

— PA — Environment Digest

*An Update on
Environmental
Issues in
Pennsylvania*

Edited By David E. Hess, Crisci Associates

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Winners Announced for 2007 Western PA Environmental Awards



The five winners of the Western Pennsylvania Environmental Awards, co-sponsored by the [Pennsylvania Environmental Council](#) and [Dominion](#), were announced this week at a special awards ceremony in Pittsburgh.

The awards recognize and honor outstanding accomplishments in various environmental initiatives throughout western Pennsylvania. The awards include cash prizes of \$5,000 to be donated to local nonprofit environmental organizations designated by each winner.

The award winners were selected in four categories: Community, High Education, Primary & Secondary Education, and Business—

Secretary Michael DiBerardinis, Department of Conservation and Natural

Resources: [Secretary DiBerardinis](#) is working to bring about a new Pennsylvania by making teammates of former enemies: A Pennsylvania where the environment spurs the economy, and the economy restores the environment; a Pennsylvania where our natural resources combine with our human ingenuity to create a thriving region; a state where we want to see our children grow up. He is leading DCNR beyond its historic role as a steward of lands, into a new powerful partner for economic development in rural Pennsylvania.

Dr. Joseph Mark Shostell, Assistant Professor of Biology, Penn State-Fayette: Dr. Shostell has a passion for environmental science research, mentoring, teaching and community action and he shares his passion with the students he teaches and the community. Through hands-on environmental research projects such as assessing the health of stream ecosystems in abandoned mine areas, and evaluating auto salvage yards as sources of toxicants, Dr. Shostell has improved community awareness of watershed issues and encouraged a sense of self responsibility within his students.

The \$5,000 prize will be awarded to Penn State-Fayette Biology Department for Environmental Resource and Ecology Research

Laura L. Jackson, [Bedford High School](#): Laura Jackson has been a science educator for over 32 years and currently teaches environmental science and advanced biology at Bedford High School in Bedford, Pennsylvania. Laura's goal for her ninth grade environmental science students is to help them understand the importance of a healthy watershed. To do this Laura's students toured local farms and observed first-hand how land use impacts stream health. In addition, students participated in hands-on field work

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ranging from stream monitoring and building mussel buckets, to planting trees in riparian buffer areas.

The \$5,000 award will go to the Juniata Valley Audubon Society.

PPG Industries Performance Glazings: For more than a century, PPG has been a leading manufacturer of residential glass products. [PPG's Performance Glazings](#) business recently introduced a new product, Solarban 70XL Solar Control Low-E Glass. This product represents a major industry innovation, as it transmits 63 percent of the sun's natural light while blocking 73 percent of its solar energy. Solarban 70XL glass can reduce significantly the amount of energy it takes to cool large commercial buildings, thereby allowing architects and building owners to drastically reduce the cooling capacity and equipment requirements for their buildings.

The \$5,000 award will go to Phipps Conservatory and Botanical Gardens.

United States Steel Corporation: In 2006 [United States Steel Corporation](#) voluntarily transformed a 1.89 linear brownfield into a ready-made trail corridor that will help complete the Great Allegheny Passage, part of a premier trail system that will connect Pittsburgh to Washington, D.C.

The \$5,000 award goes to the Allegheny Trail Alliance.

Funding for the awards comes from the Dominion Foundation, which is dedicated to the economic, physical and social health of the communities served by Dominion companies.

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Session Schedule

The Senate and House return to voting session June 11 and will be in session through June.

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On the Hill

On the Senate/House Agenda/Bills Introduced

The Senate and Senate return to voting session June 11. Here's what's on the agenda this week--

House

Calendar: [House Resolution 112](#) (Mann-D-Lehigh) directing DEP to implement policies that encourage electronic waste recycling; [House Resolution 193](#) (Haluska-D-Cambria) directing the Legislative Budget and Finance Committee to study the future value of assets on Game Commission land; [House Resolution 122](#) (George-D-Clearfield) petitioning the President and Congress to increase funding for the Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program; [House Resolution 268](#) (Rohrer-R-Berks) directing the Legislative Budget and Finance Committee to study Game Commission forestry and mineral development policies; [House Resolution 297](#) (DeWeese-D-Greene) expressing opposition to the designation of national interest electric transmission corridors.

Committees: the Environmental Resources and Energy Committee meets to consider [House Bill 1200](#) (DePasquale-D-York) making changes to the responsibilities of the PA Energy Development Authority and [House Bill 1203](#) (Hornaman-D-Erie) amending the Alternative Energy Portfolio Standards Act in line with Gov. Rendell's Energy Independence Proposal; the Consumer Affairs Committee will hold a public hearing on [House Bill 1201](#) (George-D-Clearfield) making changes to Title 66 consistent with Gov. Rendell's Energy Independence Proposal; the Game and Fisheries Committee holds a public hearing on [House Bill 251](#) (Godshall-R-Montgomery) Amending Title 34 related to game feeders; the State Government Committee meets to discuss the issue of riparian rights and waterfront development as it relates to casino and other projects; the Agriculture and Rural Affairs Committee meets to consider [House Bill 656](#) (Bastian-R-Somerset) that would allow farms preserved under the state Clean and Green law to allow the

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development of wind farms; the Finance Committee meets to consider [House Bill 1295](#) (Hanna-D-Clinton) to amend the Keystone Recreation, Park and Conservation Fund Act to restore the allocation of funds for fiscal year 2006-07 to the State System for Higher Education.

Senate

Committee: the Finance Committee meets to consider [Senate Bill 690](#) (Waugh-R-York, O’Pake-D-Berks) establishing the Resource Enhancement and Protection Act to give farmers tax credits for installing conservation practices; the State Government Committee meets to consider [Senate Bill 752](#) (Erickson-R-Delaware) requiring a description of data used to justify regulations before the Independent Regulatory Review Commission; the Environmental Resources and Energy and Consumer Protection and Professional Licensure Committees hold a joint hearing on energy policy in Pennsylvania.

Other Meetings: Joint Legislative Air and Water Pollution Control and Conservation Committee Environmental Forum presentation by John Quigley, Department of Conservation and Natural Resources, on carbon sequestration.

Bills Introduced

Several more environmental bills were introduced this week...

PennFuels Initiative: [House Bill 1202](#) (Gerger-D-Montgomery) establishing the PennFuels Program to require renewable content in transportation fuels, part of Gov. Rendell’s Energy Independence Initiative.

Storage Tanks: [House Bill 1331](#) (Carroll-D-Luzerne) amending the Storage Tank Act to extend the sunset dates for certain programs.

Sewer/Water Connections: [House Bill 1493](#) (Rubley-R-Chester) establishing the Water and Wastewater System Connection Funding Program in PennVEST.

Long-Term Energy Contracts: [House Bill 1530](#) (Dermondy-D-Allegheny) authorizing long-term contracts to acquire electric energy.

