

— PA — Environment Digest

*An Update on
Environmental
Issues in
Pennsylvania*

Edited By David E. Hess, Holston & Crisci

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Bill Promotes Watershed Practices That Yield \$27 In Benefits for Every \$1 Invested



Help Fix Our Barnyard!

The House Agriculture and Rural Affairs Committee held an informational meeting this week on [House Bill 2878](#) (Stern-R-Blair, Hershey-R-Chester, Daley-D-Washington) that would establish the Resource Enhancement and Protection Tax Credit Program.

PaED Video Blog: [Watch Matthew Ehrhart, Pa Director Chesapeake Bay Foundation, commenting on REAP.](#)

“I introduced House Bill 2878 because I firmly believe that this new and innovative approach to encouraging the implementation of best management practices merits serious discussion by all stakeholders,” said Rep. Stern. “As the

Representative from a district where there is a large and viable agricultural sector dominated by family farms, I am very aware that the vast majority of these farmers put a high priority on managing their farm operations in an environmentally friendly manner.

“I believe we can document that there is considerable unmet demand from agricultural producers for financial assistance to support the adoption of additional conservation practices.”

The bill provides personal and business state tax credits ranging from 25 to 75 percent of the cost to install best management practices like barnyard improvements, riparian buffers, stream fencing and other practices.

The Committee heard comments on the bill from [Matthew Ehrhart, Pennsylvania Director, Chesapeake Bay Foundation](#), [Karl Brown, Executive Secretary of the State Conservation Commission](#), [Joel Rotz, State Government Relations Director, PA Farm Bureau](#), [Eileen McNulty, Executive Deputy Secretary, Department of Revenue](#), and from Walt Peechatka, Executive Vice President of PennAG Industries Association.

“The Chesapeake Bay Foundation believes this proposal, which would provide transferable tax credits to producers across the state to install BMPs, represents a bold, first-in-the-nation step toward expanding conservation opportunities and distinguishing Pennsylvania as a leader in innovative approaches to farm-friendly environmental protection” said [Matthew J. Ehrhart, Pa CBF Executive Director](#). “This statewide legislation would be one of the most important state programs enacted in the history of the Chesapeake Bay restoration effort.”

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Rising costs coupled with weak commodity prices limit the options available to producers to meet new standards of environmental protection, such as plans that assign where pollutants must be reduced as well as phosphorus-based nutrient management plans. As a result, new opportunities must be developed to assist agricultural producers in ways that support economic viability while improving the quality of our land and water resources.

“This legislation recognizes that while most producers are committed stewards of the land, they need additional funding and new tools to help improve their operations” said Ehrhart. “Agriculture has been identified as a leading source of water quality degradation, but funding is well below necessary levels. REAP would go a long way toward filling these gaps.”

“The program gives higher tax credits for those BMPs that provide the greatest benefit to our water quality, wildlife and fisheries—practices that provide the biggest bang for the buck,” said Ehrhart. “This prioritization is critical because the demand for financial assistance under traditional conservation programs far exceeds available funds from either the state or federal government.”

REAP would also have a dramatic impact on our surface drinking water supply. Almost 8 million Pennsylvania residents’ drinking water comes from surface waters.

EPA estimates that, on average, every \$1 spent on source protection saves \$27 on water treatment, and in some areas it costs much more. An analysis of the Gettysburg source water protection program yielded a cost ratio of one dollar spent to \$27 dollars saved.

Based on Pennsylvania’s Chesapeake Bay Tributary Strategy, the PA Department of Environmental Protection has estimated that approximately \$215 million per year is needed in state and federal funds to meet the Commonwealth’s commitment to reduce water pollution to the Bay.

Pennsylvania currently spends about \$45 million – leaving a \$170 million dollar per year gap in the Chesapeake Watershed alone. In 2004 the NRCS alone had conservation funding requests from Pennsylvania farmers for \$37.5 million more than was available. This figure does not account for the many farmers who have given up applying, or those individuals who choose, for a variety of reasons, not to work with government programs.

REAP goes one step further by encouraging private investment in BMPs, and expands the capacity of the private sector to promote environmental improvements on farms. In this way, Pennsylvania businesses of all sizes can become new partners with Conservation Districts, Natural Resource Conservation Service and other agencies in working with producers.

“Strengthening the private sector’s role in promoting farm conservation is another key goal of the legislation,” said Ehrhart. “REAP creates a sponsorship program that allows businesses to sponsor projects on farms in exchange for tax credits in a way that minimizes the government’s role in the program.”

“REAP does seem to be an innovative approach in helping Pennsylvania’s farm families economically manage the additional costs they will incur in implementing environmental improvements on their farms,” said Joel Rotz, Pa Farm Bureau & Grange. “REAP will provide a meaningful opportunity for the farmer to partner with a business

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...and to reach farmers who do not normally support receiving government assistance payments.”

“There is a great need to identify creative approaches in assisting farmers to meet the every-increasing level of environmental regulation that threatens their economic viability in this state,” said Rotz. *(Because the bill was just introduced in July, the Farm Bureau and Grange have not yet taken a formal position on the bill, but they expect to soon.)*

“Anything we do to cleanup the Chesapeake Bay and our streams is a positive,” said Walt Peechatka, PennAg Industries. “REAP provides an excellent opportunity to help farmers install good conservation practices.”

Pennchatka went on to make suggestions on fine-tuning portions of the bill. *(PennAg Industries has not taken a formal position because the bill was recently introduced, but also expects to shortly.)*

Both the Department of Revenue and the State Conservation Commission offered comments on the details of the bill and suggesting the legislation be considered during discussion of the state’s 2007-08 budget.

Under REAP, applicants are eligible for transferable tax credits up to a total of \$150,000 over the life of the program. Businesses can sponsor an unlimited number of projects on farms. To provide flexibility, tax credits under REAP may be sold by a taxpayer who does not have a tax liability of their own to another taxpayer who does. This allows farmers with minimal tax liability to participate in the program. Taxpayers can also roll tax credits forward to cover future tax liabilities for up to 15 years.

The legislation caps the number of tax credits that can be issued over the five year life of the program. The first year up to \$50 million can be issued and \$100 million in each of the successive four years. The Department of Revenue would administer REAP as it does other tax credit programs.

The proposal was also introduced as [Senate Bill 1286](#) by Sen. Noah Wenger (R-Lancaster), Sen. Mike Waugh (R-York) and Sen. Michael O’Pake (D-Berks).

