

— PA — Environment Digest

*An Update on
Environmental
Issues in
Pennsylvania*

Edited By David E. Hess, Holston & Crisci

April 24, 2006

Earth Day 36 Years Young

Yes, I admit, in 1970 during the first Earth Day I wore my sandals and a tie-died t-shirt to “teach-ins” on what I could do to cleanup the environment.

Today, more people than ever want to do the same thing—learn how they can be better environmental stewards at home, in school, at work and on the farm.

The surge in the number of watershed groups alone is evidence Pennsylvania has a thriving environmental movement of people who want to do positive things to protect the environment.

In 1999 we had barely 125 watershed groups across the state, now we have over 400.

Thousands of people are monitoring water quality, joining the Senior Environment Corps and making pollution prevention and energy efficiency their business.

An interesting piece in the Philadelphia Inquirer tried to capture some of today’s “active environmentalist,” and I would recommend it to you: [Shades of Green – Today’s Young Environmental Activists](#) .

Earth Day is also about taking stock about where we are and where we need to go.

We’ve had tremendous success since the first Earth Day in taking the “big chunks” out of the water and out of the air.

Today’s environmental issues are often more subtle and don’t involve the “big polluters” of the past, although some still try to cling to the past. In many ways, each of us has become “the polluter.” As a result, new tools are required to deal with these issues.

The generation that grew up with the first Earth Day is now in positions of authority in business, government, civic, religious, watershed and environmental groups. You don’t have to teach us that the environment is a good thing.

You have to give us the tools to make it better through education, a little help now and then and some great examples to follow.



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Just because we grew up with Earth Day doesn't mean our kids (and now our grandkids) automatically have that same appreciation for the environment and learning about nature.

Every year there's a new crop of Fifth Graders, and Seventh Graders and High School and College kids wanting to learn about their role in the environment and how they can improve their habitat.

We need to share with them the appreciation that we developed over the last 36 years.

There's plenty of work yet to do, so get to it!

NewsClip: [Editorial: The Good Earth Depends on Us to Keep it Clean, Green](#)
[Op-Ed: A World of Progress](#)

Session Schedule

The Senate and House return to session April 24.

On the Hill

- On the Senate, House Agenda
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- Pennsylvania USDA-NRCS Receives \$2.7 Million to Protect Farmlands
- President Bush Presents Youth Environmental Award to Souderton Students
- PA Colleges, Universities to Get Help to Reduce Greenhouse Gasses
- Ribbon Cut on Westmoreland's First Green Rehabilitated Commercial Building
- PUC Approves Plan to Re-bid Pike County Electric Rates
- Hampden Township Receives Regional Award for Environmental Performance
- Pay a Visit to the 'Treevitalize Great Tree Jamboree' and Plant a Tree
- Board OKs Anterless Deer License Allocations, Groups Point Out Deer Damage
- Allegheny PA CleanWays Sets Litter, Invasive Species Cleanup for May 6
- Brian Hill Named President & CEO of PA Environmental Council
- PA Chapter National Brownfields Association Meets May 9

See & Hear

- Peregrine Falcons to be Banded During Live Webcast May 24

Feature

- Loyalhanna Watershed Assn. Recognized With Governor's Award

[Go To the Watershed Awareness Month Events Section](#)

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

On the Hill

On the Senate, House Agenda/Bills Moving

Here's the rundown of what's on the calendars and in committees—

Calendars

The House will start with these bills of interest on its April 24 Calendar--[Senate Bill 881](#) would tighten the definition of “blight” to prohibit local governments from using eminent domain authority to take private businesses; [House Bill 1588](#) providing for the fluoridation of public water; [House Bill 2067](#) setting limits on state spending through a constitutional amendment; [House Resolution 661](#) designating May as “Lyme Disease Awareness Month;” and [House Resolution 679](#) designating May as “Drinking Water Awareness Month.

Committees

In the House, the Environmental Resources & Energy Committee meets to consider [House Bill 2042](#) increasing penalties under the Clean Streams Law; [House Bill 1195](#) that makes changes to the program to help underground tank owners upgrade tanks; and [Senate Bill 868](#) increasing the forest land in-lieu of tax payment; the Agriculture & Rural Affairs Committee holds a public hearing on deer damage; and the Transportation Committee meets to consider [House Bill 2502](#) setting a fee cap of \$10 on vehicle emissions inspection exemption test.

In the Senate, the Appropriations Committee meets to consider [House Bill 2317](#) establishing the 2005-2006 Capital Budget for flood control, Keystone Recreation, Environmental Stewardship projects; and the Environmental Resources and Energy Committee holds a hearing on reducing mercury emissions from coal-fired power plants.

Senate/House Bills Moving

The Senate was the only chamber in session this week and one bill moved on the downtown relocation law. Here's the rundown.

Downtown Relocation Law: [House Bill 218](#) (Reed-D-Indiana) redefines “downtown” in law requiring the Commonwealth to look at locating state offices in downtown areas was amended and reported from the Senate Appropriations Committee.

Bipartisan Bill Will Reduce Power Plant Mercury Emissions By 86 Percent

Senators Mary Jo White (R-Venango) and Ray Musto (D-Luzerne) this week introduced bipartisan legislation in the state Senate to reduce mercury emissions from coal-fired power plants by 86 percent.

“This legislation shows the strong, bi-partisan support in the General Assembly for reducing mercury pollution and protecting the health and welfare of our citizens,” said Sen. White, chairman of the Senate Environmental Resources and Energy Committee.

“This is a very important public policy issue,” said Musto, Democratic chair of the Senate Environmental Resources and Energy Committee. “It is important that the General Assembly weigh in on how best to craft a plan to reduce mercury emissions.”

[Senate Bill 1201](#) would:

- Require mercury emission reductions of 86 percent over 1999 emission rates, and 94 percent as measured from the coal content;
- Maximizes the co-benefits to be achieved under the Clean Air Interstate Rule (CAIR);
- Utilizes an emission allowance cap and trade program, providing incentives for power plants to comply earlier and achieve greater emission reductions; and
- Enjoys the support of a broad coalition of business, coal and labor associations

White noted that companion legislation was introduced by Rep. David Reed (R-Indiana) and Rep. Tom Tigue (D-Luzerne) as [House Bill 2610](#) last week with 120 co-sponsors.

In March 2005, the United States became the first nation in the world to regulate mercury emissions from coal-fired power plants. States have until November 2006 to indicate to the federal government how they intend to implement the mercury emission reduction rule.

White and Musto strongly dispute the notion that trading of mercury allowances is illegal.

“The EPA has determined that trading of allowances is not only legal, but preferable in ensuring compliance in a timely and cost-effective way,” said Sen. Musto. “Absent a court ruling overturning this decision – which would at least ensure that all states play by the same rules – it is shortsighted not to utilize a trading system to reduce mercury emissions in the Commonwealth.”

The Senators further disputed claims that the federal rule will permit generators to simply purchase credits from other states, thereby not reducing mercury emissions in the Commonwealth.

According to information from the Department of Environmental Protection (DEP), significant mercury emission reductions will come as a co-benefit of plants installing control technologies under a separate federal rulemaking known as CAIR, or the Clean Air Interstate Rule. CAIR requires power plants to further reduce emissions of sulfur dioxide (SO₂) and nitrogen oxides (NO_x).

Current DEP estimates project that 90% of the generating capacity in Pennsylvania will have CAIR control technologies by 2015.

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In an effort to downplay the cost of its state-specific plan, an April 17th DEP press release claims its rule will not require utilities to take any additional actions beyond those already required under the CAIR rule.