Senate/House Bills Moving

Here’s the rundown on environmental bills moving in the General Assembly this week....

Mine Safety: [House Bill 483](#) (Bastian-R-Somerset) creating the Mine Families First Program to provide assistance to families involved in mine rescue incidents was passed by the House and sent to the Senate for consideration.

Game Commission Board: [House Bill 1214](#) (Surra-D-Elk) changing the terms of Game Commissioners from eight years to four years was passed by the House and sent to the Senate.

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Center for Environmental Education: [Senate Bill 356](#) (MJWhite-R-Venango) establishing the Pennsylvania Center for Environmental Education in law was amended to add a seat on the board for conservation districts and reported from the House Environmental Resources and Energy Committee.

Geospatial Council: House Intergovernmental Affairs Committee Subcommittee on Information Technology recommended the full committee consider [House Bill 1304](#) (Fairchild-R-Mifflin) establishing the PA Geospatial Council with an amendment to change the name of the Council. The Committee said it will schedule a public hearing on the bill.

Neighborhood Developments: [House Bill 1280](#) (Freeman-D-Lehigh) amending the Municipalities Planning Code to further define traditional neighborhood development was referred to House Appropriations Committee.

Appalachian Trail: [House Bill 1281](#) (Freeman-D-Northampton) requiring municipalities to take steps to protect the Appalachian Trail was amended and reported out of the House Local Government Committee and re-committed to House Rules Committee.

Transmission Lines: [House Resolution 297](#) (DeWeese-D-Greene) expressing opposition to the designation of national interest electric transmission corridors was reported from the House Intergovernmental Affairs Committee. **NewsClip:** [Pittsburgh Added to Public Meeting Sites for National Corridor Designations](#)

Green Schools: [House Bill 894](#) (Leach-D-Montgomery) authorizing the Department of Education to provide extra reimbursement for school building construction meeting LEED green building standards was reported from the House State Government Committee with a request that it be re-referred to the House Education Committee.

Electric Meter Loan Program: [House Bill 1297](#) (Leach-D-Montgomery) establishing an electric meter lending program in local libraries was reported out of the House Education Committee with a request the bill be referred to the House Environmental Resources and Energy Committee.

Pollution Prevention/Awards: [House Bill 772](#) (Hershey-R-Chester) establishing the Keystone Energy and Environmental Excellence Program and an energy efficiency and pollution reduction initiative was re-referred to the House Environmental Resources and Energy Committee.

Low-Income Weatherization: [House Bill 913](#) (Vereb-R-Montgomery) establishing the Low-Income Weatherization Assistance Program was re-referred to the House Environmental Resources and Energy Committee.

Main Street Program: [House Bill 420](#) (Hickernell-R-Lancaster) revising the definition of “downtown” under the Main Street Program to include mixed uses was referred to the House Appropriations Committee.

Game & Fisheries Bills: The House Game and Fisheries Committee reported out these bills-- [House Bill 1116](#) (Kortz-D-Allegheny) authorizing vouchers for game licenses (as amended), [House Bill 1109](#) (Staback-D-Lackawanna) authorizing vouchers for fishing licences (both of which were recommitted to the House Rules Committee) and [Senate Bill 580](#) (Madigan-R-Tioga) use of dogs while hunting wild turkey.

House Committee Reports Center for Environmental Education Bill

The House Environmental Resources and Energy Committee reported out [Senate Bill 356](#) (MJWhite-R-Venango) establishing the Pennsylvania Center for Environmental Education in law after amending the bill to include a seat for county conservation districts on the governing board.

The Committee is chaired by Rep. Bud George (D-Clearfield) and Rep. Scott Hutchinson (R-Venango).

Committee Hears Outline of Gov’s Energy Plan, Status of Electric Competition

The Senate Environmental Resources and Energy and Consumer Protection and Professional Licensure Committees held the first of two joint hearings on energy policy in Pennsylvania.

[Dan Desmond](#), Deputy Secretary for Energy and Technology Development at the Department of Environmental Protection, provided the committees with an overview of Gov. Rendell’s Energy Independence Initiative.

A video and copies of the comments presented at the June 5 energy policy hearing is available on the [Environmental Resources and Energy Committee webpage](#) .

Wendell F. Holland, Chairman of the Public Utility Commission, Vice Chairman James H. Cawley, Commissioner Kim Pizzingrilli and Commissioner Terrance J. Fitzpatrick; and Sonny Popowsky, Pennsylvania Consumer Advocate, provided the Committees with comments on Pennsylvania’s competitive electric market.

Desmond said the United States now faces a new energy economy dominated by imported fuels that drains billions of dollars from Pennsylvania.

The Governor’s Energy Independence Initiative would invest \$850 million in the development of advanced and clean energy technologies financed by a fee imposed on all electric customers, amend the Utility Code and Alternative Energy Portfolio Standards Act to allow for long-term electricity contracts, more flexibility in setting electric rates and to encourage more clean electricity generation and require transportation fuels to include renewable content.

A number of Senators expressed concerns with the fee proposed by Gov. Rendell to finance the investment in cleaner energy technologies.

Sen. Boscola (D-Lehigh), Minority Chair of the Consumer Protection Committee, said the new proposed fee would be “pick pocketing people” who are already going to be hit with increased electric rates when the caps on electric costs come off for most people in Pennsylvania in 2010.

Desmond said some of that increase will be offset in many areas by the elimination of the special stranded costs fee for nuclear power plants that will come off at the same time rate caps do.

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Sen. Tomlinson (R-Bucks), Majority Chair of the Consumer Protection Committee, asked why revenues from the fee were not used to upgrade existing electric generation facilities and if the Governor’s proposal includes funding for residential weatherization to reduce energy consumption for lower income households.

Desmond argued against investing more public dollars in legacy generating plants because they are now upgrading to meet federal and state environmental requirements and can’t go much further.

Sen. Mary Jo White (R-Venango), Majority Chair of the Environmental Resources and Energy Committee, noted that coal fired power plants are shutting down now in Pennsylvania due to environmental regulations and more will in the future and asked if DEP would support allocating money to keep them open.

Last week information from the PJM Interconnection, the regional electric grid operators, showed power plants are closing at a rate three times faster than new power plants are coming online.

Desmond said Pennsylvania cannot afford any deficiency in energy supplies and new plants should include the flexibility to adopt to new technologies.

[Wendell Holland](#), Chairman of the Public Utility Commission, provided an overview of the PUC’s activities relating to the transition to a competitive electricity market during his portion of the hearing and on implementation of the Alternative Energy Portfolio Standards Act.

Holland noted that Demand Side Response (energy conservation) and smart electric meters should be a major element of any future energy strategy since helping to reduce energy use during peak use periods will both reduce overall energy costs and increase electric reliability.

Holland concluded by saying pending energy legislation was “expansive” and includes many new ideas that he hoped would be the subject of further discussion before the General Assembly takes action.

