, prices can be lowered by 20 percent;
3. Conservation contributes to the local economy roughly eight times the equivalent investment in the purchase of natural gas or fuel oil- if households statewide reduce home energy consumption by 10 percent, it would produce an investment of over \$572 million in Pennsylvania’s economy; and
4. Conservation cleans our air by reducing emissions of pollutants and gases that contribute to global warming.

Robinson recommended the state develop a Plan for a Sustainable Energy Future for Pennsylvania that would lay out a detailed roadmap for increasing the energy efficiency of all sectors – residential, commercial and industrial.

She also recommended that all new affordable housing and publicly funded buildings meet or exceed the [EPA Energy Star](#) building standards and increase funding for weatherization and energy conservation programs, including a state Energy Bond Program to fund energy conservation improvements for small businesses and nonprofit organizations statewide.

[Michael Love](#), President of the [Energy Association of Pennsylvania](#), said there is much work to do to improve the aging energy distribution infrastructure in the state and the need to improve the recovery of costs associated with infrastructure improvements.

Love also supported increased funding for the Low Income Energy Assistance Programs and pointed to the growing problem of theft of energy services as a result of unpaid bills or illegal hookups.

Committee chairman Rep. Bill Adolph (R-Delaware) said his Committee will now be going through the testimony provided at this and the five previous hearings on energy policy to develop legislative proposals for consideration by the House.

**NewsClip:** [Volunteer Project Focuses on Energy Efficiency](#)

### **Joint Committee Hears About Making Railroad Ties from Old Carpet, Waste Plastic**

Innovative Rail Concepts of Conshohocken told the Joint Legislative Air and Water Pollution Control and Conservation Committee this week how making railroad ties from old carpet and waste plastic will not only save landfill space, but millions of trees.

IRC made the presentation as part of the Committee’s February Environmental Issues Form.

Michael McNamara, company president, said 16 million railroad ties are replaced each year in the United States and 90 percent of them are made from oak timbers.

IRC, and a manufacturing partner from Texas, have perfected a process for making railroad ties by recycling old carpet and plastic that meets the stringent quality and durability standards of the American Railway Engineering and Maintenance of Way Association.

The new tie retains 85 percent of its performance characteristics over 20 years, versus just 35 percent for a traditional oak tie. That means the new ties will have to be

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replaced less often, meaning rail lines will be closed less frequently for costly maintenance.

Just one production line producing about 260,000 recycled content railroad ties will use about 29.4 million pounds of waste plastic and 19.7 million pounds of waste carpet. Over 3 million hardwood trees a year are used to make railroad ties.

IRC is presently looking to locate a manufacturing facility in Altoona that will have the capacity to produce about 750,000 recycled railroad ties a year.

Innovative Rail Concepts can be contacted by sending email to: [mmac@innovativerail.com](mailto:mmac@innovativerail.com) or by calling 610-788-2267.

The next Environmental Issues Forum is scheduled for April 3 when the Committee will hear from Karen McCalpin of [PA CleanWays](#) about the [State Forest Beautification Program](#), dumping surveys and the group's work with the Delaware Estuary Program.

The [Joint Conservation Committee](#) is chaired by Rep. Scott Hutchinson (R-Venango).

### Committee Chair, Member Changes in Senate and House

There were a number of Committee Chair and member changes this week in the Senate and House. Here's a quick summary—

Sen. Noah Wenger (R-Lancaster) was elected to be the Chair of the Senate Appropriations Committee, succeeding the late Sen. Bob Thompson (R-Chester). Sen. Wenger will be retiring at the end of this year.

Sen. Joe Conti (R-Bucks) was elected to take Sen. Wenger's Caucus Secretary slot in Senate Republican Leadership. This leaves open the Chair of the Senate Game and Fisheries Committee because traditionally no member in Leadership can also chair a standing committee.

Rep. Mike Gerber (D-Montgomery) was named to the House Environmental Resources and Energy Committee replacing Rep. Alan Butkowitz (D-Philadelphia).

### In Other News

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#### DEP Grants Support Landfill LNG, Biodiesel, Clean Energy Projects

The Department of Environmental Protection this week announced the award of over \$3.7 million in Alternative Fuel Incentive Grants to support alternative and clean fuel projects.

The grants went to 22 projects and will leverage more than \$16 million in private funds.

The largest grant-- \$2 million-- went to Seneca Landfill, Inc., Butler County to construct a facility to produce liquefied natural gas from landfill methane gas and an LNG refueling facility. Seneca will also convert 10 waste-hauling trucks to LNG engines and purchase five new LNG vehicles.