NewsClip: [State’s Dairy Farmers in a Squeeze](#)

Issue NoteBook: [Resource Enhancement & Protection Tax Credit Proposal Chesapeake Bay Foundation REAP Resource Page](#)

PaED Video Blog: [Watch Matthew Ehrhart](#), Pa Director Chesapeake Bay Foundation, commenting on REAP proposal.

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Session Schedule

The Senate and House return to session September 25.

On the Hill

- On the Senate/House Agenda/Actions/Bills Introduced
- Senate Committee Holds Hearing on Robbins’ Home Heating Assistance Bill

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Other News

- Ohio River Celebration Attracts 950 Taking Positive Actions to Improve Watersheds
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- 3 Rivers Wet Weather Sewer Conference to be Held September 27-28
- Gardens Win Keep Pennsylvania Beautiful Community Greening Award
- DCNR Issues TreeVitalize Challenge to Chester County's Urban Areas
- October 15 is Deadline to Enter National Student Radon Poster Contest
- 6 of 10 Winners of EPA Excellence in Energy Efficiency Awards from PA
- ETAC-PennTAP Partnership Wins National Pollution Prevention Award
- EPA, Philadelphia to Promote Voluntary Pollution Reductions
- PUC Sets Hearing on Pike County 70 Percent Electric Rate Increase
- Author to Discuss Creating Livable Communities September 25
- Lancaster Seeks Nominations for 2006 Smart Growth Awards
- Global Warming and Agriculture Workshop Feature DEP, Agriculture Secretaries
- Exelon and The Conservation Fund Donate 79-Acre Susquehanna Island
- National Hunting & Fishing Day Celebrated on September 26
- Game Commission to Hold State Game Land Tours in September, October

See & Hear

Features

- Junior Environment Corps Pilot Project Launched in the Wissahickon Watershed, *By Virginia Ranly, Watershed Programs Coordinator, Schuylkill Center for Environmental Education*
- Autumn's Gold Includes Millions of Monarch Butterflies Migrating South, *By Kathy Reshetiloff, Chesapeake Bay Naturalist, Chesapeake Bay Journal*

Regulations

- EQB Adopts California Cars Standard, Another Climate Change Piece in Place

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

On the Hill

On the Senate/House Agenda/Actions/Bills Introduced

The Senate and House plan to consider several environmental bills this week. Here's the rundown...

On the House Calendar: [Senate Bill 940](#) (Waugh-R-York), which would set aside up to \$200,000 per year from the Agricultural Conservation Easement Purchase Fund to reimburse Land Trusts for expenses incurred in acquiring agricultural conservation easements

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In the Senate, the Environmental Resources and Energy Committee meets to consider [House Bill 1902](#) to indefinitely extend the \$2 Recycling Fee. Sen. Mary Jo White (R-Venango) intends to offer an amendment to extend the current sunset date for the fee from 2009 to 2012; the Senate Rules Committee meets to consider [House Resolution 795](#) designating December 19 as “Coal Miner’s Day;” and the State Government Committee meets to consider [House Bill 854](#) establishing the Terrorism Infrastructure Disclosure Protection Act prohibiting the release of certain infrastructure records and [House Bill 236](#) requiring the review of regulations for their impact on small business.

On the Senate Calendar: [Senate Bill 1209](#) (Waugh-R-York) establishing the Healthy Farms & Healthy Schools Program.

Senate/House Actions

Healthy Farms: [Senate Bill 1209](#) (Waugh-R-York) establishing the Healthy Farms & Healthy Schools Program was amended to clarify that charter schools are eligible for the program and reported from Senate Appropriations Committee.

Agricultural Easements: [Senate Bill 1107](#) (Corman-R-Centre) making changes to the Agricultural Area Security Law was reported from Senate Appropriations.

Bills Introduced

Solar Tax Credit: [Senate Bill 1325](#) (Erickson-R-Delaware) authorizing a 25 percent tax credit for the purchase and installation of solar energy units.

Conservation District Reform: [Senate Bill 1323](#) (Wonderling-R-Montgomery) updating the 1945 Conservation District law.

Senate Hearing on Robbins’ Home Heating Assistance Bill, LIHEAP Expanded

This week the Senate Public Health and Welfare Committee held a hearing on legislation sponsored by Sen. Robbins (R-Mercer)-- [Senate Bill 1270](#), the Home Energy Assistance in Time Of Need -- or HEAT ON – Act.

The bill would maximize the use of federal Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) dollars and ensure that heating aid reaches as many Pennsylvania families as possible. Furthermore, the bill puts in place several accountability provisions to ensure that funding goes to those most in need. LIHEAP grants, which do not need to be repaid, are available to low-income households.

Sen. Robbins stated, “This legislation builds off of the General Assembly’s historic efforts last year to allocate state dollars to supplement Pennsylvania’s federal LIHEAP appropriation. It’s important that we look for ways to maximize LIHEAP so that we can provide as much home heating assistance as possible to those that need it most, particularly with winter right around the corner.”

The hearing featured testimony by a panel of energy providers, including Mike Love, the President of the Energy Association of Pennsylvania, who advocated for

legislative oversight over the Department of Public Welfare’s administration of the LIHEAP Program. The Association believes that the oversight in Senate Bill 1270 will lead to a more efficient distribution of LIHEAP funding with some consistency and predictability for consumer and providers.

A panel of community providers, including Ron Errett, the Chief Executive Officer of the Community Action Partnership of Mercer County, advocated for more program certainty, so that consumers and community providers alike know what the guidelines will be from year to year. Mr. Errett also promoted weatherization, a key component of the LIHEAP program.

John Kulik, Executive Vice Presidents of the Pennsylvania Petroleum Marketers and Convenience Store Association, explained how the heating oil market is competitive where companies can choose to participate in LIHEAP. Requiring budget programs and setting other criteria on oil dealers would discourage participation by companies.

Sen. Robbins stated, “I am looking forward to working with the Senate Public Health and Welfare Committee to review the comments and suggestions made at today’s hearing in order to strengthen this legislation.”

Rendell Announces Changes to LIHEAP Program

Gov. Rendell this week announced an expansion in eligibility for [Pennsylvania’s Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program](#) (LIHEAP), which opens on November 6.

At the Governor’s direction, income eligibility for the 2006-07 LIHEAP season was expanded from 135 percent to 150 percent of the Federal Poverty Income Guidelines. This year, a family of four with an annual income of up to \$30,000 can qualify for LIHEAP. The more generous income limits mean that an additional 67,000 Pennsylvania families will be eligible than at the 135 percent level.