[James Cawley](#), Vice-Chairman of the PUC, said public policy should empower customers to take control of their energy costs through mechanisms like time-of-use pricing, demand side management programs, distributed generation and consumer education.

Commissioner Cawley said it was not possible for Pennsylvania to return to a regulated electricity market with monopoly electric service providers, saying there is “no way to unscramble the egg.” He said public policy makers should focus on fixing the “foibles and flaws” in the existing electricity market.

Commissioner [Kim Pizzingrilli](#) echoed the sentiment of Commissioner Cawley by saying, “We need to continue to evaluate and establish policies that empower consumers to conserve energy; provide them with the tools they need to better manage their energy usage and costs; and attract and enhance the availability of alternative energy sources.”

Commissioner Pizzingrilli cited a study by the Mid-Atlantic Distributed Resources Initiative which concluded that even a modest reduction in electricity use during peak hours would reduce energy prices by \$57 million to \$182 million annually in the Mid-Atlantic region.

She noted the PUC’s budget request includes a \$5 million consumer education campaign to help prepare electricity customers for potential increases during the transition from capped electricity rates to a market-based system.

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PUC Commissioner [Terrance Fitzpatrick](#) said the biggest challenge facing Pennsylvania is successfully making the transition from paying capped prices for electricity to paying market-based prices. Some customers will see little impact, but others may experience increases of 30 percent or more. Rates have been capped since 1996.

If other fuels were capped from 1996 to 2010 like electricity, Commissioner Fitzpatrick noted gasoline prices would increase by 80 percent, fuel oil by 57 percent and coal by 91 percent.

Commissioner Fitzpatrick said increasingly stringent environmental requirements and the rising cost of coal and natural gas are helping to drive electricity prices higher and future actions to regulate carbon emissions will push costs still higher.

Commissioner Fitzpatrick also recommended great care in crafting legislation to deal with electric competition and expressed concern for provisions that state in “minute detail” how the PUC is to conduct its business. “This lack of flexibility is risky because it assumes that future events can be predicted with certainty. This approach is contrary to the tradition of giving the Commission latitude to make adjustments as circumstances change—a tradition that I believe has worked well.”

[Sonny Popowsky](#), Pennsylvania Consumer Advocate, said, “the policies that we develop between now and 2010 may determine whether Pennsylvania has a crash landing, as has occurred in some of our neighboring states, or whether we continue on what has generally been a positive path toward restructuring our electric industry.”

Popowsky called again for a portfolio approach to making the transition to a competitive electricity market that has a mix of long-term, mid-term and short-term contracts to provide electricity and that alternative energy sources should be part of the mix.

Popowsky also underscored the importance of demand side management (energy conservation, energy efficiency) in helping to reduce the cost of electricity, especially at peak use times. He said conservation is particularly important as the “inevitable impacts of global climate change regulation” become apparent.

Gov. Rendell’s Energy Independence Initiative is included in: [Senate Bill 716](#) (Musto-D-Luzerne) making changes to Title 66, [Senate Bill 715](#) (Musto-D-Luzerne) amending the Alternative Energy Portfolio Standards Act, [Senate Bill 661](#) (Wozniak-D-Cambria) giving additional responsibilities to the PA Energy Development Authority and [Senate Bill 789](#) (Dinniman-D-Chester) establishing the PennFuels Program to require renewable content in transportation fuels.

And in the House, [House Bill 1200](#) (DePasquale-D-York) making changes to the responsibilities of the PA Energy Development Authority, [House Bill 1203](#) (Hornaman-D-Erie) amending the Alternative Energy Portfolio Standards Act, [House Bill 1202](#) (Gerger-D-Montgomery) establishing the PennFuels Program to require renewable content in transportation fuels and [House Bill 1201](#) (George-D-Clearfield) making changes to Title 66.

The Senate Committees will hold a second hearing June 12 featuring testimony from the Industrial Energy Consumers of Pennsylvania, Electric Power Generation Association and the Energy Association of PA.

The Majority Chair of the [Environmental Resources and Energy Committee](#) is Sen. Mary Jo White (R-Venango) and the Minority Chair is Sen. Ray Musto (D-Luzerne) and the Majority Chair of the Consumer Protection and Professional Licensure Committee is

Sen. Tommy Tomlinson (R-Bucks) and the Minority Chair is Sen. Lisa Boscola (D-Lehigh).

Two House committees are scheduled to take up several bills in the Governor's energy package this coming week. (*see separate story*)

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

NewsClip: [PUC: Electric Competition is Here to Stay](#)

Freeman Bill to Protect Appalachian Trail Reported from Committee

Rep. Bob Freeman (D-Northampton) announced [House Bill 1281](#), that would require municipalities that border the Appalachian Trail to enact zoning and other land-use ordinances to protect the Trail was moved out of the House Local Government Committee.

"The legislature enacted legislation back in 1978 calling upon municipalities that border the Appalachian Trail to preserve the natural scenic, historic and aesthetic values of the trail, but there was no requirement for them to pass land-use ordinances to enforce that," Rep. Freeman said. "My legislation will have these bordering municipalities put in place zoning and other land-use measures necessary to preserve those values."

Rep. Freeman said the legislation was suggested by Easton environmental attorney Chot Elliot and was the result of a situation in Monroe County where a developer purchased land near the Appalachian Trail with the intent of constructing a private automobile racing club. Since the township where this development was being proposed had no zoning in place, there was little that could be done to block that inappropriate use. The development would have brought noise and other developmental problems to the area, disrupting the pristine setting of the trail.

"By requiring municipalities along the Appalachian Trail to enact good land-use ordinances, we can ensure that a conservation buffer zone would be in place to protect it," Rep. Freeman said. "The trail is one of our state's greatest scenic assets and must be protected."

Mine Families First Bill Passed by the House

This week the House passed and sent to the Senate [House Bill 483](#) (Bastian-R-Somerset, DeWeese-D-Greene) that would give families of miners who are trapped in a mine special services from the state during the emergency.

The Mine Families First Program created by the bill was modeled after steps taken by Gov. Schweiker to provide information first to the families of the nine miners trapped then successfully rescued from the [Queecreek Mine](#) in 2002.

"The Mine Families First Act recognizes that miners' loved ones deserve to be the first to know every morsel of information during these emergency circumstances. This legislation would mandate a critical two-way communications plan that offers absolutely necessary guidance and support for miners' families," said Rep. DeWeese.



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Under the bill, the Department of Environmental Protection would be required to establish a plan outlining steps to be taken by DEP and mine owners and operators during emergencies. The plan would include:

- immediate notification of mine family members in the event of a mine emergency;
- transportation to the physical location for mine families to gather and obtain information about the mine emergency and rescue efforts;
- security provisions to ensure privacy of mine families at the designated location;
- ensuring that mine families are briefed regularly, before the news media, about the progress of the emergency response;
- a mine families first liaison to serve as a 24-hour point of contact for mine families;
- coordinating the participation of nonprofit and public social service organizations that provide counseling and other social services to mine families; and
- notification and transportation of miner families to medical facilities when miners rescued from mines are given medical care.