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Penn State University was awarded grants for two projects-- \$550,556 to continue the demonstration of hydrogen and compressed natural gas blends in the Centre Area Transit Authority buses and Penn State Vans and \$119,277 to help University students design and build a vehicle to compete in the U.S. Department of Energy's Advanced Vehicle Technology Competition.

Other grants included—

- Renewergy Cooperative Corp. -- \$105,925 to produce biodiesel from oil extracted from algae that is also part of the effluent treatment process at the Erie Wastewater Treatment Plant. The grant funds installation of a bioreactor to grow the algae.
- York County Transportation Authority, York, York County -- \$381,600 to phase in the use of biodiesel for its entire fleet of 20 buses and 33 vans.
- City of York, York County -- \$17,035 to phase in the use of biodiesel in 40 city-owned vehicles over period of 16 months.
- Walt Whitman Truck Stop, Philadelphia -- \$137,864 to purchase and install electrified idle-reduction systems so truckers can power heating and cooling units and small appliances without running their engines.

[A complete list of funded projects is available online.](#)

Since its inception in 1992, DEP has awarded \$28.7 million for 984 projects in 50 counties. AFIG funds have leveraged more than \$78 million from public and private fleet operators, fuel providers and the federal government.

For more information, visit the [Alternative Fuel Incentive Grants Program webpage](#).

## EPA Accepting Nominations for SmartWay Environmental Transportation Awards



The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency is accepting nominations for its first annual [SmartWay Excellence Awards](#) for companies and organizations who made significant contributions to protecting the environment through innovations in transportation.

The awards are open to any [SmartWay partner](#) to recognize efforts to increase energy efficiency, reduce greenhouse gas emissions and air pollution in the freight industry.

Presentation of the awards will occur in late October at the American Trucking Association annual conference in Dallas, Texas and the National Association of Environmental Managers in Savannah, Ga.

By 2012, EPA's Smartway partnership aims to reduce 33 million to 66 million metric tons of carbon dioxide emissions and 200,000 tons of nitrogen oxide emissions annually. Partners include truck carriers, freight shippers and rail carriers, among others.

For more information, visit the [SmartWay Excellence Awards webpage](#).

## USDA Opens Application Period for Renewable Energy, Efficiency Grants

The U.S. Department of Agriculture is now accepting applications for its Section 9006 [Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency Improvements Grants](#) Program.

The application deadline is May 12.

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Half of the Section 9006 funding will be set aside for guaranteed loans. Unlike the grant program, USDA will issue guaranteed loans on a rolling basis based on successful applications. Any guaranteed loan funds not obligated by August 1 will be available for the grant program.

More information, including applications, scoring criteria and sample template is available on the [Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency Grant Program webpage](#).

### EPA Offers Community Grants to Reduce Risks of Toxic Exposure



The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency is now accepting applications to support community-based partnerships to reduce toxic risks until April 10.

EPA will award about \$2.7 million in cooperative agreements in two levels through the [Community Action for a Renewed Environment Program](#).

Level I cooperative agreements will help establish community-based partnerships and set priorities for reducing toxic risks in a community. EPA anticipates awarding eight to 10 cooperative agreements under Level I, ranging from \$75,000 to \$100,000.

Level II cooperative agreements are for communities that already have a broad-based collaborative partnership, have identified risk reduction priorities and are ready to implement risk reduction strategies. EPA expects to award six to eight cooperative agreements, ranging from \$150,000 to \$300,000.

A range of community groups may apply for funding, including county and local governments, tribes, non-profit organizations and universities.

EPA will conduct two conference calls, February 21 and 24, for prospective applicants to ask questions about the application process.

The CARE program, which began in 2005, helps to build broad-based local partnerships for reducing risks from toxic pollutants that come from numerous sources.

For additional information, visit the [CARE Program webpage](#)

### DEP Seeks Members for Environmental Justice Advisory Board

The Department of Environmental Protection is seeking candidates to join the [Environmental Justice Advisory Board](#).

The board's mission is to ensure the fair treatment and meaningful involvement of all commonwealth residents regardless of race, color, national origin or income in the environmental decision-making process.

Members of the advisory board conduct fact-findings, develop protocols and make recommendations to the department with respect to the development, implementation and enforcement of environmental laws, regulations and policies.