“Any honest discussion of reducing mercury pollution must include recognition of the significant mercury reductions which will be achieved under CAIR,” Sen. White said. “To suggest that there will not be significant mercury reductions is totally inaccurate. You can’t have it both ways.”

Mercury is a globally-emitted pollutant, with approximately half of all emissions coming from natural sources, such as volcanoes and geysers. Mercury emissions from U.S.-based power plants account for approximately 1 percent of all emissions, with PA power plants accounting for .09 percent of global emissions.

While a recent Centers for Disease Control and Prevention study found that women and young children do not have blood mercury levels which would cause adverse health affects, the Senators nonetheless feel strong state legislation is necessary to reduce mercury emissions.

They also stressed the importance of public education, noting that significant consumption of mercury-laden fish – not inhalation of air – is required before there could potentially be adverse health affects.

The Senate Environmental Resources and Energy Committee has scheduled two public hearings on how best to craft a state program to reduce mercury emissions. The hearings are scheduled for April 25th and May 2nd in the state Capitol. State and federal officials, as well as environmental, sportsmen, electric generation, coal, and business organizations are slated to testify.

More information on the hearings and this proposal, go to the [Senate Environmental Resources & Energy Committee webpage](#).

NewsClips: [2 Bills Aim to Block Tough Mercury Standards](#)

[U.S. DOE Official Says Mercury Control Technology Available](#)
[Business, Labor, Coal Industry Supports Bipartisan Mercury Bill](#)

Business, Labor, Coal Industry Coalition Supports Bipartisan Mercury Proposal

A coalition of business, labor and coal industry groups announced its support for bipartisan legislation in the Senate and House that would dramatically reduce mercury emissions from power plants in a way that protects public health and does not threaten Pennsylvania jobs.

“We support this common sense approach to reducing mercury emissions from power plants because it will not only reduce mercury emissions affecting Pennsylvania by 86 percent, but it also gives power plants an incentive to over-control emissions in a cost-effective way that protects jobs and electric customers in Pennsylvania,” said Douglas L. Biden, President, Electric Power Generation Association.

Senate Bill 1201, sponsored by Senators Mary Jo White (R-Venango) and Ray Musto (D-Luzerne) and [House Bill 2610](#), proposed by Rep. David Reed (R-Indiana) and Rep. Tom Tigue (D-Luzerne), were introduced this week.

The coalition supporting the proposal includes the:

- United Mine Workers of America;
- International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers;

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- Pennsylvania Coal Association;
- Electric Power Generation Association;
- Pennsylvania Chamber of Business and Industry;
- Pennsylvania Chemical Industry Council;
- Associated Petroleum Industries of Pennsylvania; and the
- Pennsylvania Manufacturers Association.

“This legislation will require electric generators to invest an estimated \$360 million annually in new air pollution controls, covering 90 percent of the power plants in Pennsylvania according to DEP, creating more new jobs,” said Edward D. Yankovich, International Vice President, United Mine Workers of America. “But unlike the rule proposed by the Department of Environmental Protection, this legislation would not force the early retirement of more than 30 Pennsylvania power plants and a switch to coal mined in other states.”

The Department of Environmental Protection has proposed a rule that would require a 90 percent reduction in mercury emissions and an additional investment of \$1 billion, but would provide no additional health benefits, according to information developed by the United Mine Workers of America and the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers.

According to DEP, the health impacts of mercury emissions from power plants on people are indirect. The health threat comes from people eating fish containing mercury, not from people breathing in mercury in the air.

“Studies show that 80 percent of the mercury consumed by Americans comes from ocean and saltwater fish that would not be affected by reducing U.S. utility mercury emissions,” said Donald Siegel, International Vice President, International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers. “In fact, modeling studies show there is virtually no difference between adopting the rule in this legislation and zeroing out all power plant emissions. We therefore doubt that a rule like DEP would adopt would have any impact on fish advisories or mercury exposure.”

A recent study by the U.S. Centers for Disease Control concluded women and young children, the most susceptible parts of our population, do not have a level of mercury in their blood that even approaches a level which would cause adverse health effects.

The risk of power plants switching to coal mined in other states is very real.

“Pennsylvania coal has twice the mercury content of coal from other states,” according to George L. Ellis, President of the Pennsylvania Coal Association. “If DEP’s rule is adopted, power generators may have no choice but to consider switching to out-of-state coal with a much lower mercury content to meet the regulation, and good-paying coal mining jobs will go with it.”

There is also a concern about the impact of unnecessary controls on electric utility customers.

“A DEP rule requiring an investment of a billion dollars for no discernible benefit and adds new costs at power plants which have to be paid by someone,” said Gene Barr, Vice President Political and Regulatory Affairs, Pennsylvania Chamber of Business and Industry. “And we are very concerned that ‘someone’ will be homeowners and businesses who will see their electric bills increase unnecessarily if the Senate and House proposals are not adopted.”

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For more background on proposals to reduce mercury emissions from power plants, visit the www.PaEnergyNews.com website.

NewsClip: [Federal Mercury Rule Will Export Jobs, Energy Dollars](#)
[EPA Mercury Rule Will Penalize PA Coal, Mining Jobs](#)
[Business, Labor, Coal Industry Supports Bipartisan Mercury Bill](#)

Senate Committee Sets 2 Days of Hearings on Cutting Mercury Emissions

The Senate Environmental Resources and Energy Committee has scheduled two days of hearings on April 25 and May 2 on cutting mercury emissions from coal-fired power plants in Pennsylvania.

Witnesses scheduled to testify on April 25 include: DEP Secretary Kathleen McGinty; Doug Biden, Electric Power Generating Association; Dr. Robert J. Wayland from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency; Nathan Willcox, Energy & Clean Air Advocate; and Melody Zullinger, PA Federation of Sportsmen's Clubs.

On April 25 the Committee will also consider Senate Resolution 259 that designates May as Drinking Water Month.

The Committee is chaired by Sen. Mary Jo White (R-Venango), Majority Chair, and Sen. Ray Musto (D-Luzerne), Minority Chair.

For more information, visit the [Senate Environmental Resources and Energy Committee webpage](#).

In Other News

2006 River Sojourn Season is Here, Pick One of 16 Trips and Go!



[Sojourn season is here!](#) Unpack those PFD's and dust off you canoe. Longer days and warmer weather means it is time to get on the water.

Paddle your favorite stream or explore a new one. Enjoy nature's beauty and meet new friends while doing it.

The 2006 Pennsylvania River Sojourn Series will include 16 events and some 2500 paddlers from all parts of the mid-Atlantic region. Whether you enjoy the peaceful paddling of a lake or the action packed thrill of rafting down a Class III river, a

sojourn awaits you.

Each sojourn is packed full of entertaining activities and presentations, which last year attracted over 14,000 spectators. Fishing and boating demonstrations and workshops can help develop your techniques or serve as a refresher. Looking to purchase a boat? Several sojourns incorporate product demonstrations where you can try the latest kayak or canoe designs and accessories.

Enjoy the camaraderie inspired by outdoor exercise and companionship. Bald eagles, waterfowl, whitetail deer, and river otters have all been sighted during past river sojourns. What will you see?

To find information about all of the sojourns, visit the [POWR 2006 River Sojourn webpage](#).

Urban Watersheds Revitalization Conference Set for May 18 & 19

The [Urban Watershed Revitalization Conference](#) will be held in Philadelphia and Villanova on May 18 and 19.

The Conference will feature presentations on projects that will demonstrate stormwater best management practices versus standard stormwater management and opportunities to monitor the impact of development on the local economy, environment, community, and neighborhood aesthetics.