A Mine Families First Response and Communications Advisory Council also would be created to help DEP establish the communications plan. The council would include representatives of mine owners, mine labor unions, local emergency response professionals, mental health professionals, Pennsylvania Emergency Management Agency and two members of the public.

"This is a bipartisan plan that recognizes the unfortunate and difficult time faced by miners' families during these emergencies and it puts their needs where they truly deserve to be: first," Rep. DeWeese said.

Link: [Quecreek Mine Rescue Site](#)

House Committees To Consider Rendell Energy Independence Plan Bills

The House Environmental Resources and Energy and Consumer Affairs Committees have scheduled meetings next week to consider three bills containing Gov. Rendell's Energy Independence Initiative.

The House Environmental Resources and Energy Committee meets to consider [House Bill 1200](#) (DePasquale-D-York) making changes to the responsibilities of the PA Energy Development Authority and [House Bill 1203](#) (Hornaman-D-Erie) amending the Alternative Energy Portfolio Standards Act.

The House Consumer Affairs Committee will hold a public hearing on [House Bill 1201](#) (George-D-Clearfield) making changes to Title 66 consistent with Gov. Rendell's Energy Independence Proposal.

Senate Committees Hold Second Hearing on PA Energy Policy

The Senate Environmental Resources and Energy and Consumer Protection and Professional Licensure Committees will hold their second public hearing on an energy policy for Pennsylvania June 12.

Scheduled to testify are:

- Douglas Biden, Electric Power Generation Association;
- David Kleppinger, Industrial Energy Consumers of PA;

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- Michael Love, Energy Association of PA;
- Richard Rathvon, Retail Energy Supply Association; and
- Michael Kormos, PJM Interconnection.

A video and copies of the comments presented at the June 5 energy policy hearing is available on the [Environmental Resources and Energy Committee webpage](#).

The Majority Chair of the [Environmental Resources and Energy Committee](#) is Sen. Mary Jo White (R-Venango) and the Minority Chair is Sen. Ray Musto (D-Luzerne) and the Majority Chair of the Consumer Protection and Professional Licensure Committee is Sen. Tommy Tomlinson (R-Bucks) and the Minority Chair is Sen. Lisa Boscola (D-Lehigh).

Joint Committee Hosts Forum on Carbon Sequestration June 11

Joint Legislative Air and Water Pollution Control and Conservation Committee will host another in its series of Environmental Forums on June 11 featuring a presentation on carbon sequestration and climate change.

The presentation by John Quigley, Department of Conservation and Natural Resources, will outline the steps being taken by DCNR to identify opportunities for carbon sequestration in Pennsylvania.

DCNR has formed a [Carbon Management Plan Work Group](#) that will make recommendations on how Pennsylvania can take advantage of its forests, geology and other resources to help find solutions for reducing climate-changing greenhouse gases.

The Form will be held in Room 60 East Wing of the Capitol and start at noon.

Link: [Governor Delays Climate Proposal, DCNR Continues Work on Carbon Strategy](#)

Other News

Environmental Professionals Honor Noah Wenger with Karl Mason Award

The [Pennsylvania Association of Environmental Professionals](#) announced former Sen. Noah Wenger of Lancaster County was given the [Karl Mason Award](#) to recognize his commitment to the environment, conservation, and the health of family farms.

“He has long understood that the health of our agricultural economy is crucial to the water quality in our rivers and streams, and has acted to ensure the health of both,” said Wayne Kober, representing PAEP.

After 30 years of service, Sen. Wenger retired this past December, leaving behind him a long list of accomplishments. Among them, Sen. Wenger is credited with spearheading the state’s farmland preservation



Sen. Wenger and Wayne Kober

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program, which was launched in 1989. Pennsylvania now leads the country in the total number of acres permanently protected, and last month achieved the significant milestone of 3,000 farms preserved.

Sen. Wenger also served as Chairman of the Chesapeake Bay Commission, a tri-state legislative commission dedicated to advising the General Assemblies of Maryland, Virginia, and Pennsylvania on matters of Bay-wide concern.

Sen. Wenger has also worked tirelessly to help farmers get the tools they need to improve stewardship of the land. Last July he introduced [the Resource Enhancement and Protection Act \(REAP\)](#), that if enacted, would reduce pollution in the Chesapeake Bay by 15 million pounds annually.

The Award's name-sake, Karl Mason, served as Pennsylvania's first State Environmental Administrator from 1952 to 1966. Karl's holistic vision of environmental management set the pattern for the state that embraces all essential elements of the problems of air, water and land related waste disposal and community environmental protection.

The general framework established by Karl Mason serves as the foundation for Pennsylvania's environmental protection programs to this day.

Karl Mason believed and put into practice the notion that environmental protection is primarily the business of professionals who have the skills by virtue of their scientific training to manage the technical and scientific complexities of maintaining a safe, healthy and clean environment. He was committed to the belief that continuing education was an essential part of the career of every environmental professional.

For more information visit the [Pennsylvania Association of Environmental Professionals website](#).

If you are interested in assisting in promoting research and dissemination of information about the Commonwealth's rich conservation heritage, contact, Wayne Kober, Chair of the PAEP Conservation Heritage Committee at wwkpa@hughes.net.

Young Volunteers Honored for Cleanup Efforts Under COALS Program



Presentation Ceremony.

“Illegal dumpsites can pose serious health risks and are an eyesore in our communities,” Sen. Rhoades said. “These young people deserve special recognition for their efforts to make their communities cleaner and safer.”

Sen. Rhoades (R-Schuylkill), Rep. Argall (R-Schuylkill), Rep. Belfanti (D-Northumberland) and other dignitaries honored high school students at a Capitol press conference this week for completing cleanup projects on illegal dumpsites under the [COALS Program](#).

Sen. Rhoades was joined by Brian Hill, Pennsylvania Environmental Council, Stephen Bartos, COALS Program-Department of Environmental Protection and other legislators for the inaugural COALS High School Initiative Program Check

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The students volunteered their time to clean up projects in the fall of 2006 and the spring of 2007 with the Clean up Our American Lands and Streams (COALS) program.

The COALS program is a partnership between environmental groups and state, county and local governments to identify and clean up illegal dumpsites and protect these sites from future pollution.

In 2005 and 2006, COALS cleaned up more than 50 sites with more than 300 tons of municipal waste and almost 200 tons of tires, and volunteers spent a combined total of more than 2,500 hours on the cleanup efforts.

COALS included several projects in Schuylkill County, including:

- Mahanoy Area High School students helped to clean up 5.2 tons of trash and 6.15 tons of tires at the Buck Mountain Road dumpsite;
- Minersville High School Students contributed to 160 hours of volunteer service to remove 91 tons of trash and 6.64 tons of tires from the Gordon Mountain dumpsite; and
- Tamaqua/Williams Valley/Schuylkill County Vo-Tech students worked to properly dispose of almost 5 tons of trash and 6 tons of tires.