Potential candidates should have an interest in environmental justice issues and have a background in one of the following areas: environmental justice, community residents, public sector (other government entities), academia, industry, public policy, public health, community groups, faith-based organizations, health insurance, hospitals, transportation or environmental health.

Interested candidates should be able to attend the board's quarterly meetings in Harrisburg. All members of the advisory board are volunteers and do not receive

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compensation from DEP, although the department will reimburse all travel expenses to attend meetings. Appointments are for two-year terms.

Interested candidates should send their resumes to Director Ayanna King, Office of Environmental Advocate, by sending e-mail to: [ayking@state.pa.us](mailto:ayking@state.pa.us)

For more information, visit the [Office of Environmental Advocate webpage](#).

### **Stonycreek-Quemahoning Initiative Receives Eastern Sports/Outdoor Show Award**

[Stonycreek-Quemahoning Initiative](#) received the 2006 Eastern Sports & Outdoor Show Conservation Award along with Edwin VanSant and Ron Fretts who received individual Humanitarian and Youth Mentor Awards.

The Stonycreek-Quemahoning Initiative, the collective efforts of business, political, economic, recreational and community leaders, help manage and protect a watershed of over 90 square miles and more than 5,000 acres of land now open to public use.

The Quemahoning Reservoir tract in northern Somerset County was purchased from Bethlehem Steel with the aid of a \$1.5 million land acquisition grant from the Department of Conservation and Natural Resources. The grant sealed the needed purchase price of \$6.2 million, and in August 2000 the sale was completed to the newly formed Cambria-Somerset Authority.

The Stonycreek-Quemahoning Initiative was formed in 2003, with the aid of the Connemaugh Valley Conservancy, to provide assistance to groups planning for the responsible development of natural, cultural and historical resources.

Besides the reservoir, initiative projects in Somerset County include Greenhouse Park, Whitewater Park, and the Benson/Hollsopple Community Revitalization.

The award recognizes a grassroots movement grown from local sportsmen's club and Trout Unlimited chapter meetings to the offices of elected state and federal officials. Joining in this bid to obtain the land and water for public use were Somerset and Cambria county commissioners, the Southern Alleghenies Conservancy, and DCNR.

Howard M. Picking III, chairman of the Stonycreek-Quemahoning Initiative, accepted the award.

Also on hand to accept individual awards were Edwin "Tiny" VanSant of Shoemakersville, who received the show's Humanitarian Award for his work in promoting the sport of muzzle loading, and Ron Fretts of Scottsdale, recipient of the show's Youth Mentor Award who was honored for his efforts in getting young people interested in hunting and other outdoors pursuits. (*Courtesy [Feb. 15 Resource](#), DCNR*)

The Stonycreek-Quemahoning Initiative also won a [2002 Governor's Award for Watershed Stewardship](#) and a 2000 Three Rivers Environmental Award.

**NewsClip:** [River Project Saluted](#)

### **Last Call – Deadline for Growing Greener Watershed Grants March 3**



The Department of Environmental Protection this week issued a reminder the deadline for applying for the next round of Growing Greener Watershed Restoration Grants is March 3.

DEP will invest in projects that seek to address nonpoint source pollution, such as comprehensive watershed plan



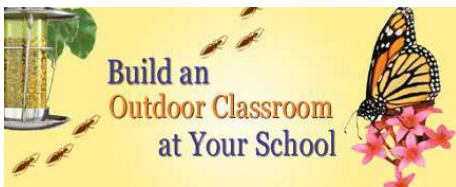
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implementation; legacy sediment and stream restoration; nutrient and sediment trading; long-term operation and maintenance for watershed projects and mine drainage treatment systems; urban and agricultural runoff; and upgrades to on-lot sewage systems.

Eligible projects also could include reducing nonpoint source pollution in watersheds where streams are impaired; designing practices and activities that support water quality trading initiatives; integrating stormwater management and flood protection into watershed management; encouraging the beneficial use of abandoned mine pool water; and integrating air deposition controls and management with mitigating water quality problems.

For applications and more information, visit the [Growing Greener webpage](#).

### Applications Due Now for Lowe’s Outdoor Classroom Grants



Lowe’s, International Paper and National Geographic Explorer! have teamed up to provide grants of up to \$2,000 to help schools build outdoor, hands-on science education programs.

Grant applications are accepted throughout the year for the [Outdoor Classroom Grant Program](#),

but applications received by April 30 will receive award notices in May.

All K-12 public schools are welcome to apply.