The federally-funded LIHEAP helps low-income households pay for a variety of home heating fuel sources and furnace repairs in the winter and is administered by the Department of Public Welfare.

Last year, more than 385,000 families were helped through cash grants and nearly 154,000 families received crisis assistance.

Applications for LIHEAP will be available at County Assistance Offices, local utility companies and community service agencies, such as Area Agencies on Aging or Community Action Agencies. Families can also apply for LIHEAP cash grants online at www.compass.state.pa.us.

The cash grant program is designed to help families pay their home heating bills. Cash grants are based on income, family size, type of heating fuel and heating region. In addition to proof of income and household size, applicants will need to provide a recent bill or a statement from their fuel dealer verifying their customer status and the type of fuel that they use.

Crisis grants up to \$300 are approved for families with heating emergencies, such as mechanical breakdowns or unexpected fuel shortages.

For more information, people should call DPW’s toll-free LIHEAP Hotline at 1-866-857-7095, Monday through Friday, from 8:30 a.m. to 4:45 p.m.

In Other News

Ohio River Celebration Attracts 950 Taking Positive Actions to Improve Watersheds

The Fifth Annual Ohio River Celebration and cruise on the Allegheny River in Pittsburgh attracted over 950 participants, including some 300 students, from all over Western Pennsylvania and West Virginia with its unique blend of educational, networking and recognition programs for watershed groups.

[Download the special photo feature.](#)

PaED Video Blog: [Kim Lanich, Watershed Specialist in Elk County.](#)

As part of the program, the Ohio River Celebration gave awards to a municipality, an individual and a company making outstanding contributions to restoring and protecting watersheds throughout the region--



West Homestead, Allegheny County, received the Municipal Government Environmental Award for its work restoring water quality and river use, its leadership in coordinating improvements to the West Run Sanitary Sewer Improvement Project, a \$400,000 rehabilitation of its municipal sanitary sewer system, and for its public-private partnership with Kennywood Park and Sandcastle Water Park for waterfront development.



Jane Nugent, WPTT-1360 AM talk show host, received the Individual Environmental Award for her “Garden Party” radio show, Nugent provides educational opportunities for listeners to learn about watershed activities. Nugent interviews various speakers on topics such as mine drainage cleanup and geothermal energy using mine water.

Consol Energy received the Environmental Award – Company for its partnership in local and regional watershed work. Consol worked with the Washington County Watershed Alliance for many years and supports the Washington County Envirothon. The company also provides grants to the alliance for various outreach projects.

And for the first time, the Ohio River Celebration held a competition for on-board educational displays and awarded first and second place winners in four categories cash grants of \$500 and \$250 respectively. The winners included—

Outreach: First Place – Neville Naturalist, which does day camps to teach children about habitat diversity.

Second Place – [Natural Biodiversity](#), which cares out programs to eradicate invasive plant species and establish native plants.

Innovative: First Place – [Toby Creek Watershed Association](#), which undertakes mine water cleanup projects, one of which uses treated mine water to raise trout in Elk County.

Second Place – [Montour Run Watershed Association](#), which also does mine

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drainage, stormwater and recreational issues like the Montour Trail in Washington County.

- Partnership:** First Place – [Raccoon Creek Watershed Association](#), Beaver and Washington counties, which has several projects to treat mine drainage.
Second Place – [Wells Creek Watershed Association](#), Somerset County, which also deals with mine drainage treatment.

- Overall:** First Place – [Shade Creek Watershed Association](#), which treats a variety of mine water discharges in Somerset County.
Second Place – [Independence Marsh Foundation](#), which supports a variety of watershed education and restoration projects in Beaver and Washington counties.

This year the major sponsors of the event included: Consol Energy, Dominion Foundation, Western PA Watershed Program, Pennsylvania America Water, Venture Outdoors, Jane Nugent & WPTT's Garden Party, Municipal Authority of Westmoreland County, Quality Aggregates, Gateway Clipper, Cemex, Beynon Reality, Amerikohl Mining, PA Section American Water Works Association, Society for Analytical Chemists of Pittsburgh, Spectroscopy Society of Pittsburgh, AquaScape, Michael Gallagher, BioMost, Inc., Kiski-Conemaugh Stream Team, Washington County Conservation District, PlasTie, the Department of Environmental Protection, Fish & Boat Commission, Stream Restoration, Inc. Environmentally Innovative Solutions, Inc., former DEP Secretary David E. Hess.

NewsClip: [Pittsburgh Voyager Becomes RiverQuest](#)

PaED Video Blog: [Kim Lanich, Watershed Specialist in Elk County](#), explains how she works with watershed groups in her area. Online video.

Special Photo Feature: [Ohio River Celebration Photos \(PDF\)](#).

PA and Other Chesapeake Bay States Agree To Accelerate Restoration Efforts

The [Chesapeake Bay Foundation](#) acknowledged the state and local government members of Chesapeake Bay Executive Council for their commitment this week to accelerate efforts to provide farmers the tools they need to reduce pollution, as outlined in the Tributary Strategies and established as a result of the Chesapeake 2000 Agreement (C2K).

C2K committed the Bay states and federal government to reducing pollution sufficiently to remove the Chesapeake Bay and its tidal tributaries from the federal 'dirty waters' list by 2010. But six years after the Agreement was signed, and with only four years remaining until the 2010 goal, the health of the Bay is only marginally better today than it was then.

Well managed agriculture is one of the best land uses for reducing pollution, significantly. For the past two years CBF has called for implementation of the agricultural

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components of the Tributary Strategies to supplement sewage treatment plant upgrades as the most cost effective ways to improve water quality in local rivers, streams, and the Bay.

“With the clock ticking down, and dead zones, beach closures and fish kills still occurring each year, it is clearly time to pick up the pace of restoration, or risk leaving our children a dying Bay instead of a national treasure on the rebound,” CBF President William C. Baker said. “A commitment like that made today is a step in the right direction, but it alone will not restore the Bay. And, as always, the devil is in the details. We look to these leaders to deliver by providing increased funding in their budgets. We will also hold them to their promise to lobby for increased funding from the federal Farm Bill.”

This will be difficult. Because while the states have begun to step up their efforts, in recent years federal funding for Chesapeake Bay restoration has been slashed. At current funding levels, EPA estimates that only 40 percent of the EC’s nitrogen pollution reduction commitments will be achieved by 2010. Today’s agreement recognizes the need for an annual increase of \$200 million dollars in federal Farm Bill funding and obligates the signatories to fight for that funding.