“PEC is very proud to be working with schools, local governments, nonprofit groups and DEP on expanding the COALS Program throughout the state,” said Brian Hill, President and CEO of the Pennsylvania Environmental Council. “The pace set by the first volunteers in the program will be hard to beat, but we think their enthusiasm will spread all across the state.”

For more information on expanding COALS into your area, contact Julie McMonagle, Director of PEC’s Northeast office at 570-718-6508 or send email to: jmcmonagle@pecpa.org .

Also visit the [COALS Program webpage](#) or contact Stephen Bartos, COALS Program Manager, 717-787-3103 or send email to: sbartos@state.pa.us .

NewsClip: [COALS Keeps on Creating More Success Stories](#)

Join Farm, Sportsmen, Environmental, Business Groups to Support REAP June 12

The Chesapeake Bay Foundation, farm, sportsmen, business and environmental groups will hold a press conference at 10:30 on June 12 at the rear of the Capitol in Harrisburg to urge Gov. Rendell and Members of the General Assembly to support the REAP – the [Resource Enhancement and Protection Act legislation](#) to reduce nutrients and sediments going to Pennsylvania’s waterways.



Don’t miss the special appearance of Blessing the cow! Yes, a real cow coming to lobby Capitol Hill herself for REAP!

In addition, to representatives of the coalition of over 60 groups supporting REAP, Representatives Jerry Stern (R-Blair), Peter Daley (D-Washington) and Sen. Michael O’Pake (D-Berks), who are sponsors of the legislation ([House Bill 100](#) and [Senate Bill 690](#)) that would create REAP, will be on-hand.

The Senate Finance Committee is scheduled to consider the Senate version of REAP at a June 13 meeting.

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

Lehigh River Watershed Photography Contest Now Accepting Entries

Submissions are now being accepted for the Lehigh River Watershed Photography contest, sponsored by [Wildlands Conservancy](#), Olympus America Inc. and Dan's Camera City.

Entries are due by October 31.

The contest is in recognition of the Lehigh River being designated as Pennsylvania's 2007 "[River of the Year](#)" by the Pennsylvania Department of Conservation and Natural Resources.

The contest has two categories: one for youth (17 and under) and one for adults (18 and over). The first place award/prize in the youth category is an Olympus Stylus 760 digital camera; for the adult category, it is an Olympus Stylus 770 SW digital camera. Second prize in both categories is a \$100 gift card good for any imaging services from Dan's Camera City, Allentown. Third place is one free class at Dan's Camera City Photo University, Allentown. All participants will receive a Pennsylvania 2007 River of the Year poster.

"This photo contest is designed to get people out and touch the resource, while building awareness about and appreciation of this great river," says Christopher Kocher, Wildlands Conservancy president.

Entries should capture the environmental richness, unique landscape, flora and fauna, human involvement, recreational opportunities or simply the exceptional beauty of the Lehigh River watershed and its surrounding landscapes.

Photographs should be submitted as color transparency film, color or black and white prints or digitally on a CD. Submissions will not be returned unless an appropriately-sized, self-addressed, stamped envelope is included.

Entries will be judged by representatives from Olympus, Dan's Camera City, PA Department of Conservation and Natural Resources and Wildlands Conservancy. Winners will be announced in November 2007.

Contact Tom Gettings at 610-965-4397, ext. 40, or tgettings@wildlandspa.org.



Doug Austin Writes Blog Entries for Fishing & Boating Week

Have you checked out the special blog entries by Doug Austin, Executive Director of the Fish and Boat Commission, as he travels around Pennsylvania for National Fishing and Boating Week?

Stop by the [Fish & Boat Commission's website](#) to see daily entries in a special box on the front page.

Link: [Doug Austin Heads Out on River Sojourns Around PA](#)



National Forest Restoration Working Partnership Grants Due July 13

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The U.S. Forest Service is offering a one-time grant opportunity of \$1.2 million to highlight examples of [landscape-scale partnerships](#) involving forest restoration and the use of woody biomass.

Applications must be received by July 13.

Funding is provided to support 10-12 projects, which demonstrate working partnerships among conservation districts, resource conservation and development (RC&D) councils, state foresters, local government and community-based groups.

Funding will support and capture successful projects and actions completed by the applicants to advance a shared vision of forest restoration and the many uses and benefits of woody biomass utilization.

This one-time grant opportunity is being offered through the Forest Service Technology Marketing Unit in Madison, Wisconsin.

More information, visit the [Forest Partnerships webpage](#).

PA Center for Environmental Ed June EE Connections Newsletter Now Online

The [June issue](#) of the EE Connections newsletter from the [Pennsylvania Center for Environmental Education](#) is now available online. The highlights from this month's issue include--

General News: Simplicity Circle at Villa Maria, Summer Solstice Sustainable Farming & Energy Celebration, Employees Reimbursed for Purchasing Wind Energy, Harriet the Heron, Public Invited to Town Hall Meetings, Public Meetings Scheduled to Continue Connecting People and Nature, Do You Have a Green Hour?

K-12 News: Conservation Leadership School for High School Students, Students Attain Higher Performance Level in Green Schools, "Outdoor Inquiries: Taking Science Investigations Outside the Classroom"

Higher Education: Slippery Rock University's Cycling Club Rolls Out Green Bike Initiative, Special Topics in Environmental Science Summer Workshops, Pennsylvania Universities to Participate in Solar Decathlon, DEP Sponsors Energy Efficiency Workshop, Apply for the Campus Sustainability Achievement Awards

Professional Development: Integrated Pest Management Teacher Workshop, Millersville "Native Plants in the Landscape" Conference, Green Building Alliance's Technical Workshop, Alternative and Renewable Energy Workshops, Earth Force Teacher Training, Air and Waste Management Conference and Exhibition, Air and Waste Management Association Free Teacher Workshop, "No Child Left Inside" Summer Teacher Institute Reminder

Grants/Awards: Ralph W. Abele College Scholarship Deadline Extended, Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency Grant Competition, Rachel Carson Intergenerational Contest, Cash Prizes Offered for Inspirational Photographs, Nature of Learning Grants

Join the 11,300 people that receive EE Connections directly by email. To get your own copy, send an email to: info@pcee.org or visit the [EE Connections sign-up webpage](#).

Holy Redeemer Hospital Receives EPA Recognition

Holy Redeemer Hospital in Meadowbrook, Pa. this week received the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's [Hospitals for a Healthy Environment \(H2E\) Partner for Change](#) award

The hospital's "environmental champions," about 25 employees who are making day-to-day changes to reduce the hospital's environmental footprint were also recognized.

The hospital has eliminated mercury; cut its red-bag waste significantly; increased recycling; started food composting throughout the health system; and is exploring reduction or elimination of PVC and DEHP plastic.