For more information, visit the [Outdoor Classroom Grant Program webpage](#).

### Five-Star Habitat Restoration Grants Due March 10

Grant applications are being accepted until March 10 for the [Five-Star Restoration Grants Program](#) sponsored by the National Association of Counties, the National Wildlife Foundation, Wildlife Habitat Council and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.

Five-Star grants provide financial support for community-based wetland, riparian and coastal habitat restoration projects that build diverse partnerships and foster local natural resource stewardship through education, outreach and training activities.

Grants of between \$5,000 and \$20,000 will be awarded.

For more information, visit the [Five Star Restoration Grants webpage](#).

### EPA Display at Philadelphia Flower Show Features Native Plant Gardening

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency will again have a display at the Philadelphia Flower Show showcasing the importance of native plants in gardening today.

This year’s educational display is called “A Sense of Place” and will provide practical information on how gardeners can properly use and place native plants around their homes or businesses.

The display is part of EPA Region III’s





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“[Green Landscaping](#)” initiative that provides information on the environmental benefits of green techniques for attractive residential landscaping and outdoor water and pesticide use.

The [Philadelphia Flower Show](#) Runs from March 5 to 12.

### Creek-Friendly Yard Care Workshop Set for February 23 Delaware County

The Springfield and Marple Township Environmental Advisory Councils and the [Chester-Ridley-Crum Watersheds Association](#) are sponsoring a “Creek-Friendly Yard Care” workshop on February 23 at 7:30 in Broomall.

The free program is intended to help homeowners choose environmentally-safe products and techniques to care for their home landscapes. The presentation will include short talks, a panel of local experts to answer questions, and refreshments.

Panelists include Liz Ball, Springfield Press Garden Columnist, on lawn care; John J. Butler, EPA Region III Integrated Pest Management Coordinator, on dealing with Japanese beetles and other pests with fewer chemicals; Kenn Rapp, Springfield Township Environmental Advisory Committee (EAC), on managing stormwater; and Anne Murphy, Executive Director of the Chester-Ridley-Crum Watersheds Association (CRC).

The program will be held in the Community Room, on the lower level of the Marple Township Library/Township Building at 227 South Sproul Road (PA rte 320), at the corner of Springfield Road.

Learn more about the role that you can play in protecting our streams and their life from posters created by local scouts and students. The posters are on display in the Springfield and Marple Township library windows. Look for flyers in area nurseries and garden centers, as well as libraries.

The program is cosponsored by the Marple Public Library, CRC, Marple Environmental Advisory Board, the Springfield EAC, and the CRC MS4 Partnerships.

For more information, contact Liz Ball of the Marple EAB at 610-328-6181 or Anne Murphy at CRC, at 610-892-8731.

**Link:** [Environmental Advisory Council Network](#)

### Become a Sponsor of the PA Biodiversity Conservation Plan



In 2001, the [PA Biodiversity Partnership](#) began the development of the [PA Biodiversity Conservation Plan](#) to develop recommendations and strategies for protecting and conserving biodiversity in the Commonwealth.

In 2002 the Partnership published the Biodiversity in PA Snapshot, a baseline report on the present state of biodiversity in Pennsylvania.

In 2004 a Blueprint for the Biodiversity Conservation Plan was developed with several rounds of public comment and focus group input.

Now a draft Conservation Plan is in the drafting stage with the goal of releasing a final plan in 2006.

To complete its work, the PA Biodiversity Partnership invites individuals, companies and organizations to become a sponsor of the final PA Biodiversity Conservation Plan.

To learn more about this unique opportunity, visit the [Biodiversity Plan Sponsorship webpage](#). March 10 is the deadline for sponsorship pledges.

### **New Webcasts on Source Water Protection, Using EPA’s Watershed Handbook**

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency is sponsoring a series of free webcasts on issues related to source water protection and using its new Watershed Handbook.

Upcoming drinking water topics include: February 22 “Source Water Protection – Land Development and Growth” and May 24 “Source Water Contamination Prevention.”

For a complete list of drinking water topics and registration information, visit the [Safe Drinking Water webpage](#).

On June 18 EPA’s Watershed Academy will present a free webcast on “[Using EPA’s Handbook for Developing Watershed Plans](#)” from 1:00 to 3:00.

More on the [Watershed Handbook is available online](#).

### **Aquatic Insects, Stream Ecology Teacher Education Program June 3-4**



The [Pennsylvania Institute for Conservation Education](#) is sponsoring a teacher education program on aquatic insects and stream ecology on June 3-4 in Lycoming County.