Participants will have the opportunity to network with other attendees, learn about success stories and obstacles faced by other communities, and participate in the first Stormwater BMP Recognition Awards Ceremony.

For more information, visit the [Urban Watershed Revitalization Conference website](#).

Little Toby Creek Benefits from \$340,000 Stream Restoration Grant

Little Toby Creek in Brockway Borough and Snyder Township in northeastern Jefferson County were awarded a \$340,000 grant by the Department of Environmental Protection this week.

Although the stream is recovering, large amounts of sediment have deposited in the waterway's channel from past mining practices. The project by DEP will reduce erosion and sedimentation, increase aquatic habitat, create five acres of wetlands to improve a discharge from a wastewater treatment facility and demonstrate the application of this natural design technique for other Pennsylvania communities located near a flood control facility.

Natural stream channel restoration techniques are proposed within a 3,000-foot section of Little Toby Creek. The restoration will create a stable channel that minimizes disturbances to stream biology and requires less maintenance, providing an alternative to conventional channel dredging and maintenance procedures. The channel will transport sediment more easily and provide good habitat for aquatic life.

In 2002, Brockway received a \$50,550 Growing Greener grant to stabilize streambank at four locations along Little Toby Creek in the Upper Clarion River Watershed. The project was one in a series to address sediment impact on flood controls that protect downstream communities.

Link: [Project Dedicated That Raises Rainbow Trout in Treated Mine Drainage](#)

\$82,000 Grant to Study Turning Mine Drainage into Drinking Water Source

The Department of Environmental Protection awarded an \$82,000 Growing Greener II grant to the Jefferson County Conservation District to study the feasibility of turning discharges from abandoned deep mines into a municipal water supply for Winslow Township and Sykesville Borough.

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Proceeds from the sale of potable water could eventually be used to offset the cost of treating the discharges, while also restoring water quality in Sugar Camp Run and Stump Creek, both of which are badly polluted by mine water.

The abandoned deep mines discharges in the Soldier Coal Field area flow at approximately 3,000-gallons-per-minute and dump approximately 750 pounds of dissolved iron each day into Sugar Camp Run. Although the water is near neutral levels for pH, which measures alkalinity and acidity, the iron in the discharge kills all aquatic life.

Treatment of the discharges is prohibitively expensive due to the high iron content and high flow rate. Space limitations at the site also present logistical problems for the design and placement of a treatment facility.

The Jefferson County Conservation District will use the grant to pay engineering firm L. Robert Kimball and Associates of Ebensburg, Cambria County, to explore the feasibility of collecting and treating the discharges for use as a municipal water supply to help offset the cost of operating a treatment facility.

The study is expected to take two years, exploring possible designs for the facility, costs for construction and operation, and potential customers and uses for the water.

The Rochester and Pittsburgh Coal Co. conducted extensive deep mining in the Lower Freeport coal seam in the Soldier Coal Field from the late 1800s until the end of World War II. The Big Soldier Mine, which is the source of the largest discharge, was abandoned in 1934 before modern mining regulations were enacted.

Source Water Protection Grants Help Communities Provide Cleaner Drinking Water



The Department of Environmental Protection this week awarded 14 grants totaling \$630,000 to help communities protect their sources of drinking water.

Source water protection programs are locally designed, voluntary efforts to protect drinking water sources used by public water systems. The program usually takes one of two forms: watershed protection for surface water sources; and wellhead protection for

groundwater sources.

The grants are funded by the Drinking Water State Revolving Fund set-aside. Money is used by municipalities or community water systems to develop a local source water protection program.

The projects promote a greater awareness of watershed protection and provide a complete picture of potential contamination sources, both point and nonpoint, along with an assessment of their susceptibility as a threat to the water supply.

For more information, visit the [Source Water Protection webpage](#).

Chesapeake Bay Trust Soliciting Proposals for Pioneer Grants

The Chesapeake Bay Trust is soliciting proposals for its [2006 Pioneer Grants Program](#) which are due May 19.

The Pioneer Grants Program is designed to encourage and promote innovative ideas, creative partnerships, and cutting-edge projects that advance Bay restoration. This

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year the Pioneer Grants Program will focus on best management practices in agriculture and land development.

Grants of up to \$150,000 will be awarded.

For more information visit the [2006 Pioneer Grants Program webpage](#).

Watershed Stewardship Guide Workshop June 1 in Mercer

The DEP Watershed Academy, in cooperation with Western Pennsylvania Conservancy, will hold a free workshop on the new [Watershed Stewardship Guide](#) on June 1 in Mercer.

This training is intended for watershed managers, watershed specialists, municipal officials, planners, and watershed organizations.

The Watershed Stewardship Guide focuses on six components, all of which will be discussed at the workshop:

- Watershed Organization Development and Sustainability - How to identify key players in your community and forge a cooperative and collaborative relationship to work toward common goals that ultimately benefit your watershed; also addresses the bottom line on how to maintain your organization;
- Securing Financial and Human Resources - How to identify and locate financial and human resources (private and government) to develop and implement your watershed management plan;
- Watershed Assessments - Getting acquainted with and discovering what is going on in your watershed in terms of water quality and water quantity and the environment within its boundaries;
- Developing the Watershed Management Plan - How to develop a detailed vision and strategy that identifies specific actions to restore, maintain, enhance, and protect your watershed;
- Implementation - How to systematically carry out prioritized projects using financial and human resources efficiently; and
- Monitoring for Success - How to measure your success against established goals to evaluate and quantify progress at regular intervals in the continuing implementation of your watershed management plan.

The workshop will be held from 9:30 am to 4:00 pm at the Penn State Cooperative Extension Office.

To register, please contact Western Pennsylvania Conservancy's Lindsay Baxter at 724-459-0953 ext. 110, or by sending email to: lbaxter@paconserve.org.

New Smart Watershed Benchmarking Tool Now Available

The [Center for Watershed Protection](#) has just published a Smart Watershed Benchmarking Tool that takes lessons learned from around the country and helps local watershed groups integrate them into their own initiatives.

The publication includes step-by-step guidance on how to complete the benchmarking tool, detailed profile sheets that describe each of 14 Smart Watershed programs, including case studies, and more.

The [Smart Watershed Benchmarking Tool is available free online](#), after filling out a brief identification form.

EPA Publishes New "EPA Watershed Training Opportunities" Booklet

EPA has published a new 27-page EPA that highlights watershed training opportunities sponsored by EPA's Office of Water and the Watershed Academy.

The booklet provides brief information on EPA-sponsored live training courses, web-based training opportunities including webcasts, training materials such as documents and videos, and watershed-related websites that are available to EPA staff and others.

[Copies of this booklet are available online.](#)

Information Sessions Set on Nutrient, Sediment Trading Benefits

McNees, Wallace & Nurick is sponsoring a series of information sessions to educate businesses, local governments, developers and municipal authorities on the benefits of water quality credit trading designed to help implement the Chesapeake Bay Tributary Strategy.

The sessions will be held from 8:00 to 11:00 a.m.:

- May 22 - Toftrees Golf Resort & Conference Center, State College;
- May 24 - McNees Wallace & Nurick conference center, Pine Street, Harrisburg; and
- May 25 - Lancaster Country Club, New Holland Pike, Lancaster.

Session presenters include Scott A. Gould, chair of the law firm's Environmental Law Group, environmental law attorney Alexandra C. Chiaruttini, and Charles M. Courtney, who is a land use/real estate attorney.

The Chesapeake Bay Strategy is an effort to reduce Pennsylvania's nitrogen and phosphorus contribution to the Bay and affects more than 30 counties.

To meet new standards by the 2010 deadline will require significant upgrades of public sewage treatment plants, which are expected to be reflected in sewage rates. The strategy already has affected some development projects and will affect potential development in the counties that contribute to the Susquehanna River basin.