For more information on the [H2E Partners for Change webpage](#).

PEC to Unveil Climate Change Roadmap for Pennsylvania

On June 11 the [Pennsylvania Environmental Council](#) will unveil a stakeholder-driven Climate Change Roadmap for Pennsylvania that includes nearly 40 recommendations to reduce climate-changing greenhouse gases emitted in the Commonwealth.

The event will be held in the Capitol Media Center starting at 11:30.

Helping to announce the recommendations will be stakeholders who participated in developing the Roadmap, along with Sen. Ted Erickson (R-Delaware) and Rep. Greg Vitali (D-Delaware) who have introduced bipartisan legislation to create a climate change action plan for Pennsylvania.

The recommendations included in the Roadmap will start Pennsylvania down a path toward reducing greenhouse gas emissions 25 percent by 2025.

Pennsylvania alone generates about 1 percent of the world's greenhouse gas emissions putting Pennsylvania in the same group with top 25 emitting nations in world.

For more information, visit the [Pennsylvania Environmental Council website](#).



Link: [House/Senate Bipartisan Coalition Unveils Global Warming Bill](#)

Energy Efficiency Workshop for Universities, K-12 Schools June 19

The Department of Environmental Protection will host an energy efficiency workshop in Cranberry Township, Butler County on June 19 for universities and K-12 school districts.

The workshop will be held from 9:00 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. at the Regional Learning Alliance, 850 Cranberry Woods Dr., Cranberry Township, PA.

Featured speakers include:

- Key Fraizer, Energy Management Coordinator, Pittsburgh School District;
- Guy McUmbert, DEP and Doreen Petri, Northwest Collegiate Academy on the Northwest PA Collegiate Building Assessment;

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- Roy Sierleja, GE Lighting, on lighting efficiencies and energy management;
- Sr. Mary Christopher on “It’s Not Expensive Being Green;”
- Carl Luisi, Local #95 International Union of Operating Engineers, on technology and maintenance opportunities; and
- Dana Ferry, California University, on how energy conservation will save you money;
To make reservation send email to: gmcumber@state.pa.us or call 814-332-6352 by June 14.

Allentown City Hall Basks in the Glow of New LED Lighting

There is a new look to the outside entrance of the Allentown City Hall at night. Light emitting diode fixtures, the first such area lights in eastern Pennsylvania, were installed at no cost to the City of Allentown as a demonstration project facilitated by the [Sustainable Energy Fund of Central Eastern Pennsylvania](#).

The LED lights are expected to have an operating life from 50,000 to 100,000 hours of use making them virtually maintenance free.

According to Jennifer Hopkins, President of the SEF, “We are trying to demonstrate that state of the art lighting technologies can reduce energy consumption, improve lighting and minimize light pollution. We are thrilled with the opportunity to partner with the Allentown and look forward to future collaborative projects.”

The City’s Director of Public Works Director, Peter Wernsdorfer noted, “LED lights are part of an ongoing implementation program of energy efficiency measures the city is taking to save costs and energy. LED lights have been successfully used in traffic lighting in our area and we are testing new applications on a demonstration basis.”

William McMahon of Econ Opportunities, Inc. a Reading based engineering firm involved in the project, said, “Each of the three new LED lights uses 70 watts. They replace metal halide lights that used about 170 watts each. In addition, the new lights have improved foot-candle light levels 2 to 4 times previous light levels.” McMahon added, “The City should save about 25,000 kilowatt hours and \$5,000 in combined electric and maintenance costs over the life of the new LED fixtures at today’s costs.”

Mr. Brad Salamone of Atlantic Energy, the project’s installer, observed, “We believe that LED lights are the future in lighting technology. New LED products for a multitude of applications are coming out every day. You are starting to see them everywhere you look.”

An additional benefit of the new LED lights is their compliance with the “Dark Skies” program designed to prevent lighting shining upward into the atmosphere – otherwise known as light pollution.

John Forsyth, the SEF’s technical consultant stated, “We are hoping that municipalities see the benefit of using LED’s, in terms of energy savings and cost savings. The City of Allentown Project is a good demonstration project to begin to create awareness. We are ready and willing to help municipalities, government, universities, and businesses with these types of projects.”

The Sustainable Energy Fund will provide a turnkey solution to municipalities, including an energy audit guaranteeing the savings, installation, and financing of the project. The energy savings pays for the project and result in no out-of-pocket costs for the municipalities.

Installer: The lights were installed by Atlantic Energy Concepts located in Reading.

Manufacturer: “IntenCity Lighting” of Little Rock Arkansas, a US firm, says they are working on new lights for street lighting and parking garages across the country. This is their first project in the Allentown area.

Partnerships: The SEF has partnered with other municipalities in the LED retrofitting program, including Pottsville, Bloomsburg, Minersville, Northampton Borough, St. Clair, Danville, and Shenandoah.

The SEF offers attractive funding opportunities for projects that offer a strong fit with its mission. For more information or to apply [visit the SEF website](#).

Fall Biomass Energy Conference Features Crawford County Company

Ernst Conservation Seeds in Crawford County will be one of the featured companies at the upcoming [Energy from Biomass and Waste Expo & Conference](#) on September 25-27 in Pittsburgh.

[Ernst Conservation Seeds](#), a third generation family business based in Meadville is involved in an innovative effort to create energy from biomass through high-energy switchgrass and other warm season grasses.

"We are aggressively pursuing the information, technology, and feedstock necessary to make the generation of heat and power from warm season native plants a reality," says Daniel P. Arnett, Biomass Coordinator for Ernst Conservation Seeds.

Following a number of projects evaluating different types of feedstock and machinery, the company now plans the construction and operation of a large-scale grass/biomass densification facility in Crawford County. This facility will supply grass biomass pellets to residential and commercial heating and power markets in western Pennsylvania and beyond. The facility will serve as definitive proof of concept, and will be able to be replicated across Pennsylvania.

Harvesting energy domestically from clean resources is just one positive aspect of this venture. At the same time, economic growth is brought back home. Instead of importing increasingly expensive fossil fuels from places with little consideration for the poor work conditions and exploitation of natural resources, bio-energy offers the chance to create an industry that is financially viable and environmentally sustainable.

Growing energy crops on American land means creating jobs in land cultivation, processing biomass materials, plant manufacturing and maintenance, and distribution of the fuels. It also means energy-independence, reduction of CO2 emissions, and cost-saving potential for users of heat, power, and vehicle fuels.

"The EBW Expo & Conference is about converting biomass and waste materials to value," says Dr. Ines Freesen, Managing Director of trade show organizer Freesen & Partner GmbH. "Ernst Conservation Seeds is a very good example of how this can be achieved."