During this class, participants will learn from a recognized expert how to identify aquatic insects that live in the streams and rivers of Pennsylvania

with plenty of “hands-on” instruction on the use of dichotomous keys to identify specimens of aquatic insects and their relatives.

Sampling, collection, and preservation techniques for aquatic insects will also be addressed. Biology, behavior and ecological requirements are presented in an informal, highly enjoyable atmosphere.

In early evening, there will be free time provided for anglers to learn the art and skill of fly fishing and fish some of Pennsylvania’s pristine streams (fly rods and gear provided).

Act 48 credits are available.

For more information, visit the [PICE website](#) for this and other course listings.

### **Tools Released to Help Small Drinking-Water Systems**

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency this week released two new tools and a suggested affordability approach for small water utilities trying to balance the demands for quality water with their financial ability to deliver.

The targeted systems serve 3,300 customers or fewer.

The first tool, "Setting Small Drinking Water System Rates for a Sustainable Future," will help owners and operators understand the full costs of providing a quality and adequate supply of drinking water to their customers and guide them in setting water rates that will support these costs.

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The second tool, "Case Studies of Sustainable Water and Wastewater Pricing," provides real-world examples of eight drinking-water systems and their approach to determining and establishing rates.

Both these tools are available on EPA's [Drinking Water Infrastructure webpage](#).

### **New USGS Web-Based Tool Calculates Groundwater Recharge in Pennsylvania**

The U. S. Geological Survey has made available a new web-based tool that helps users estimate groundwater recharge rates for areas throughout Pennsylvania where streamflow data are available.

The recharge estimates were computed based on two automated streamflow hydrograph methods, which are explained in the recently published report, "[Estimates of Groundwater Recharge Based on Streamflow-Hydrograph Methods: Pennsylvania](#)."

The Estimates of Ground-Water Recharge website allows users to select watersheds by clicking on a map or from a list and provides recharge rates from both estimation methods in tabular and graphic form. The site also includes information on land use and geology.

### **EPA Reports on Smart Growth Stormwater Management Best Practices**

"[Using Smart Growth Techniques as Stormwater Best Management Practices](#)" from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency reviews nine common smart growth techniques and examines how they can be used to prevent or manage stormwater runoff.

This publication will help communities encourage smart growth and meet the new regulatory requirements under Phases I and II of the municipal stormwater permitting program

While the water quality and stormwater benefits of smart growth are widely acknowledged, there has been little explicit regulatory recognition of these benefits to date. The environmental goals of these smart growth strategies include water benefits that accrue when development strategies use compact development forms, a mix of uses, better use of existing infrastructure, and preservation of critical environmental areas.

A copy of "[Using Smart Growth Techniques as Stormwater Best Management Practices](#)" is available online.

### **Delaware Estuary Sponsors New Events, Education Message Boards**

The Partnership for the Delaware Estuary has opened two new web-based services for regional environmental groups—an [Upcoming Events](#) and [Outreach and Education Programs](#) forums.

By registering and posting information your organization's events and activities you could reach a growing audience throughout the Delaware Estuary region.

You can also post information and ask questions on the Partnership's other message boards as well.

Visit the Partnership for the [Delaware Estuary message board webpage](#) to learn about the other useful information you can find.

## **\$1 Million in Boating Facilities Grants Awarded by Fish & Boat Commission**

The Fish & Boat Commission this week awarded more than \$1 million in grants to nine municipalities for the development, improvement or rehabilitation of public recreational boat launches.

The awards are provided through the [Boating Facilities Grant Program](#), a funding stream initiated by the PFBC in 2005 to help ensure Pennsylvania's recreational boaters are provided with the highest quality boating facilities on water bodies across the state.

Applications for the next round of Boating Facility Grants are currently being accepted. Applicants can seek grants for site acquisition, project design and engineering, development, expansion and major rehabilitation of recreational boat access facilities. The deadline for applications is June 30.

[A list of grant award winners is available online.](#)

For more information and for application forms, visit the [Boating Facilities Grant Program webpage](#) of the PFBC's web site.

## **Support Watershed Protection - Adams County Fishing/Outdoor Expo March 4 & 5**

The Adams County Trout Unlimited and the [Watershed Alliance of Adams County](#) are sponsoring a [Fishing and Outdoor Expo](#) on March 4 and 5 at the Buchanan Valley Fire Company in Orrtanna.