Registration is required. Contact Karen Swaringen, 717-237-5430 or send email to: kswaringen@mwn.com.

Pennsylvania USDA-NRCS Receives \$2.7 Million to Protect Farmlands

USDA-Natural Resources Conservation Service Acting State Conservationist Gary Smith this week announced the availability of nearly \$2.7 million to protect agricultural land in Pennsylvania through the [Farm and Ranch Lands Protection Program](#).

Proposals are due May 11.

"Preserving Pennsylvania's prime agricultural farm lands helps to ensure a vibrant future for American agriculture," said Smith. "Once protected by conservation easements, this land will be shielded from development pressure and continue to support our safe and abundant food supply."

USDA's Natural Resources Conservation Service is seeking proposals from state, federally recognized tribal and local governments and non-governmental organizations interested in working together to acquire conservation easements on farms and ranches. NRCS is expected to announce final project selections in June.

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Since the program's inception in 1996, more than 22,000 acres of farm land have been funded for protection in Pennsylvania. FRPP protects productive agricultural land by purchasing conservation easements to limit conversion of farm and ranch lands to non-agricultural uses.

Using existing programs, USDA partners with State, tribal, or local governments and non-government organizations to acquire conservation easements or other interests in land from landowners.

In this voluntary program, USDA provides up to 50 percent of the appraised fair market value of the conservation easement and State and local entities can match that amount, including the use of landowner donations.

The eligible farm must have the following components: contain productive soils or historic or archaeological sites; be part of a pending offer from a non-governmental organization, state, tribe or local farmland protection program; be privately owned; covered by a conservation plan; large enough to sustain agricultural production; accessible to markets for what the land produces; and surrounded by parcels of land that can support long-term agricultural production.

For more information, visit the [Farm and Ranch Lands Protection Program webpage](#).

President Bush Presents Youth Environmental Award to Souderton Students

President George W. Bush and U.S. EPA Administrator Stephen L. Johnson this week gave President's Environmental Youth Awards to 49 students from across the nation, including [Students Against Violating the Earth from Souderton Area High School](#), Montgomery County.

These awards have been presented annually since 1971 to honor students in kindergarten through twelfth grade who develop projects that help protect local environments and promote local environmental awareness in their communities.

Each student receiving an award developed an innovative project that promotes awareness and encourages people of all ages to protect their environment through community involvement.

The other winners come from Marshfield, Mass.; Brooklyn, N.Y.; Augusta, Ga.; Midland, Mich.; Fayetteville and Rogers, Ark.; Kansas City, Mo.; Ogden, Utah; Palm Desert, Calif.; and Soldotna, Alaska.

For more information, visit the [President's Environmental Youth Award webpage](#).

PA Colleges, Universities to Get Help to Reduce Greenhouse Gasses

The [Pennsylvania Consortium for Interdisciplinary Environmental Policy](#) has received a grant from the Sustainable Energy Fund of Central and Eastern Pennsylvania to support the development of greenhouse gas inventories and reduction strategies in higher education in Pennsylvania schools.

The grant program, to be administered by Wilson College, will provide software and training that has been specifically designed for higher education to do greenhouse gas inventories and reduction strategies.

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So far, five schools have expressed interest in participating. Currently, there are about 100 schools in the U.S. participating in a similar program.

The goal of the PCIEP program will be to get 10 schools in Pennsylvania signed up in the first year with a goal of getting all 56 PCIEP schools working on this within three years. The first training session on the software has been scheduled for May 19 at Penn State.

This program will allow higher education to: use the campus as a laboratory to teach students about where the GHG come from and the challenges in reducing GHG emissions; share experiences with what works to reduce GHG emissions at other schools, harness the intellectual power in higher education to figure out what works. Some schools in other parts of the US have developed very innovative strategies to reduce energy demand and GHG emissions.

For more information, contact DEP's Donald Brown, PCIEP director, at 717-783-8504 or send email to brownd@state.pa.us.

Ribbon Cut on Westmoreland's First Green Rehabilitated Commercial Building

This week state and local dignitaries; conservation, agriculture, and rural development agency representatives; members of the philanthropic community; and interested members of the public gathered to cut the ribbon on the "GreenForge" building.

They're called the event a "Green Breaking."

"Because this project is a rehab and not new construction, we can't technically call this a 'ground-breaking,'" explained Greg Phillips, district manager/CEO of the Westmoreland Conservation District, one of the project's main partners. "But it serves much the same purpose: to publicly announce the project...recognize the people who are helping to make it happen -- its board, partners, and funders...and give everyone a look inside -- at the space available and some of the innovative approaches we plan to incorporate, including the county's first-ever green roof."

In addition to Phillips, speakers included Kathleen McGinty, Secretary of the Department of Environmental Protection; Tom Balya, chairman of the Westmoreland County Commissioners; and Larry Larese, executive director of the Westmoreland County Industrial Development corporation.

The [Westmoreland Conservation District](#) and its lead partners in the project, the Westmoreland Industrial Development Corporation Inc. and the Katherine Mabis McKenna Foundation, have named the 23,000-square-foot commercial building "[GreenForge](#)." And they set a goal of rehabbing the 1980s-era structure in such a way that is both efficient and sustainable.



Larry Larese, executive director, Westmoreland County Industrial Development Corporation; Kathleen McGinty, secretary, Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection; Tom Balya, chairman, Westmoreland County Commissioners; Gregory Phillips, district manager/CEO, Westmoreland Conservation District

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They plan to raise the conservation-quality of the building materials, operating systems, and design to a standard high enough to attain Silver-level certification from The LEED (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design) Green Building Rating System. Members of the U.S. Green Building Council, representing all segments of the building industry, developed this rating system.

Among the many conservation features they plan to install in GreenForge are:

- the first green roof in Westmoreland County (this roof actually will be covered with growing, green plants);
- a geothermal system for heat and cooling; and
- a photovoltaic array to supply some of the building's electrical needs.

GreenForge also most likely have the distinction of being the first building project in the county to increase the number of parking spaces associated with it, while decreasing the amount of impervious (paved) surfaces. GreenForge will achieve this by retrofitting the current asphalt parking lots with bioretention cells (landscaped islands that work as a catch basin to capture and slowly release rain and melting snow into the ground).

Not only will the conservation measures incorporated into GreenForge reduce the impact of the building's operation on the air, water, and man-made environment (e.g., less water added to the municipal storm sewer system), they also will serve as teaching tools to help raise awareness of these practices and encourage their wider adoption.

"All of the conservation materials and technologies incorporated in the building and its grounds will be used in our outreach efforts," Phillips explained. "We will invite area engineers, developers, earthmovers, architects, and others involved in the building trade, as well as local homeowners, to come to GreenForge to see these things in action and to get information about how well they work."

Even while the rehabilitation work at GreenForge is going on, tenants already are signing up to move into the new space. [Westmoreland PA Cleanways](#), a grassroots organization that fights litter and illegal dumping and promotes recycling; the [Western Pennsylvania Coalition for Abandoned Mine Reclamation](#), a group of that works to clean up land and water damaged by past coal-mining practices in 24 counties in western Pennsylvania; and the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Rural Development agency, will be the first to move in.

"We see GreenForge as a logical extension of what already has become a "conservation campus" along Donohoe Road," Phillips said. Donohoe Center, the conservation District's barn headquarters, the Ann Rudd Saxman Nature Park, and the County Public Works building all have related missions and all are physically located side-by-side along that roadway.