In Pennsylvania, which has the largest portion of the watershed and contributes the largest amount of pollution to the Bay, legislators have an opportunity to make real strides. With bipartisan support, legislation being considered by both the Pennsylvania House and the Senate, called the Resource Enhancement and Protection Act of Pennsylvania (REAP), would provide unprecedented assistance to farmers in the form of transferable state tax credits to install best management practices to reduce water pollution. The credits, totaling \$450 million over the next five years, could reduce nitrogen pollution in the Chesapeake Bay by up to 15 million pounds per year.

“This legislation recognizes that while most producers are committed stewards of the land, they need additional funding and new tools,” said CBF Pennsylvania Executive Director Matt Ehrhart. “This statewide legislation would be one of the most important state programs enacted in the history of the Chesapeake Bay restoration effort, and will strengthen the private sector’s role in promoting farm conservation by allowing businesses to sponsor projects on farms in exchange for tax credits.”

REAP was introduced as [House Bill 2878](#) (Stern-R-Blair, Hershey-R-Chester, Daley-D-Washington) and as [Senate Bill 1286](#) by Sen. Noah Wenger (R-Lancaster), Sen. Mike Waugh (R-York) and Sen. Michael O’Pake (D-Berks).

(See separate article on House Agriculture Committee meeting on REAP.)

In Virginia, CBF has urged Governor Kaine to obligate at least \$50 million for agricultural best management practices and \$100 million for remaining sewage treatment plant upgrades in his proposed budget for 2008 to continue efforts to meet Tributary Strategy pollution reduction commitments.

“Without that funding, Virginia’s recent historic progress towards reaching the Chesapeake 2000 Agreement commitments will stall,” said CBF Virginia Executive Director Ann F. Jennings. “At this week’s Natural Resources Leadership Summit, Governor Kaine expressed his strong commitment to protecting Virginia’s natural resources, meeting the C2K land conservation goals, and helping Virginia’s farmers. We look forward to working with the Administration and the legislature to secure funding to conserve land, to keep farmers farming, and to clean up our rivers and the Bay.”

Maryland farmers, like those across the Bay watershed, are willing to reduce runoff to our waters by applying conservation practices, such as planting cover crops. But there

are insufficient federal and state dollars to implement these actions. This year, a record number of farmers signed up for the cover crop program; in fact, there were so many farmers who wanted to participate that the state could not provide sufficient funds. CBF calls on the governor and legislators to find ways to fully fund these cost-effective practices. Specifically, CBF asks for a transferable tax credit program similar to Pennsylvania's, which would provide stable, increased funding.

“We have the solutions to help farmers reduce polluted runoff, and farmers stand ready to do their part. What we need is funding,” said CBF Maryland Executive Director Kim Coble. “Time is running out and Maryland still has a long way to go to meet its 2010 pollution-reduction commitments. Without developing additional, dedicated funding, the chance of success is greatly diminished.”

At this week's meeting the Executive Council also passed a resolution calling for a greater role for the agricultural community and state agricultural agencies in the restoration partnership, and a directive to develop strategies to retain and expand forests throughout the watershed. The region is losing forestland at a rate of 100 acres per day, land that is among the most valuable for protecting water quality.

The Chesapeake Bay Executive Council includes the governors of Maryland, Virginia, and Pennsylvania, the mayor of the District of Columbia, the administrator of the federal Environmental Protection Agency, and the chairman of the Chesapeake Bay Commission.

For more information, visit the [Chesapeake Bay Foundation website](#).

NewsClips: [Chesapeake Watershed States Agree to Slash Pollutants](#)

3 Rivers Wet Weather Sewer Conference to be Held September 27-28

The [3 Rivers Wet Weather Eighth Annual Sewer Conference](#) will be held September 27-28 at the Four Points by Sheraton Pittsburgh North in Cranberry Township.

It's no secret that Allegheny County has problems with sewage overflows during wet weather. The region now is facing the largest public works project in its history—the rehabilitation and long-term maintenance of 4,000 miles of municipal sewer collection systems to address the raw sewage and polluted stormwater that overflow into area waterways each time it rains.

Allegheny County Chief County Executive Dan Onorato will address this issue before more than 350 municipal officials, engineers, managers, public works directors and wastewater industry professionals as the keynote speaker for the Conference.

While 83 County communities in the ALCOSAN service area have begun collaborating to comply with a federal consent order to address the aging and deteriorated sewage system, Onorato will note that collaboration is not enough to ensure the successful and cost-effective implementation of a regional long-term plan for the sewer system. He will share what he has learned from visiting other U.S. regions and discuss the necessity for local municipalities to regionalize the management and operation of this utility to assure the most affordable solutions for the citizens of this region.

The two-day conference also will feature experts who will cover topics, such as a local case study on merging sewer collection systems, the status of the municipal consent orders and their financial impact on municipalities, sustainable stormwater management techniques, private lateral (the pipe leading from the home to the public sewer system)

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inspections, the WaterQUEST program at Carnegie Mellon University and an overview of the Allegheny County Comprehensive Plan Development.

More than 50 exhibitors will display and demonstrate technologies to help communities find new, cost-effective ways of assessing, restoring, operating and maintaining their sewer systems.

Registration for the event is \$65. The fee includes a continental breakfast, buffet lunch and refreshments for both days.

For more information or to register, visit the [3 Rivers Wet Weather conference webpage](#) or call at 412-237-3139.

Gardens Win Keep Pennsylvania Beautiful Community Greening Award

It takes much more than a few marigolds to win a Community Greening Award from [Keep Pennsylvania Beautiful](#) and 15 gardens across Pennsylvania have done it!

At its third annual Summit in Harrisburg on September 20, KPB named 15 gardens as valuable contributors to the aesthetics, sustainability and public enjoyment of their respective communities.

As the official state affiliate of the Keep America Beautiful organization, KPB embraces specific goals for litter control, beautification, and proper waste handling throughout Pennsylvania's natural and community environments. In fulfillment of this mission, KPB launched its community enhancement recognition program to encourage individual and group participation in enhancement projects.

The 2006 awards program, which was developed with the help of the Pennsylvania Horticultural Society, recognized "Community Greening" projects.

Gardens across the Commonwealth were nominated. Some were designed, constructed and maintained by Garden Clubs, Environmental Advisory Councils or community volunteers. Others were the dream gardens of individuals. All of the winning gardens were the result of many hours of hard work and loving attention.