Last year over 500 visitors came to hear seminars by fishing and outdoor experts, see the displays of over 30 vendors and organizations and tool part in free demonstrations.

Breakfast, lunch, door prizes and more are available.

For more information, including exhibit information, visit the [Fishing and Outdoor Expo webpage](#) or contact Michelle Kirk by sending email to: [mkirk@adamswatersheds.org](mailto:mkirk@adamswatersheds.org) or call 717-677-4628.



**Volunteer Water Monitors**

## **Psssssst! Want to Know When They're Stocking Trout? Check It Out**

The Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission has posted the [2006 stocking schedule](#) on its website. OK, so it isn't a big secret anymore.

To make the list simple to use, stocking information is broken down by county. Within each county, stream sections and lakes to be stocked are listed alphabetically and the entire year's worth of trout stocking dates is shown for each.

Previously, separate lists were developed for stockings that took place prior to the start of the season and those that took place later in spring, fall and winter. Also included on the list are descriptions of the stream section to be stocked and the type of trout being released.

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Stockings will start March 1 and as in previous years, will be spread throughout the spring, fall and winter months.

April 15 is the opening day of trout season.

### PA Chamber Environmental Conference & Trade Show Set for April 18 & 19

The 2006 PA [Chamber Environmental Conference and Trade Show](#) will be held in Camp Hill, Cumberland County on April 18 and 19.

The program will feature presentations by both Donald Welsh, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Region III Administrator and Environmental Protection Secretary Kathleen McGinty.

More than 17 breakout sessions are planned offering the latest information on changes in air quality, hazardous waste, stormwater, permitting, nutrient trading and other topics.

Attendees can also take advantage of exhibits by up to 75 vendors throughout the event.

For more information, visit the 2006 [Environmental Conference and Trade Show webpage](#).

### See & Hear

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#### LandSavers – Learn About Biodiversity in Pennsylvania



What the heck is biodiversity? You can find the answer to that question and more by watching a special multi-media presentation on the [LandSavers website](#).

Surrounded by today's modern conveniences, it is easy to forget that mankind's survival still depends on the planet's natural biological diversity. We rely on millions of different kinds of interconnected animals, plants and microorganisms which scientists collectively call biodiversity.

LandSavers presents an introduction to the topic, along with additional resources and a special webcast to learn more.

Visit the [LandSavers Biodiversity in PA webpage](#) to learn more.

**Link:** [PA Biodiversity Partnership](#)  
[Biodiversity – GreenTreks Website](#)  
[LandSavers Website/Video Design by GreenTreks Network](#)

Visit the [Professional Services Directory](#) and [Events Calendar](#)



## Feature

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### Desilting Basin Finds New Life as Wildlife Habitat, Educational Sanctuary

A former desilting basin that was the disposal site for thousands of tons of sediment dredged from the Schuylkill River for decades is being converted into a wildlife sanctuary and environmental education area.

Renamed [Black Rock Sanctuary](#), the 120 acre site on the Schuylkill River near Phoenixville in Chester County, is in the process of being restored to include a network of high quality wetlands, which will provide breeding and nesting habitat for migratory waterfowl and amphibians.

*[See the special Black Rock Photo Feature.](#)*

The Sanctuary is host to an [interactive nature trail](#) designed to explain the complex interconnections and interactions of the man-nature interface.

A major element in the restoration work is the use/reuse of coal fines and other coal waste dredge from the river to create the trail and many of the interactive exhibits/activities.

When finished, the site will host deep water, emergent, palustrine scrub shrub and forested wetland ecotones along with upland forest, old field and meadow ecotones.

Among the specialized displays are a biofilter to demonstrate the difficulties of dealing with surface water runoff and chemical pollution; a series of vernal pools to demonstrate the delicate balance in maintaining a healthy amphibian population; a model of the Schuylkill River and Black Rock Dam to demonstrate the impact of the industrial revolution on the ecosystem of the river; and an interactive display to demonstrate watersheds.

The interpretive stations will be strategically placed to reinforce the multiplicity of ecosystem interactions and demonstrate their dependence on man's stewardship to keep them healthy.

The history of the Black Rock Basin mirrors the history of many streams and rivers in Pennsylvania affected by uncontrolled coal mining in the late 1800's and early 1900's.

By the early 1900's, waste from upstream coal operations was contributing over 3,000,000 tons of silt annually to the Schuylkill River.