"We would like to use GreenForge to draw even more like-minded agencies to this campus, so that we could have the benefit of regular – maybe even daily – collaboration on our efforts to restore and conserve the region's natural resources, and to support the county's number one industry, agriculture," Phillips added.

Total costs to purchase and rehab the GreenForge building are projected to be just over \$2 million.

A capital fundraising campaign launched late last year has raised some \$960,000 in support for the project to-date from a variety of sources, including the Katherine Mabis McKenna Foundation; the Richard King Mellon Foundation; the Energy Harvest grant program of the Department of Environmental Protection; the West Penn Power Sustainable

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Energy Fund; the Westmoreland County Industrial Development Corporation; Kim Edward Miller, president of Wolf Lake Incorporated; and Richard Glance, architect.

The Westmoreland County Commissioners also have included GreenForge on the county Growing Greener Initiative project list.

Link: [Westmoreland Conservation Campus Expanding to Include “GreenForge”](#)

PUC Approves Plan to Re-bid Pike County Electric Rates

The Public Utility Commission this week approved a retail aggregation bidding program for the Pike County Light & Power service territory that it hopes will reduce the 129 percent rate hike experienced by utility customers there.

The Commission action stemmed from unique circumstances that resulted in Pike County consumers experiencing unprecedented increases in rates. The initial wholesale auction process for purchasing power for those consumers was affected by many factors including the timing of the auction, which occurred during peak natural gas prices; minimal auction participants and no competitive retail activity in the area.

Retail aggregation programs pool electric consumers for the purpose of purchasing electric power collectively. An auction will be held next week to determine who will administer such a program for PCLP consumers. All participating bidders must demonstrate the capability to serve residential consumers by indicating adequate staffing at service centers to field questions from residential consumers.

After the Commission renews all of the bids, it may name a winning Electric Generation Supplier (EGS) on April 28.

Under the approved retail aggregation program, all Pike County Light & Power consumers will automatically be enrolled with the winning EGS. If they wish to remain with PCLP, consumers will have to opt-out of the retail aggregation program.

Consumers should begin to receive notifications and educational information on the program from PCLP and the winning EGS in May. Consumers can opt-out of the program at any time. Consumers will begin receiving service from the winning EGS the first part of June.

NewsClip: [PUC Approves Plan to Lower Electricity Price](#)

Link: [PUC OKs Program to Help Pike Cope with 129% Electric Cost Increase](#)

Hampden Township Receives Regional Award for Environmental Performance

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency presented the Hampden Township Sewer Authority in Cumberland County with a regional award for excellence in operation and maintenance of its wastewater treatment facility.

The award honors the staff involved in the day-to-day operations of the facility, and recognizes local officials for their commitment to maintain and protect their community’s environment. The authority is receiving the award in the “medium-advanced” category, which consists of facilities that treat between one and 10 million gallons of sewage per day.

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“Many significant improvements in our nation’s water quality can be attributed to better wastewater treatment. This award recognizes the outstanding job that people at Hampden Township are doing with the maintenance and operation of their wastewater treatment facility,” said Donald S. Welsh, regional administrator for EPA’s mid-Atlantic region.

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

Welsh said the management and staff of the treatment plant are to be congratulated for their professionalism and determination.

Pay a Visit to the 'Treevitalize Great Tree Jamboree' and Plant a Tree

Residents of southeast Pennsylvania are invited to celebrate spring at one of five [TreeVitalize](#) Great Tree Jamboree events and receive a rebate of up to \$25 to plant a tree at home.

The Department of Conservation and Natural Resources, which spearheads the public/private TreeVitalize effort to plant 20,000 trees in the five-county Philadelphia area, is partnering with the Pennsylvania Horticultural Society on the tree jamborees. The rebates being offered are for southeastern Pennsylvania residents and cover 25 percent of the cost of a tree purchased, up to \$25 dollars.

There is a Great Tree Jamboree event in each of the five counties this spring:

- **Delaware County:** April 22, 10 a.m. to noon, at the Rose Tree Park Earth Day celebration, Media. Local officials will plant a tree. A tree sale, plus tree care and maintenance tips will also be offered.
- **Chester County:** April 29, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., at the Warwick Outdoor Fest in Warwick County Park, Pottstown. There will be several family-oriented activities and demonstrations at the event. A tree sale, plus tree care and maintenance tips also will be offered.
- **Montgomery County:** April 29, 8 a.m. to 11 a.m., at the Hatfield Community Earth Day at the Public Works Complex in Hatfield. This is a community service day involving local Boy Scout troops and volunteers. Rebate coupons for trees will be available.
- **Bucks County:** May 6, 10 a.m. to 6 p.m., at the Peddlers Village Strawberry Festival in Lahaska. Visit the festival for children's activities, tree care demonstrations and a tree sale.
- **Philadelphia:** , May 14, 10 a.m. to noon at the Friends Hospital Garden Day at Friends Hospital on Roosevelt Boulevard. The event includes tree care and maintenance tips, public tours of the hospital grounds and a plant sale in the greenhouse.

Other TreeVitalize partners are the state Department of Environmental Protection, Aqua Pennsylvania, Philadelphia Eagles, PECO, U.S. Forest Service, Pennsylvania Horticultural Society, Morris Arboretum, William Penn Foundation, Pennsylvania Landscape and Nursery Association, Penn State Cooperative Extension, Fairmount Park Commission, and county and local governments.

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

Board OKs Antlerless Deer License Allocations, Groups Point Out Deer Damage

The Board of Game Commissioners this week approved antlerless license allocations for each of the 22 Wildlife Management Units based on measurements of deer health; habitat health; level of deer-human conflicts based on DMAP participation; and recent population trends.

[A listing of the approved allocations for each WMU is available online.](#)

At the same time, the PA Landscape and Nursery Association, Grange, Audubon PA and others commended the Commission for its recent action to release an [Urban/Suburban Deer Management Plan](#) for comment.

Each group gave examples of how an over abundance of deer in some areas have damaged nursery operations, farms and forest habitat.

The House Agriculture and Rural Affairs Committee held the [first of two hearings](#) on the damage caused by two weeks ago, and the second is coming up on April 26

For more information on the measurements used to determine deer and habitat health, see the [Deer Management webpage](#).

NewsClips: [Reproduction Rates Key to Deer Management](#)

[Thinning Deer Herd](#)

[PA Deer Cutback Continues](#)

[Outdoors: Emphasis on Habitat Growing in Deer Management](#)

[Game Commission Relies on Habitat, Health in Deer Allotment](#)

[Deer Management Program to Continue](#)

Allegheny PA CleanWays Sets Trash, Invasive Species Cleanup for May 6



[PA CleanWays of Allegheny County, Inc.](#) and the Mt. Washington Community Development Corporation have scheduled a cleanup for May 6 in Mt. Washington, Pittsburgh.

The cleanup will involve the removal of household waste, furniture, appliances, construction debris, and tires from an approximate 200 yard stretch of wooded hillside within the newly created Grand View Scenic Byway Park. In addition to cleaning up the site, volunteers will work to remove invasive species from the cleanup area and plant native species.

“This cleanup is part of an ongoing effort by PACWAC to encourage preservation and stewardship of the greenways within Allegheny County,” said PACWAC Board President, Ginette Walker Vinski. “It is time to restore the natural beauty of the steep wooded slopes along Williams Street that have long been marred by garbage and debris.”

“We’re thrilled to have DCNR funding and the partnership of PA CleanWays of Allegheny County to help with this truly large-scale cleanup effort; one of a series of ongoing partnerships that will help us create a world-class city park for current and future generations to enjoy,” stated Lynne Squilla, President of MWDCD.