EBW is sponsored by the Department of Environmental Protection; Green Power, Inc.; West Penn Power Sustainable Energy Fund, Inc.; Herbert, Rowland & Grubic, Inc.; The Pennsylvania State University; and media sponsor Biomass Magazine. The event is also supported by the Department of Agriculture; Steel City Biofuels; and the Ministry for Economic Affairs and Energy of the State of North Rhine-Westphalia, Germany.

For more information, visit the [Energy from Biomass and Waste Expo & Conference webpage](#).

Marine Sediment Microbial Fuel Cells Get a Nutritional Boost

Discarded crab and lobster shells may be the key to prolonging the life of microbial fuel cells that power sensors beneath the sea, according to a team of Penn State researchers.

To produce energy, microbial fuel cells need organic material for the microbes to consume. However, deep sea sediments can be surprisingly devoid of organic material because living things in the photic zone - the area where light penetrates the water - are continuously recycled and little falls to the ocean floor. An absence of organics limits the lifetime of marine microbial fuel cells.

The researchers include chitin - processed crustacean shells - in a pillow-like anode made of carbon cloth. The anode is placed in the sediment or hung in the water where naturally occurring bacteria can eat the chitin.

"This approach is good for deeper ocean areas or anywhere we want to increase the power of marine microbial fuel cells," says Bruce E. Logan, the Kappe Professor of Environmental Engineering.

Microbial fuel cells work through the action of bacteria which can pass electrons to an anode. The electrons flow from the anode through a wire to the cathode, producing an electric current. In the process, the bacteria consume organic matter in the water or sediment. The Penn State approach uses the bacteria that naturally occur in the oceans and because so many sea creatures produce chitinous shells, many marine bacteria break down chitin.

Marine energy sources are often placed in remote areas to power sensors for such measurements as temperature, pressure, salinity, density, turbidity or particulate content.

These sensors could be placed on buoys or used to monitor around offshore drilling platforms and to monitor for pollution or contamination, such as that caused by red tide, in both salt and fresh water. Other small devices can measure sound, light transmittance and conductivity. While the amounts of energy needed for these purposes are small, the locations often necessitate long-term remote operation.

The researchers, who included Logan; Rachel A. Brennan, assistant professor of civil engineering; Tom L. Richard, associate professor of agricultural and biological engineering; and Farzaneh Rezaei, graduate student in agricultural and biological engineering, tested two types of chitin and one type of cellulose.

"We found that cellulose was not as good as chitin," Logan reported in the current issue of *Environmental Science and Technology*. "The ocean is so used to chitin that there may be more naturally occurring bacteria that eat chitin than those that eat cellulose."

While the team has not tested the marine microbial fuel cell in the ocean sediment, they did create a fuel cell in the laboratory consisting of a glass bottle with the anode embedded in the sediment on the bottom and the carbon paper and platinum cathode suspended in the water. In the ocean, no container is needed, but the anode and cathode must be close enough together so the protons or positive charge can pass through the water to the cathode.

The researchers tested two different sizes of chitin, one finer than the other and found that both increased power production over the same set up without the additional bacterial food supply. However, the finer particles produced almost twice the power as the larger particles, suggesting that the bacteria can more easily consume the smaller particles.

"We can adjust the particle size to control the rate at which chitin is consumed and alter the power output and the fuel cell's longevity," says Logan. "Technically, there is no reason why we cannot put a bigger bag of feed for the anode to supply more food."

For more information, contact Dr. Logan is at 814-863-7908.

Peregrine Falcon Watch and Rescue Program to Begin

Volunteers from the Rachel Carson State Office Building and Wildwood Lake Sanctuary will keep a close eye on the [Peregrine falcon nest](#) located on the 15th floor of the building in Harrisburg next week as the four young nestlings attempt their first free flight.



These first flights are typically precarious at best. The young birds will often land in harms way on a nearby parking garage or street. When this happens, the watch and rescue crews notify Department of Environmental Protection environmental education staff and the fledglings will be captured, examined and placed on the roof of the Rachel Carson building to regain strength and courage to make their next attempt at airborne freedom.

Although subsequent attempts are usually more successful, the watch and rescue crews will continue to track the whereabouts of each fledgling to ensure their safety. Within a week's time all four of the fledglings should have gained the skill and strength necessary to return to the ledge.

This is a good time to [visit the Falcon page](#) as the young peregrines take their first step towards independence. Then, over the next eight weeks, watch them get flight and hunting lesson from the adult peregrines.

The word Peregrine comes from the Latin adjective peregrinus, meaning wanderer. By summer's end, these young birds will do just that; they'll travel hundreds of miles in unknown directions. By this time next year, the surviving juveniles will seek out a mate and establish their own breeding territories.

Link: [Watch the Pittsburgh Peregrine Falcon Nest](#)

Quick Clips

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

- [New Advanced Coal Project Tax Credit Applications Due](#)

[Pinchot Legacy Lasts Long After His Death](#)

[Geisinger, School Team to Study Environment, Health Link](#)

[Fourth Grader Urges School Board to Implement Recycling Program](#)

[Ex-Steelers Player Russell Finds Niche in Recycling](#)

[Tire Drop-Off Program Gets Blowout Response](#)

[Learning By Greening, Climate Change](#)
[Climate Change Steps By Lehigh Valley Colleges](#)
[States Vary Greatly in Greenhouse gases, PA 3rd Biggest Polluter](#)
[States' Per Capita Carbon Dioxide Emissions](#)
[Officials Aim to Reduce Township's Greenhouse Gases](#)
[How States Rank in Total Carbon Emissions](#)
[Truck Wash Uses High-Efficiency Water Recycling System](#)
[Honda Accord Hybrid's Sales Run Out of Gas](#)
[Some Hybrid Buyers Miss Out on Tax Incentives](#)
[School Buses to Fill Up With Cleaner Fuels](#)
[Rendell's Ambitious Energy Effort](#)
[Wind Farm Plan Takes Rendell to Spain](#)
[State Willing to License Forests for Wind Farms](#)
[Editorial: Coal as Motor Fuel](#)
[Op-Ed: It's Light Out on Success of Deregulation](#)
[Op-Ed: PA Has Tools for Better Energy Market](#)
[Take Steps to Ease Nasty Electricity Price Jolt](#)
[PUC: Electric Competition is Here to Stay](#)
[PUC Nominee Advocates Energy Plan](#)
[Pittsburgh Added to Public Meeting Sites for National Corridor Designations](#)
[Editorial: It's an Outrage to Place Wind Turbines on State's Public Lands](#)
[Panel to Review Clean and Green Bill, Wind Energy](#)
[Editorial: Clean and Green? Remains to be Seen](#)
[First International Trade Missions Builds on Renewable Energy Foundation](#)
[TMI Radiation Monitoring System Connected to State Agencies](#)
[Farmers Seek Right to Control Their Land](#)
[Carbon County Urges Landowners to Preserve Land](#)
[Wyalusing Hosting Susquehanna Greenway Regional Meeting](#)
[Outdoor Enthusiasts Find a World of Adventure at McConnell's Mill State Park](#)
[Editorial: Dedicated Source Would Fund Efforts to Allay Hazardous Waste](#)
[Editorial: Counties' Funds Threatened, Recycling Tipping Fee Needed](#)
[Law to Limit Billboards Considered in Peters](#)
[Gypsy Moths Strike Hard, Defoliating Pest is Worse Than Expected](#)
[Gypsy Moth Epidemic Hits Area](#)
[It's Not Fall, It's the Rise of the Gypsy Moth](#)
[Montour, Panhandle Trails Connection Celebrated](#)
[Editorial: King Enhanced Role of Heinz Endowments](#)
[Deer Audit Won't Come Out of Game Commission's Pocket](#)
[Time is Now to Improve the Habitat](#)
[Schneck: Forest Habitat to be Seen on Tour](#)
[Falcons Still Listed as Endangered](#)
[Editorial: Area Falcon Return Proof of Something Going Right](#)
[Will Critters Miss Handouts?](#)