Trained evaluators measured the green spaces against strict criteria that were developed by the Pennsylvania Horticultural Society, including: horticultural practice and maintenance; variety and suitability of plants; use of color and texture; creative use of space, design and total visual effect. The winning gardens all met or exceeded these criteria.

"Receiving the KPB Community Greening Award is an accomplishment that any gardener or community should be proud of," said Julia Marano, Executive Director of Keep Pennsylvania Beautiful. "It is the collective effort of residents and local businesses that makes the difference between a vibrant community with a great quality of life and a declining area."

The following gardens and green spaces received the 2006 KPB Greening Award:

- Brodheadsville – Adopt & Beautify Garden, Routes 209/115
- Clarion -- Peace Garden Route 322/Clarion River
- Collegetown – Borough Hall Garden
- Fairview – Buseck Community Park
- Harrisburg – Capital Area Greenbelt Five Senses Garden
- Harrisburg – Fairville Park Rain Garden
- Hatboro – Welcome to Hatboro Sign Landscaping

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- Langhorne – Richardson House Community Garden
- McKeesport – Renziehausen Park Arboretum & Rose Garden
- Palmerton – Palmerton Borough Park
- Phoenixville – Driver Perennial Garden
- Pottstown – Pottsgrove Manor Colonial Revival Garden
- Pottsville – Bunker Hill Playground Children’s Garden
- Springfield – Smedley Park Teaching Gardens (Delaware County)
- Stroudsburg – Patricia Hoot Kresge Community Garden

For more information about the program, nomination forms for the 2007 awards or to volunteer your help with garden evaluations, visit www.keppabeautiful.org or contact Barbara Van Clief, Pennsylvania Resources Council, 3606 Providence Road, Newtown Square, PA 19073, 610-353-1555 ext 221 or send email to: vanclief@prc.org .

DCNR Issues TreeVitalize Challenge to Chester County's Urban Areas

The Department of Conservation and Natural Resources is challenging Chester County's 16 urban centers to launch a new phase of [TreeVitalize initiative](#) to restore tree cover in the five- county southeastern region.

TreeVitalize Communities challenges municipal managers to treat urban trees as a part of the community's infrastructure.

Currently only 18 percent of Chester County residents live in one of the 16 urban centers. While other parts of the county are growing, the population of urban centers has been stagnant. TreeVitalize Communities focuses on tree planting as one effective strategy to improve the quality of life in these older, denser centers.

Three urban centers in Chester County have an active Shade Tree Commission, and two have a tree ordinance.

TreeVitalize Communities is a new technical assistance opportunity. The Delaware Valley Regional Planning Commission, [Pennsylvania Horticultural Society](#), Penn State School of Forest Resources Cooperative Extension, and the [Pennsylvania Environmental Council](#) are partnering with TreeVitalize to offer this new program.

TreeVitalize Communities is open to managers in boroughs and 1st class townships in all five counties in the Philadelphia area. Meetings will be held in other counties this fall.

Participants will learn about existing management tools as well as recommended new approaches. The program will include demonstration grants to help jump-start the work and test out new ideas.

DCNR spearheads the TreeVitalize project with many public and private partners. The \$8 million program also has a goal of planting more than 20,000 shade trees in neighborhoods in Bucks, Chester, Delaware, Montgomery and Philadelphia counties.

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

October 15 is Deadline to Enter National Student Radon Poster Contest

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The National Safety Council is sponsoring a [national radon poster contest](#) in partnership with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and the U.S. Department of Agriculture open to students from nine to 14.

The deadline for submitting entries is October 15.

Students can help spread an important public health message by participating in a national contest to raise awareness about radon, a colorless and odorless gas that is prominent in Pennsylvania and recognized as a leading cause of lung cancer.

The contest is open to students' age nine to 14 who are enrolled in a public, private or Department of Defense school, children who are home schooled, or those in a scouting organization or sponsoring club for the arts, computers, science, 4-H or anything similar.

Entries will be judged in one of two categories: hand-drawn and computer-generated submissions. Each category will have a national winner, who will receive, along with parents and the sponsoring adult, an all-expense paid trip to Washington, D.C., to participate in an awards ceremony in January 2007.

A winning submission and runner-up will be chosen from each state and U.S. territory for entry into the national contest.

[Radon](#) is a naturally-occurring radioactive gas produced by the breakdown of uranium in rocks and soil. It enters homes through tiny cracks in basements and foundations, killing an estimated 22,000 people each year --- the second-leading cause of lung cancer deaths in the United States.

There is no way to know the radon level in a home without testing. Radon test kits typically cost about \$25. For homes found to have radon, mitigation systems are available to quickly and significantly reduce levels.

Information on the requirements for the posters, submission and release forms, and other information on the national radon poster contest is available at the [National Safety Council's website](#) or by calling 202-293-2270.

For more information on radon, visit the [DEP Radon webpage](#) on radon or call 1-800-23 RADON.

6 of 10 Winners of EPA Excellence in Energy Efficiency Awards from PA

Six of the ten winners of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's [ENERGY STAR Excellence in Energy Efficiency Awards](#) are from Pennsylvania.

The 2006 Energy Star small business winners from Pennsylvania are:

- [Gehman & Company](#) of Mechanicsburg;
- [RBR - Recumbent BikeRiders, Inc.](#) of State College;
- [Susquehanna Fire Equipment Co.](#) of Dewart;
- [The Music Mart, Inc.](#) of State College;
- [T.J.'s Market](#) of Hughesville; and
- [Tripps Grill and Six Pack](#) of North Bend.

EPA recognized eight small businesses and two congregations for their energy-efficiency operations that prevented over 1 million pounds of greenhouse gas emissions and saved \$66,000 in annual utility costs.

The agency gives [Energy Star](#) awards to small businesses and congregations, institutions and associations that promote energy efficiency in their facilities.

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Small businesses and congregations that invest strategically can cut utility costs 25-30 percent without sacrificing service, style or comfort, while making significant contributions to a cleaner environment.

The efficiency improvements made by the 10 winners are wide ranging, and include lighting upgrades, improved insulation, installation of door and window seals, purchase of Energy Star qualified appliances and equipment, and use of daylighting. The savings from some upgrades paid for themselves in as little as three months.

Energy Star is a voluntary, market-based partnership designed to offer business and consumers effective energy efficiency solutions for saving energy, money and the environment.