Volunteers will meet at 9:00 a.m. in the parking lot of La Tavola Italian Restaurant, 1 Boggs Avenue, Pittsburgh 15211. Lunch will be provided. Volunteers must be a

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minimum age of 16 and must be able to traverse steep terrain. This site is rated as “more difficult” in terms of ease of cleanup. Volunteers should wear long pants, long sleeves and sturdy shoes.

Funding for this project was provided through the Department of Conservation and Natural Resources.

For more information or to volunteer, contact Lee Haller, [PA CleanWays of Allegheny County](#), at 412-381-1301 or pacw_ac@hotmail.com.

Brian Hill Named President & CEO of PA Environmental Council



Pennsylvania
Environmental
Council

The [Pennsylvania Environmental Council](#), a leading voice for Pennsylvania’s environment for nearly four decades, this week announced the selection of Brian J. Hill as the organization’s new President and CEO.

Paul King, QEP, Chair of the group’s Board of Directors, stated that “Brian is clearly the right person to lead this organization as we step up the pace of environmental advocacy in Pennsylvania. Brian knows the organization and he knows Pennsylvania. We believe that this knowledge is essential for our new CEO to be successful.”

In response to his appointment, Hill stated that, “The Pennsylvania Environmental Council is the premier environmental group in the state. No other organization can match our geographic coverage or organizational capabilities to identify conservation opportunities and implement solutions on a regional and statewide basis. We are blessed with an outstanding staff and a top notch board of directors. I am honored and delighted that our Board has tapped me to lead this organization.”

Hill added, “I intend to build on the good work of our previous Presidents and directors. Throughout the Commonwealth, we will continue to accomplish our goals through partnerships with individuals, businesses, and local, regional and statewide groups that share our commitment to resource protection. Conservation through cooperation remains a driving force for the Council.”

In speaking of the board’s reasons for choosing Hill, King stated that “Brian has worked in this state and in this field for close to twenty years, dedicating his career to furthering the environment, sustainable development, and improving the quality of life for all Pennsylvanians.”

He also focused on Hill’s experience as an advocate and fundraiser, his commitment to the Council, and knowledge of Pennsylvania’s resources as key reasons for his selection.

Hill’s resume includes non-profit and government experience. In 2004 and 2005, Hill served as an executive senior policy adviser to Governor Ed Rendell on environmental and transportation issues.

He has also served as PEC’s Vice President for Watersheds, Director of the award winning French Creek Project in northwestern Pennsylvania, Director of the Council’s Western Pennsylvania Office in Pittsburgh, and Director of Research and Education for the Council in Philadelphia.

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Hill has an extensive background in public policy, interacting with the Pennsylvania Congressional delegation, the General Assembly, and Republican and Democratic Administrations.

Hill also served on Meadville City Council for over six years, where he was particularly interested in downtown revitalization and economic development issues.

The Council's Board of Directors worked with Dewey & Kaye, a Pittsburgh based firm, to conduct a nation-wide search for a CEO.

Over forty qualified individuals from across the country applied for the position which opened when Andrew McElwaine, a highly regarded environmental leader, took a position with the Conservancy of Southwest Florida.

McElwaine noted that Hill "is extremely qualified to protect Pennsylvania's natural resources. He knows the state and its people, he's respected in the Capitol, and he has vast knowledge of the state's lands and waters."

Joanne Denworth, former PEC President & CEO and senior policy manager in Governor Rendell's office praised Hill's appointment. "Brian was the first person I hired when I was President of PEC, and he remains high on my list of as one of the best persons I have ever worked with."

King affirmed this sentiment and added, "In the past year the board of directors has reaffirmed its commitment to our advocacy and project work. Now we are prepared to take this work to a whole new level and share this message with a whole new group of individual and business supporters who will make our work possible."

Throughout the upcoming fiscal year, the Council will host a series of regional events for friends of the organization to gather and hear about future initiatives and endeavors.

For more information, visit the [PA Environmental Council website](#). [Most recent newsletter](#).

PA Chapter National Brownfields Association Meets May 9

Meet other brownfield professionals and hear updates on the Land Recycling Program from the [PA Chapter of the National Brownfields Association](#) on May 9 in Johnstown.

In addition to informative briefings and networking opportunities there will be a tour of local brownfield sites, including: Cambria Iron Works, the Franklin Mills site and the Johnstown High School Athletic Field/Trojan Stadium.

For more information, visit the [PA Chapter of the National Brownfields Association website](#).

See & Hear

Peregrine Falcons to be Banded During Live Webcast May 24



The Department of Environmental Protection and the Game Commission will hold their annual Peregrine Falcon banding event on May 24 and will webcast the event live from the [Harrisburg Falcon webpage](#).

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The event will be held from 12:30 p.m. to 2 p.m. on May 24, in the Rachel Carson State Office Building’s auditorium in Harrisburg.

Although not a public event, DEP is inviting midstate teachers, non-formal educators and students to attend where biologists will weigh and band the newly hatched nestlings, called eyases.

When the falcon eggs hatch, the young falcons will “pip” through their shells, after which the female will eat the shells to clean the nest and regain calcium. On May 24, biologists will retrieve the young peregrines from the nest located on the 15th Floor of the Rachel Carson State Office Building.

Students and teachers will witness the biologists placing an alphanumeric metal band around the left leg each of the eyases’ with a falcon-specific code. The band code will be used by wildlife officials to monitor the birds once they leave the nest. In addition, a U.S. Fish and Wildlife band will be placed on the eyases’ right leg registering each on a federal banding database.

This banding is a unique opportunity for teachers and students to witness firsthand wildlife management techniques to reintroduce and monitor endangered species in the Commonwealth.

To register for Peregrine Falcon banding event, mid-state educators should contact DEP’s Environmental Education and Information Center at 717-772-1644 or send email to adevine@state.pa.us by May 17.

Space is limited, so registrations will be accepted on a first-come, first-service basis.

For more information, visit the [Harrisburg Falcon webpage](#).

Feature

Loyalhanna Watershed Assn. Recognized With Governor’s Award



DEP Secretary Kathleen McGinty and Drew Banas, Executive Director, Loyalhanna Watershed Assn. *DEP Photo*

Environmental Protection Secretary Kathleen A. McGinty this week honored the Loyalhanna Watershed Association for operating the state’s only privately run e-cycling program, which provides a convenient location for residents to dispose of small household, office and computer items free of charge.

The Association was one of 12 winners of the Governor’s Award for Environmental Excellence, announced April 12.

“The Loyalhanna Watershed Association is at the forefront of electronics recycling in Pennsylvania,” Secretary McGinty said during a tour of the facility. “By providing a way for residents to safely recycle outdated electronics, the association is ensuring the safe management of hazardous components and enabling the recovery and reuse of

valuable materials.”

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Since the start of the Loyalhanna Watershed Association's e-cycling program, more than 76 tons of electronics have been recycled. On average, the program -- which attracts recyclers from as far away as Fox Chapel, Allegheny County, and Indiana, Indiana County -- recycles 275 computers and 225 televisions each year.

Electronics differ from traditional aluminum can and newspaper recycling efforts in that electronics contain materials that can be hazardous to the environment, including lead, mercury, silver, chromium, zinc and cadmium. These toxic materials can present environmental and public health problems. E-cycling reduces the amount of toxics entering the waste stream, saves landfill space and conserves natural resources.

The association's e-cycling program is now one of just 13 in Pennsylvania, and the only one run by a private organization. As of last fall, Loyalhanna's program was one of only four free permanent electronics recycling centers in the state.

"The association's efforts offer residents insights to help them not only minimize pollution and create a better environment, but also to support the economy by helping to build the market for recycled products," Secretary McGinty said.