By the early 1930's so much silt had built up behind the dams of the slack-water navigation system used to carry barges of coal on the Schuylkill and other rivers that



**During Restoration**



**Black Rock Sanctuary Today**



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navigation ceased, flooding increased, recreation use came to an end, and the river's value as a water supply was being threatened.

After passing a series of laws to mitigate siltation of the state's waterways, state government undertook the Schuylkill River Project in 1945 to dredge the river by removing silts to strategically located desilting basins.

In all, some 21 desilting basins were constructed in a public works project valued at over \$31.75 million along with the removal of some of the Schuylkill Navigation Company's canal dams. In the case of the Black Rock basin, an 8,000 foot long berm created an 80-acre basin.

Active dredging use of the Black Rock Basin ended in the late 1950's. Later, sand, gravel and coal were removed for mineral recycling, leaving the site desolate and pockmarked.

To learn about the rest of the history of Black Rock Basin, go to the [Black Rock Basin webpage](#) and read the article by Carl Kelemen of Evergreen Landscape Associates and Robert Folwell, Chester County Department of Parks and Recreation.

The Black Rock Sanctuary restoration project is funded by Chester County, the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, the departments of Environmental Protection and Conservation and Natural Resources and the William Penn Foundation for a total investment of over \$1.1 million.

For more information, visit the [Black Rock Basin webpage](#) .

*(Contributed by [Carl Kelemen](#), Evergreen Landscape Associates, 215-887-6607, Roslyn, PA)*

## Quick Clips

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

[Control Deer With New Funding Sources](#)

[Deer Still Hot Topic at Outdoors Show](#)

[Deer Management Takes Center Stage](#)

[Bald Eagle Is Off Endangered List – In Theory](#)

[Editorial: Endangered Species Act Endangered](#)

[Richard Township Unveils Plan for 8 Trails in Important Bird Area](#)

[Schuylkill Open Space Plan May be Ready by July](#)

[New School Proposal Echoes EPA Smart Growth Principles](#)

[Editorial: Littering A Problem We All Must Solve](#)

[Green Buildings Spur New Market](#)

[PA Announces \\$3.7 Million in Alternative Fuel Grants](#)

[Op-Ed: Oil's Spoils, Larry Schweiger](#)

[PA Takes Lead in Wind Power](#)

[Lehigh University's Initiative Deals with Environmental Issues](#)

[Engineer's Society of Western PA Honors Pitt Professor](#)

[Editorial: Eliminate Politics From Pursuit of Better Mine Safety](#)

## **Watershed NewsClips**

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

[Report Shows Removal of Dam Has Little Effect on Creek](#)

[Water Quality Monitoring Essential for Dam Removal](#)

[DEP Issues Permits for Mine and Stream Reclamation Projects](#)

[New Emergency Notice Requirements for Drinking Water Suppliers](#)

[Deadline Nears for Growing Greener Watershed Restoration Grants](#)

[Fishers Make Comeback in PA](#)

[DEP Announces Investments in Community Flood Protection](#)

## **Regulations**

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The Department of Environmental Protection is [holding a briefing](#) for the Mercury Rule Work Group February 22. The Public Utility Commission [published a proposed policy](#) on small water system acquisitions. The Fish and Boat Commission published [final changes to the Class A Wild Trout Waters](#).

The Department of Environmental Protection is holding a briefing for members of the Citizens Advisory Council, Air Quality Technical Advisory Committee and Mercury Rule Workgroup to discuss concepts and options for the development of regulations to control mercury emissions from coal-fired electric utility generating units. The meeting will be held on February 22 at 2:00 p.m. in Room 105 of the Rachel Carson State Office Building.

The Public Utility Commission [published its proposed policy](#) for reviewing and approving small, nonviable water company acquisitions that it hopes will increase the number of mergers and encourage regionalization. Comments on the policy are due by March 20.

The Department of Environmental Protection published an updated list of certified radon testing and remediation firms (*PaB Feb. 18 page 879*)

### **Pennsylvania Bulletin – February 18, 2006**

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

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

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

## **Technical Guidance & Permits**

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The [Department of Environmental Protection published](#) final technical guidance related to the sewage facilities program and draft guidance for comment on aboveground storage

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tanks and small flow treatment facilities. DEP has also published for comment a [draft Coastal Zone Management Program Assessment](#).

Final: DEP ID: 362-4000-003. Act 537 Program Guidance: Local Agency/Municipality Evaluation and Compliance Activity. This document provides guidance concerning the implementation and execution of compliance and enforcement activities related to the Sewage Facilities Act (Act 537).