Programs like Energy Star are vital to meeting the Bush Administration's goal to cut the greenhouse gas intensity by 18 percent by 2012. In 2005, Americans with the help of Energy Star saved \$12 billion on their energy bills and prevented greenhouse gas emissions equivalent to those produced in powering 23 million cars.

More information, visit the [2006 Small Business and Congregations Award Winners webpage](#).

ETAC-PennTAP Partnership Wins National Pollution Prevention Award

Helping businesses in western Pennsylvania reduce waste and emissions, save energy, save or create more than 400 jobs, and achieve \$20 million in economic benefits over five years has earned the Most Valuable Pollution Prevention Award from the [National Pollution Prevention Roundtable](#) for the ETAC-PennTAP-Penn State McKeesport Partnership.

The [Electrotechnology Application Center](#) at Northampton Community College (ETAC), The [Pennsylvania Technical Assistance Program](#) (PennTAP), and [Penn State McKeesport](#) formed a partnership to provide one-on-one pollution prevention and environmental compliance outreach and technical assistance to help western Pennsylvania businesses go beyond regulatory compliance.

Among the documented environmental benefits from the partnership's first five years are a reduction of 70,000,000 gallons of water use and wastewater discharged; elimination of 12,000,000 pounds of air emissions; and reduction of 5,000,000 pounds of solid wastes.

In addition, the partnership clients reported energy savings of 4,000,000 kilowatts of electric power and 50,000 thousand cubic feet per year of natural gas.

The award, presented on September 19 was sponsored by the National Pollution Prevention Roundtable, the largest membership organization in the United States devoted solely to pollution prevention. The Roundtable provides a national forum for promoting the development, implementation, and evaluation of efforts to avoid, eliminate, or reduce pollution at the source.

Dr. Mike Vasilik, Director, and Joe Cresko, Process and Materials Engineer represented ETAC at the award ceremony in Washington, D.C. PennTAP specialist Roger Price, who accepted the award on behalf of the partnership, said, "In the past many economic development stakeholders have often viewed economic development and environmental protection as competing priorities. This partnership illustrates how technical assistance focused on waste reduction and energy conservation can be entirely compatible with economic development."

EPA, Philadelphia to Promote Voluntary Pollution Reductions

The Region III Office of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and the City of Philadelphia will enter into a new voluntary partnership (an industry partnership initiative) to encourage businesses to go beyond compliance to reduce their emissions of toxic air pollutants, greenhouse gases and increase their energy efficiency.

EPA will provide technical assistance, pollution prevention (P2) site assessments (in partnership with state and local partners), and improved public relations.

A similar initiative will be launched in the Claymont, Del. area in conjunction with EPA and the Delaware Department of Natural Resources and Environmental Control.

EPA held an industry partnership initiative orientation workshop on September 19, for Philadelphia industry and business representatives on how to become involved in this new initiative to help reduce air emissions in their neighborhoods.

For a description of some of the basic techniques to be used, visit the [EPA Pollution Prevention webpage](#).

PUC Sets Hearing on Pike County 70 Percent Electric Rate Increase

The Pennsylvania Public Utility Commission scheduled two hearings to receive public comment on complaints filed against Pike County Light & Power over dramatic rate increases and billing disputes.

In October 2005, PCL's electric rate caps can off and were required to go to the regional electric market to buy power for their customers. Purchasing power via an auction led to about a 129 percent rate increase for electric customers, later reduced to 70 percent by further action by the PUC. ([PaED 5/5/06](#))

Administrative Law Judge Ember S. Jandebaur will conduct the hearings at: 10 a.m. and 6 p.m. October 4 in Matamoras, Pa.

More than 45 businesses, residents and local government agencies have filed complaints against the PCLP with the PUC about the company's electric service and rates.

Members of the public are welcome to attend the hearings and provide comments. Customer testimony will become part of the record on which the PUC will base its decision in the case.

[Instructions for the hearing and the full announcement are online.](#)

Author to Discuss Creating Livable Communities September 25

Nationally recognized expert on smart growth planning Ed McMahon will speak at Allenberry Resort Inn and Playhouse in Boiling Springs, Cumberland County, on September 25 on "The Dollars and Sense of Protecting Community Character."

McMahon will present material from his book "[Better Models for Development in Pennsylvania](#)," a guide to creating, maintaining and enhancing livable communities. He stresses the use of education, incentives and voluntary initiatives, not just regulations to encourage higher quality development. He will explore how new development can be made more attractive, efficient, profitable and environmentally sensitive.

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“The truth is that development is inevitable, but the destruction of community character and natural resources that too often accompany growth is not,” McMahon said. “Progress does not demand degraded surroundings.”

This event is open to the public and free of charge. Appetizers and beverages will be served at 6:30 p.m., followed by a presentation at 7 p.m. in the Playhouse.

Please RSVP to the [Appalachian Trail Conservancy](#), at 717-258-5771.

Lancaster Seeks Nominations for 2006 Smart Growth Awards

To recognize outstanding Smart Growth projects in Lancaster County, the [Lancaster County Planning Commission](#) is calling for entries to the Fourth Annual Smart Growth Leadership Awards.

Nominations are due October 3.

This awards program highlights the efforts of municipalities, developers/builders, individuals, citizen groups, organizations and public/private partnerships to implement Smart Growth in Lancaster County. Any project from 2001 to the present is eligible.

Smart Growth entry [forms and application criteria are available online](#) or by contacting Mary Frey, LCPC Principal Planner, at 299-8333 or send email to: frey@co.lancaster.pa.us.

NewsClip: [Sustainable Living – Growing Greener](#)

EPA Co-Sponsors 2006 Children’s Environmental Health Conference in Pittsburgh

Registration is now open for the [4th Annual Children's Environmental Health Conference](#) to be held on October 21 in Pittsburgh, Pa.

The conference is being sponsored by EPA Mid-Atlantic Region in collaboration with the Mid-Atlantic Center for Children's Health and the Environment (MACCHE), the Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry, the Children's Hospital of Pittsburgh, and the Children's National Medical Center.

The Conference will address important issues in children's health that are affected by the environment. Some of the topics for discussion include: the built environment, and cancer and environmental exposure.

For more information, visit the [Children's Environmental Health Conference webpage](#).

Global Warming and Agriculture Workshop Feature DEP, Agriculture Secretaries

On November 8 the Clean Air Council will host a [Global Warming Policy and Pennsylvania Agriculture](#) work featuring the Secretaries of Agriculture and the Environmental Protection as the keynote speakers.