Pennsylvania's recycling industry is a leader in employment, payroll and sales numbers. More than 3,247 recycling and reuse businesses and organizations generate more than \$18.4 billion in gross annual sales and provide jobs for more than 81,322 employees at an annual payroll of approximately \$2.9 billion. These businesses add more than \$305 million in taxes to the state treasury.

In 2004, nearly 4.8 million tons of waste was recovered in Pennsylvania. The economic value of remaking that waste into new and useful products exceeded \$113 million. Communities avoided more than \$259 million in disposal costs based on the estimated statewide average disposal cost of \$54 per ton.

Link: [12 Winners Announced for Governor's Environmental Excellence Award](#)

Quick Clips

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

[Concern Growing Over Lack of Rain](#)

[Eco-Coup Fires Students' Dreams](#)

[Students Get Message from Rachel Carson Performance](#)

[Ridgeway Schools Applauded for Pioneering Food Waste Recycling](#)

[Episcopal Academy Joins Environmental Program](#)

[Perkasie Eyeing Wind Energy](#)

[Lehigh U. Fired Up Over Alternative Fuels](#)

[U.S. DOE Conducts Energy Savings Assessments](#)

[U.S. Greenhouse Gas Inventory Report Released](#)

[Pittsburgh's Convention Center's Conservation Efforts Have Broad Impact](#)

[Shades of Green – Today's Young Environmental Activists](#)

[Residents Swept Up in Great PA Cleanup](#)

[Great PA Cleanup Will be Staged Saturday](#)

[Lawmaker Wants to Add Fee to New Homes](#)

[Lehigh Municipalities to Discuss Regional Plan](#)

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[Southern Alleghenies Counties Work Toward Plan Development](#)
[Coplay Take a Walk for Nature, Earth Day](#)
[Local Conservation Groups Join to Celebrate Earth Day](#)
[Photo Contest Runs as Part of Earth Day Celebration](#)
[Editorial: Organic Farming Offers Societal Benefits](#)
[State Unplugs Workers' Appliances](#)
[Reproduction Rates Key to Deer Management](#)
[PA Deer Cutback Continues](#)
[Outdoors: Emphasis on Habitat Growing in Deer Management](#)
[Game Commission Relies on habitat, Health in Antlerless Deer Allotment](#)
[Deer Management Program to Continue](#)
[To Save River's Egrets, Herons, State Takes on "Devil Bird"](#)
[Rendell Halts Philadelphia Riverfront Projects](#)
[Editorial: Eminent Domain](#)
[Ethanol Reality Check](#)
[New Law Aims to Protect Farmers, Targets Eco-Terrorism](#)
[Environmental Advisory Council Distributes Information on Hazards to Children](#)
[Conservancy Secures Land Near Cranberry Bog](#)
[PSU Honored for Pollution Controls](#)

Watershed NewsClips

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

[Saving Valley Creek for Wild Trout](#)
[Big Spring Creek Making Come Back in Trout World](#)
[Susquehanna Off Endangered Rivers List, But It Does Not Mean It's OK](#)
[Clarion River Plan Hits Snag](#)
[Westmoreland Tour Highlights Conservation Efforts](#)
[Butler County Farmers Take Advantage of Conservation Program](#)
[Trout Anglers Catch Challenge in Creeks](#)
[Shad Tournament Reels in New Anglers](#)
[To Save River's Egrets, Herons, State Takes on "Devil Bird"](#)
[Dams to be Removed on Perkiomen Creek](#)
[Nutrient Reduction Technology Conference Held](#)

Watershed Awareness Month Activities

This special Calendar section is devoted to activities going on in and around Watershed Awareness Month in May. If you have events to add, send them to:
DHess@HolstonCrisci.com.

Beaver County

- **April 29, May 6, 13, 20, June 3** – [Tire Collection Events](#) at various locations around the county starting at 9:00 a.m. at all locations.

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- **April 22** – [Route 68 at Industry Borough Cleanup](#) from Sebring Road to Barclay Hill Road. Meet at Merrill's Landing Restaurant at 8:30.

Blair County

- **May 12** – Water Festival sponsored by the [Blair County Conservation District](#), the Altoona City Authority, the Allegheny Ridge Corp and local watershed groups to educate the public of all ages on the value and necessity of protecting water through fun indoor and outdoor activities. Contact: Becky Albaugh, 814-696-0877 ext. 5 or send email to: americorps@blairconservationdistrict.org .

Bucks County

- **April 22** – Neshaminy State Park Cleanup. Meet at State Park Office at 9:00. Contact: Sue Snyder, 1-877-772-3673 or send email to: ssnyder@pacleanways.org .

Centre County

- **April 22** – [ClearWater Conservancy](#) annual Watershed Clean Up day, State College. Contact Becky Dunlap at becky@clearwaterconservancy.org or at 237-0400 for more information.
- **May 1- 6** – [ClearWater Conservancy](#) is sponsoring the Beatty Memorial Arbor Day Planting of a 500-foot long riparian buffer at the State College Elks country Club. Volunteers are need to plant 600 native trees and shrubs. RSVP for May 6 by calling 717-237-0400 or emailing katie@clearwaterconservancy.org .

Erie County

- **April 24-28** – Earth Force Storm Drain Stenciling Week – Call 814-835-8069 to participate
- **May 3** – Earth Force Annual Youth Summit, Presque Isle State Park – Call 814-835-8069
- **May 20** – 4th Annual Bike Around the Bay event for Earth Force youth program, 10, 30 and 50 mile routes - all proceeds go to Earth Force youth program – Call 814-835-8069 or bab@lea.earthforce.org
- For more information on Erie County events, send email to: ssmith@lea.earthforce.org.

Fayette County

- **May 8** – **Fayette County Children's Water Festival.** Penn State Fayette-The Eberly Campus. 1,000+ sixth graders will hear presenters, participate in demonstrations and visit exhibitors organized by 150 volunteers and is funded by the Conservation District, Western PA Conservancy, local water suppliers, watershed groups, school districts, DEP, Ohio State Park and local businesses. Contact: heatherdfowler@yahoo.com .
NewsClip: [Fayette Water Festival-GreenTreks Network](#)

Greene & Washington Counties

- **April 30** – [Wheeling Creek Watershed Conservancy](#) holds its annual Spring Wildflower Walk and Enlow fork Spring Extravaganza near Wind Ridge on Gamelands 302. Migratory bird, wild flower, tree and butterfly identification along

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with other critters with background presentations on watershed conservation topics.
Contact: 724-627-7871 or send email to: cnelson@greenepa.net .

Lancaster County

- **May 9-** [Lititz Run Watershed Alliance Watershed Day](#) for 350+ 5th graders in Warwick School District spend a day filled with conservation/wetland/watershed information and activities. Volunteers from numerous businesses and organizations who volunteer every year. Lancaster County Conservation District, Susquehanna River Basin Commission, Game Commission, Johnson & Johnson, Merck, Severn Trent, Lititz Sportsmen's Assoc. Trout Unlimited, and numerous others sponsor the event. This event is not open to the public limited to the children and their teachers.