Final: DEP ID: 362-4000-004. Act 537 Program Guidance: Sewage Enforcement Officer Evaluation and Compliance Activity. This document identifies general strategy and procedures used by Department staff when evaluating the performance of a sewage enforcement officer (SEO) relative to their responsibilities specified in Act 537.

Final: DEP ID: 362-4000-005. Act 537 Program Guidance: Enforcement--Identifying, Tracking and Resolving of Sewage Facilities Act Violations. This document identifies general strategy and procedures used by Department staff for pursuing enforcement activity against municipalities, local agencies and sewage enforcement officers found to be sufficiently deficient in their responsibilities under Act 537 to warrant formal action.

Final: DEP ID: 362-4180-004. Act 537 Program Guidance: Calculating Civil Penalty Assessment Amounts. This document establishes procedures for the calculation and assessment of civil penalties under Act 537.

Final: DEP ID: 362-4180-005. Act 537 Program Guidance; Civil Penalty Assessment Processing. This document establishes procedures to ensure the consistent application and processing of civil penalty assessment authority, as provided to the Department by section 13.1 of Act 537.

Draft: DEP ID: 362-0300-002. Small Flow Treatment Facilities Manual. This manual proposes major amendments to the existing guidance at 33 Pa.B. 5783 (November 22, 2003) regarding the design, permitting, installation, operation and maintenance of small flow treatment facilities.

Draft: DEP ID: 563-2112-101. Aboveground Storage Tanks on Coal Mining Permits. This draft technical guidance document describes the permitting and monitoring requirements for aboveground storage tanks on coal mine sites.

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

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

## Calendar of Upcoming Events

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

## PA Environment Digest – Holston & Crisci

- [DEP's Annual schedule of board and advisory committee meetings for 2006](#)
- **February 22** - The Department of Environmental Protection is [holding a briefing](#) for members of the Citizens Advisory Council, Air Quality Technical Advisory Committee and Mercury Rule Workgroup to discuss concepts and options for the development of regulations to control mercury emissions from coal-fired electric utility generating units. Room 105 Rachel Carson State Office Building. 2:00.
- **February 23** – House Environmental Resource & Energy Committee informational meeting to understand the general, scientific, environmental, health and economic issues associated with reducing mercury emissions from power plants. North Office Building, Hearing Room 1. 10:00.
- **February 23** – House Appropriations Committee budget hearing for the Department of Conservation and Natural Resources. Room 140. 3:00.
- **February 23** – **CANCELLED** – DEP Upper Susquehanna [Water Resources](#) Regional Committee meeting.
- **February 27** – House Appropriations Committee budget hearing for the Department of Environmental Protection. Room 140. 2:30.
- **February 28** – House Appropriations Committee budget hearing for the Department of Agriculture. Room 140. 1:00.
- **February 28** – **CANCELLED** – DEP Air Quality Technical Advisory Committee meeting has been [rescheduled for March 17](#).
- **March 1** – Senate Appropriations Committee budget hearing for the Department of Agriculture. Senate Majority Caucus Room. 1:15.
- **March 1** – [Delaware River Basin Commission meets](#) on State of the Basin Report and other issues.
- **March 2** – Senate Appropriations Committee budget hearing for the Department of Conservation and Natural Resources. Senate Majority Caucus Room. 10:30.
- **March 3** – DEP Tributary Strategy Steering Committee meeting. Room 105 Rachel Carson Building. 10:00 a.m.
- **March 9** – Senate Appropriations Committee budget hearing for the Department of Environmental Protection. Senate Majority Caucus Room. 1:15.
- **March 13** – Governor's Renewable Agricultural Energy Council meeting. Room 105 Rachel Carson Building. 10:00.
- **March 15** – **CANCELLED** - DEP Radiation Protection Advisory Committee meeting has been [rescheduled for June 15](#).
- **March 18-19** – [Fundamentals of Geology and Practicing Geology Seminars for Professional Geologists](#). Camp Hill (near Harrisburg).
- **April 18-19** - [Chamber Environmental Conference and Trade Show](#). Camp Hill (near Harrisburg).

### 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](#)**

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

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

**Stories 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) .

**PA Environment Digest** is edited by David E. Hess, former Secretary Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection, and is published as a service to the clients of Holston & Crisci and the public. Holston & Crisci is a Harrisburg-based government and public affairs firm whose clients include Fortune 500 companies and non-profit organizations. For more information on Holston & Crisci call 717-234-1716.

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