PA Environment Digest – Crisci Associates

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

[Volunteers Needed to Clean Riverbanks](#)

[Somerset Conservation District Focuses on Environmental Education](#)

[Four Hearings Set on Protecting Saucon Creek](#)

[Environmental Restoration at Train Crash Site to Begin](#)

[Trout Stream to Benefit From Mine Reclamation Work](#)

[Editorial: Conservation Needs Better Funding in Farm Bill](#)

[Mine Cleanup Funds on Tap](#)

[East Stroudsburg Proposes Smallest Waterway Buffer Zone](#)

[County Stormwater Plan in the Works](#)

[Bids Underway for Three Creek Restoration Projects](#)

[Let That River Flow](#)

[Gladfelter to Sell Off Land](#)

[Boating, Fly-Fishing Benefits Everyone](#)

[Fish & Boat Commission Will Honor Area Contribution to Fishing](#)

[Life Jacket Makes Difference for Boaters](#)

[Hikers Follow Path of 1889 Johnstown Flood](#)

[Little Juniata River Natural Area Offers Enjoyable Hike](#)

Regulations

The Department of Environmental Protection [published notice of the method](#) it used to place streams on the Sections 305(b) and 303(d) impaired waters list for public comment. The Fish and Boat Commission [published proposed additions](#) to the list of Class A Wild Trout Waters.

[Pennsylvania Bulletin – June 9, 2007](#)

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

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

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

Technical Guidance & Permits

The State Conservation Commission [published proposed revisions](#) to the Conservation District Fund Allocation Program policy.

[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](#)

- [No Cost Internet Training Courses for Site Cleanup](#)
- **June 11** – [Pennsylvania Environmental Council](#) will announce recommendations from its stakeholder-driven Climate Change Roadmap for Pennsylvania Project. Capitol Media Center. 11:30.
- **June 11** – Joint Legislative Air and Water Pollution Control and Conservation Committee Environmental Forum presentation by John Quigley, Department of Conservation and Natural Resources on carbon sequestration. Room 60 East Wing. 12:00.
- **June 12** – Chesapeake Bay Foundation, Farm, Sportsmen and Environmental Groups will urge Gov. Rendell and Members of the General Assembly to support the REAP – [Resource Enhancement and Protection Act legislation](#) to reduce nutrients and sediments going to PA waterways. Don't Miss the Special Appearance of Blessing the Cow. Rear of Capitol. 10:30.
- **June 12** – Senate Environmental Resources and Energy and Consumer Protection and Professional Licensure joint committee hearing on energy policy in Pennsylvania. Hearing Room 1, North Office Building. 10:00.
- **June 12** – Senate State Government Committee meeting to consider [Senate Bill 752](#) (Erickson-R-Delaware) requiring a description of data used to justify regulations before the Independent Regulatory Review Commission. Room 461. 10:30.
- **June 12** – **CHANGE**. House Game and Fisheries Committee public hearing on [House Bill 251](#) (Godshall-R-Montgomery) Amending Title 34 related to game feeders. 205 Ryan Building. 9:00.
- **June 12** – House State Government Committee meets to discuss the issue of riparian rights and waterfront development as it relates to casino and other projects. Room 60 East Wing. 9:00.
- **June 12** – House Agriculture and Rural Affairs Committee meets to consider [House Bill 656](#) (Bastian-R-Somerset) that would allow farms preserved under the state Clean and Green law to allow the development of wind farms. Room 302 Irvis Building. 9:30.
- **June 12** – **CANCELLED**. DEP [Laboratory Accreditation Advisory Committee](#) meeting. Next scheduled meeting is September 11.
- **June 12** – **CANCELLED**. DEP [Storage Tank Advisory Committee](#) meeting. Next scheduled meeting is September 11.
- **June 13** – Senate Finance Committee meets to consider [Senate Bill 690](#) (Waugh-R-York, O'Pake-D-Berks) establishing the Resource Enhancement and Protection Act to give farmers tax credits for installing conservation practices. Room 461. 9:30.
- **June 13** – House Environmental Resources and Energy Committee meets to consider [House Bill 1200](#) (DePasquale-D-York) making changes to the responsibilities of the PA Energy Development Authority and [House Bill 1203](#) (Hornaman-D-Erie) amending the Alternative Energy Portfolio Standards Act in line with Gov. Rendell's Energy Independence Proposal. Room G-50 Irvis Building. 9:00.

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- **June 13** – House Finance Committee meets to consider [House Bill 1295](#) (Hanna-D-Clinton) to amend the Keystone Recreation, Park and Conservation Fund Act to restore the allocation of funds for fiscal year 2006-07 to the State System for Higher Education. G-50 Irvis Building. 10:00.
- **June 14** – House Consumer Affairs Committee will hold a public hearing on [House Bill 1201](#) (George-D-Clearfield) making changes to Title 66 consistent with Gov. Rendell's Energy Independence Proposal. Room 140. 11:00.
- **June 21** – [Joint Legislative Air and Water Pollution Control and Conservation Committee](#) Sewage Task Force Meeting. Penn Stater Hotel, State College. 10:00.
- **July 12** – **CHANGE**. DEP [Mining and Reclamation Advisory Board](#) meeting will be held in a new location – 16th Floor Conference Room, Rachel Carson Building, Harrisburg. 10:00.

[DEP Calendar of Events](#)

[Watershed Events](#) (courtesy [PA Organization for Watersheds & Rivers](#))

[Environmental Education Workshop/Training Calendar](#)
(courtesy [PA Center for Environmental Education](#))

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

Helpful Web Links

[PA Environment Digest Video Blog](#)

[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

Send your stories about environmental issues, programs and positive actions to **PA Environment Digest** - DHess@CrisciAssociates.com or go to 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 Crisci Associates and the public. Crisci Associates is a Harrisburg-based government and public affairs firm whose clients include Fortune 500 companies and non-profit organizations. For more information on Crisci Associates call 717-234-1716.

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