Monroe County

- **May 20** – [Tobyhanna Creek/Tunkhannock Creek Watershed Association](#) Wetland Trail Ribbon Cutting. Pocono Mountain West High School. 10:00 a.m. Contact: 570-643-2001 or send email to: mlord@ptd.net .
- **May 20** – [Aquashicola Pohopoco Watershed Conservancy](#) Open House. Polk Township Park (Rt. 534 in Kresgeville). 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. Contact 610-681-4873 or send email to: info@apwc-pa.org .
- **May 21** – Bank and Stream Life in Our Watershed Program by [North Pocono CARE](#). Learn how you can help to preserve this heritage by visiting the Thornhurst Volunteer Fire & Rescue Company Annual Auto, Truck and Motorcycle Show. 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. Contact: 570-472-3274 or send email to: NPCARE@att.net .
- **May 27** – [Broadhead Watershed Association](#) River Ramble III. Pick up your map and directions and set off on this self-guided tour of creeks and other waterbodies in the Broadhead Watershed. An “after-Ramble” gathering is planned at 4:30. Meet at the Barrett Friendly Library in Mountainhome at 1:00 p.m. Contact: 570-839-1120 or send email to: brodheadwater@enter.net .

Montgomery County

- **May 6** – [Green Valleys Association Envirofest Family Fun Festival](#). A 5K run, birds of prey, music, environment-friendly living demonstrations, native plant sale, displays and food will all be part of the fun.

Philadelphia County

- **April 22** – Poquessing Watershed Cleanup, Philadelphia. Meet at Frankford Ave. and Hegerman St, behind 7-11 at 9:00 a.m.. Contact: Sue Snyder, 1-877-772-3673 or send email to: ssnyder@pacleanways.org .
- **May 6** – Tookany/Tacony-Frankford Watershed Cleanups, Philadelphia. Meet at Bingham St. & D St and look for cleanup signs at 9:00 a.m. Contact: Sue Snyder, 1-877-772-3673 or send email to: ssnyder@pacleanways.org .
- **May 23** – [Saylor Grove Wetland Dedication](#), Philadelphia Water Department. Lincoln Dr. & Wissahickon Dr. and Rittenhouse Ave, Philadelphia. 6-8:00 p.m. Contact: Tiffany.Ledesma@phila.gov 215-499-3756.

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Venango County

- **May 13** – South Sandy Creek Watershed Association [recycling and reptile program](#) at the Mineral Township Building along Rout 965. Contact: Valerie Tarkowski at 814-425-7308 or send email to: penguin42@earthlink.net.

York County

- **April 22** – York County Stream Steward Cleanup Day, 9 am to 1 pm, multiple locations: The locations are: 1) PPL's Susquehanna River Boat Access Area on Wago Road, E. Manchester, 2) Outboard Boating Club, Pequea Borough, Lancaster County, 3) Lock 12 Public Access Area, Holtwood, York County, 4) Mill Creek at Chestnut Hill Road, York Township, and 5) Willis Run, Lincoln Park, City of York. Please contact Gary R. Peacock at 717-840-7430 or by email to gpeacock@yorkccd.org to register.
- **April 30 to May 7** – [National Soil & Water Stewardship Week](#)
- **May 2-3** – York County Envirothon grades 7 & 8 and 5 & 6
- **May 5** – Greater Hanover Alliance hosting Regional Watershed Protection Workshop for Municipal Officials, 8 am to 4 pm, location TBA
- **May 9**- York County Envirothon grades 3 & 4
- **May 9**- York County Envirothon grades 3 & 4
- **May 13**– Restoration Monitoring Workshop, 8 am to 4 pm, at Penn State York
- **May 18**– CCWA's 9th Annual Meeting, 7 pm, at York Water Company's Lake Redman facility
- **May 22**– What's the Big Deal about Invasives? Workshop, 7-9 pm at ANNEX, sponsored by MAEscapes

For more information on York activities is available from Gary Peacock, York Watershed Specialist, by sending email to: GPeacock@Yorkccd.org .

Regulations

The Department of Environmental Protection [published proposed regulations](#) changing storage tank requirements for comments (*PaB page 1851*). Comments are due June 29.

[Pennsylvania Bulletin – April 22, 2006](#)

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

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

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

Technical Guidance & Permits

The Department of Public Welfare [published notice of hearings](#) and opportunity to comment on the proposed 2006-07 Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program Plan.

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

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

Calendar of Upcoming Events

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

- [Notice of Regional State Water Plan Advisory Committee meetings.](#)
- **April 24** – Senate Appropriations Committee meets to consider [House Bill 2317](#) (Feese-R-Lycoming) establishing the 2005-2006 Capital Budget for flood control, Keystone Recreation, Environmental Stewardship projects.
- **April 25** – Senate Environmental Resources and Energy Committee holds a hearing on reducing mercury emissions from coal-fired power plants and to consider [Senate Resolution 259](#) (Musto-D-Luzerne) designating May as Drinking Water Awareness month. Hearing Room 1, North Office Building. 10:00.
- **April 25** – House Environmental Resources & Energy Committee meeting to consider [House Bill 2042](#) (Reichley-R-Berks) increasing penalties under the Clean Streams Law; [House Bill 1195](#) (Yudichak-D-Luzerne) that makes changes to the program to help underground tank owners upgrade tanks; and [Senate Bill 868](#) (Scarnati-R-Warren) increasing the forest land in-lieu of tax payment. Hearing Room 1, North Office Building. 9:00.
- **April 25** – [PA Energy Development Authority](#) meeting. Room 105 Rachel Carson Building, Harrisburg. 2:00.
- **April 26** – House Agriculture & Rural Affairs Committee public hearing on deer damage. Hearing Room 2, North Office Building. 9:30.
- **April 26** – House Transportation Committee meeting to consider [House Bill 2502](#) (Reichley-R-Berks) setting a fee cap of \$10 on vehicle emissions inspection exemption test. Room 205 Ryan Building. 10:00.
- **April 26** – [DCNR Conservation and Natural Resources Advisory Council](#). Room 105 Rachel Carson Building. 10:00.
- **April 26** – DEP [Air Quality Technical Advisory Committee](#) Ad-Hoc Subcommittee on Monitoring meeting. 14th Floor Conference Room, Rachel Carson Building. 9:30 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.
- **April 27** – **RESCHEDULED** -Governor’s Invasive Species Council meeting. Erie Room 309, PA Fish & Boat Commission Building, Harrisburg. 10:00.
- **April 28-29** – [PA Land Conservation Conference](#). State College.
- **May 2** – Senate Environmental Resources and Energy Committee holds a hearing on reducing mercury emissions from coal-fired power plants. Room 8E-B East Wing. 9:00.

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- **May 2** – Joint Senate/House Agriculture Committees informational meeting to discuss conservation issues and the 2007 Federal Farm Bill. Room 156. 9:30.
- **May 2** – House Environmental Resources & Energy Committee informational meeting on State Water Resources Planning. Hearing Room 1, North Office Building. 9:00.
- **May 5** – Forestry Task Force meeting ([Joint Legislative Air and Water Pollution Control and Conservation Committee](#)). Penn Stater Conference Center. State College. 10:00.
- **May 18-19** – [2006 Pennsylvania Heritage Partnerships Conference](#). Preservation PA. Franklin, Venango County.
- **May 20** – Dauphin County Community Recycling Event. HACC Parking Lot. 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 a.m.
- **May 26** - DEP [Chesapeake Bay Tributary Strategy Steering Committee](#) meeting. Room 105 Rachel Carson Building. 10:00 to 1:00.
- **June 12** – [Joint Legislative Air and Water Pollution Control and Conservation Committee](#) Environmental Issues Forum – Jim MacKenzie, [Octoraro Native Plant Nursery](#) “Going Native – Opportunities for Using Native Plants in Pennsylvania.” Room 205 Ryan Building. 12:00.
- **July 19** – Governor’s Invasive Species Council meeting. Agriculture Building, 2301 N. Cameron St., Harrisburg.
- **October 31-November 5** – [National Historic Preservation Conference](#). National Trust for Historic Preservation. Pittsburgh.

[DEP Calendar of Events](#)

[Watershed Events](#)

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

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

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Stories Invited

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

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