The workshop will be held at DEP’s Southeast Regional Office in Norristown from 10:00 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Topics to be covered at the workshop include: What is terrestrial carbon sequestration? Where are farmers already adding income through offsets? What are the opportunities for Pennsylvania? How can environmentalist work with farmers to build strong farms and address global warming?

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This is the latest in a series of steps the Rendell Administration is making to highlight the issue of global climate change and the need for state action.

Just this week, the Environmental Quality Board adopted California vehicle emission standards that sets limits on carbon dioxide emissions.

In August, the Department of Conservation and Natural Resources announced it was developing a [Carbon Management Plan](#), updating the state's greenhouse gas inventory and forming a work group to look at climate change issues.

The Rendell Administration is also developing the [PennSecurity Fuels Initiative](#), a renewable biofuels legislative initiative that is designed to increase the use of biofuels instead of petroleum-based fuels.

For more information and to register, visit the [Global Warming Policy and Pennsylvania Agriculture Workshop webpage](#).

Exelon and The Conservation Fund Donate 79-Acre Susquehanna Island

Exelon Corporation and The Conservation Fund announced this week that Exelon will donate a 79-acre island on the Susquehanna River about 3 miles south of the Conowingo Dam to The Conservation Fund which will donate it to Maryland's Department of Natural Resources.

The donation will help support the [Captain John Smith Four-Hundred Project](#), an educational initiative retracing Captain John Smith's historic Chesapeake Bay voyages.

The land, named Roberts Island, is located in the Susquehanna River offshore from the area known as "Rock Run" in Susquehanna State Park, near the junction of Deer Creek. The island, which is approximately 1,100 yards long and 175 yards across, was among those noted by Captain John Smith on his original map of the Chesapeake Bay. The donation is part of a celebration of the 400th anniversary of Captain John Smith's founding of Jamestown and exploration of the Chesapeake Bay.

Exelon acquired the island in the 1920's as part of then-Philadelphia Electric Company's Conowingo Project, a project to construct the Conowingo Dam and Hydroelectric Generating Station. Since then, the island has been an attractive stop for boaters and historians due to its connection to Captain John Smith.

"We've seen over the years that Roberts Island has become a popular recreation spot along the Susquehanna," said Mark Schiavoni, president of Exelon Power, the company that operates the Conowingo Hydroelectric Generating Station. "I am proud to be involved in a project that will help enrich the public on the history of the Chesapeake region."

Exelon owns and manages more than 9,000 acres along the Susquehanna River. Much of the land is used for fishing, boating, hiking and other recreational activities. The company has also been working with the Maryland Department of Natural Resources and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service for more than 35 years to help restore the once-endangered American shad to the Susquehanna River.

"We are delighted to be able to donate Roberts Island to the State of Maryland," said Elizabeth Moler, executive vice president of Exelon Corporation. "The Conservation Fund's work to establish the [Captain John Smith Chesapeake National Historic Water Trail](#) led us to realize the island's historic significance. Roberts Island has been a part of the

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Conowingo Project, so it has been protected from development by the Exelon Corporation."

Patrick Noonan, chairman emeritus of The Conservation Fund, congratulated Exelon for its timely gift on the eve of the 400th anniversary of Smith's exploration of the Chesapeake Bay. "Roberts Island marks the northernmost extent of Smith's voyages and will be an important legacy site in the lower Susquehanna for the proposed Captain John Smith Chesapeake National Historic Water Trail. Thanks to Exelon's generous donation, its commitment to environmental stewardship and the leadership of the State of Maryland, we are one step closer to establishing the nation's first all-water National Historic Trail."

National Hunting & Fishing Day Celebrated on September 26

Representatives of the Fish and Boat Commission and the Game Commission, along with several respected statewide sportsmen's organizations, will host a National Hunting and Fishing Day celebration on September 26 in the East Wing Rotunda of the State Capitol in Harrisburg.

The event, which will feature a series of informational booths, will run from 9 a.m. until 1 p.m., and will include a noon news conference.

The event highlights the importance hunting, trapping, fishing and boating and the related activities supported by the two independent state agencies has had and continues to have on the state's cultural heritage, recreational attributes and economy.

NewsClip: [Fall Fishing Opportunities Around Pennsylvania](#)
[Outdoors: State Outdoor Groups Plan Joint Celebration](#)

Game Commission to Hold State Game Land Tours in September, October

As part of the Game Commission's efforts to highlight its ongoing habitat improvement initiatives, the public is invited to take part in upcoming [tours of four State Game Lands](#) between September 23 and October 15. All tours are free.

Information on the various tours by region follows:

September 23 - Bradford County: from 10 a.m. until 2:30 p.m. (rain or shine). This will be a 20-mile self-guided driving tour through State Game Lands 12 and 36, and will take about two hours to complete.

October 1 - Elk County: 1-5 p.m., State Game Land 44. The tour will start at the Game Commission State Game Lands Headquarters on Game Commission Road, which is six-tenths of a mile south of Route 949 at the Toby Creek Bridge.

October 8 - Luzerne/Wyoming Counties: State Game Land 57. Registration will be held from 7:30 a.m. until 12:30 p.m. at the headquarters building complex on State Game Land 57, Ricketts Station near Lopez, Forkston Township, Wyoming County.

October 15 - Dauphin/Lebanon/Schuylkill Counties: 9 a.m. to 3 p.m., State Game Land 211, which encompasses more than 44,000 acres in a three-county area. The tour will start

at the Ellendale gate in Middle Paxton Township, Dauphin County, just northeast of Dauphin Borough.

With few exceptions, State Game Lands were purchased using revenues from hunting and furtaker license sales; State Game Lands timber, coal, oil, gas and mineral operation revenues; the state's share of a federal excise tax on sporting arms and ammunition, known as the Pittman-Robertson Program; from Working Together for Wildlife artwork and patch sales; and from the Pennsylvania Waterfowl Management stamp and print sales.

For directions and other details, visit the [Game Commission Tour announcement online](#).

NewsClips: [Game Commission Holds Open House on Deer Estimating Process](#)
[Rescue of Elk Performed by Game Commission Staff](#)

Feature

Junior Environment Corps Pilot Project Launched in the Wissahickon Watershed

By Virginia Ranly

Watershed Programs Coordinator

Schuylkill Center for Environmental Education

The fish kill that occurred in [Wissahickon Creek](#) this summer, as well as the release of raw sewage just a few days later remind us of our heavy dependence and impact on our waterways. The freshwater streams in our area are a great resource to the community, but these streams also bear the brunt of the many stresses that we add to the land and waterways.

Despite the surroundings of Wissahickon Valley in Philadelphia and a riparian corridor in Montgomery County, Wissahickon Creek is heavily impacted by human activities on land throughout the watershed.

This fall The Schuylkill Center is implementing a pilot project with four schools in the Wissahickon watershed. Through this pilot project, a Junior Environment Corp (JEC) will be established in each of the four schools—Pennfield Middle School in Hatfield, C.W. Henry School in Mt. Airy, James Dobson School in Manayunk, and Thomas Mifflin School in East Falls. These JECs will regularly monitor points on the Wissahickon Creek and the Schuylkill River.

JEC students will receive training in water quality assessment, as well as additional watershed stewardship education programs, participate in watershed-focused service projects, and conduct community outreach to residents.

Funding for the project is provided by Pennsylvania's Growing Greener program through the Department of Environmental Protection. This funding, along with the commitment of materials and time from many other community partners has allowed The Schuylkill Center to dedicate the time and resources necessary to make this a successful and influential project.

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The Junior Environment Corps pilot project is the fourth Schuylkill Center project to be funded through Growing Greener, and resources and programs developed through previous projects are being utilized in the implementation of the JEC pilot project.

The Junior Environment Corps concept is modeled after existing Pennsylvania Senior Environment Corps (PaSECs). PaSECs are groups of senior citizens (55 and older) who volunteer to regularly monitor Pennsylvania's waterways.

Pennsylvania sometimes uses volunteers to collect water quality data because the state is charged with monitoring the status of all of its waterways, including 53,982 miles of streams—a monumental task that is never completed.

Many individuals and school groups take water quality measurements without proper quality assurance measures and without careful planning, resulting in the collection of data that is of little scientific value.

With the creation of a Study Design for the students and a Student Field Manual, and a variety of safety and quality assurance protocols built into the program, the JEC pilot project aims to give validity to water monitoring done by students. The Study Design and Student Field Manual were created with assistance from the PADEP's Citizen Volunteer Monitoring Program. The Study Design and Student Field Manual will be made available to other schools after the pilot project concludes.

An integral part of the JEC pilot project is the intergenerational collaboration between members of Pennsylvania Senior Environment Corps and the middle school students. This collaboration improves the quality of the data being collected and also emphasizes the importance of a community approach to improving our environment.

The three PaSEC groups participating in the project are the Montgomery County SEC (based in Lansdale), the Center in the Park SEC (based in Germantown) and The Schuylkill Center SEC (based out of The Schuylkill Center).

If you or someone you know is 55 or older and interested in participating in the Senior Environment Corps and/or mentoring Junior Environment Corp students, please contact The Schuylkill Center.

Additional information about the Junior Environment Corps pilot project in the Wissahickon and Lower Schuylkill watersheds can be found on the [Student Water Monitoring Network website](#). This site also hosts the students' water quality data and additional information about their projects.

Reprinted with permission from [The Quill, Fall 2006 edition](#), published by the [Schuylkill Center for Environmental Education](#).

Fall Feature

Autumn's Gold Includes Millions of Monarch Butterflies Migrating South

By Kathy Reshetiloff
Chesapeake Bay Naturalist

The monarch—easily recognized by dark orange wings with black veins and white edge spots—is found throughout the United States and into southern Canada. This butterfly is also one of the few that migrate.

As the days grow shorter, the fall migration begins with millions of monarchs making their way south. Monarchs in the west migrate to southern California, while those in the central and eastern parts of North America overwinter in the Gulf States and remote mountain valleys of south-central Mexico.

From the first week of September through the third week of October, this familiar 4-inch beauty is making its way south through the Chesapeake Bay watershed.



To read the entire feature from the [Chesapeake Bay Journal](#), Go To:
[Autumn's Gold Includes Millions of Monarch Butterflies Migrating South](#)

PaED Video Blog: [Monarchs and Other Butterflies Visiting Our Front Porch](#)

Quick Clips

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

- [RecycleBank Benefits Make Way to Suburbs](#)
- [Pittsburgh Budget Keeps "Redd Up" Campaign](#)
- [School Lunches Great Way to Teach Environmental 3 Rs](#)
- [Lake Erie Cleanup Removes Thousands of Pounds of Trash](#)
- [COALS Programs Expands Cleanup Efforts to Lackawanna, Luzerne](#)
- [Outdoors: State Outdoor Groups Plan Joint Celebration](#)
- [Fall Fishing Opportunities Around Pennsylvania](#)
- [Game Commission Holds Open House on Deer Estimating Process](#)
- [Rescue of Elk Performed by Game Commission Staff](#)
- [Gates Keep People Out, Bats Safe](#)
- [PA Leads Nation in ATV-Related Deaths](#)
- [Bike Trail Touches Eastern Continental Divide](#)
- [Op-Ed: Donating Land? Tax Break Just Got Better](#)
- [Op-Ed: Seminars Help Owners Use Pension Law to Preserve Land](#)
- [Conservation Trust To Team Up With Townships](#)

[State Brownfields Investments Cleanup 950 Sites Since 2003](#)

[Somerset Approves New Wind Turbine Farm](#)

[Sheetz Introduces E85 To Western PA Market](#)

[Financing Woes Slow Coal to Fuel Production Plant](#)

[PA Energy Efficiency Project Wins Federal Grant](#)

[State OKs Plan to Reduce Pollution at Hatfield Ferry Power Plant](#)

[Officials Hear Ways to Further Conservation Efforts](#)

[Sustainable Living – Growing Greener](#)

Watershed NewsClips

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

[Pittsburgh Voyager Becomes RiverQuest](#)

[River Wards Group is Wary of Development](#)

[Volunteers Flood Area Stream Watch Program](#)

[Beech Creek Watershed Assn. Sees Vision for Greenway](#)

[New York City Officials Devising New Reservoir Rules](#)

[Residents Debate Land Use in Spring Creek Watershed](#)

[Montour Tour Includes Development, Wetland, Bridge](#)

[PA Announces Interim Plan to Lower New York City Reservoirs](#)

[Effort to Focus on Delaware Floods](#)

[Norfolk Southern Ordered to Resotr Sinnemahoning-Portage Creek](#)

Regulations

EQB Adopts California Cars Standard, Another Climate Change Piece in Place

The Environmental Quality Board voted to finalize a rule adopting the California vehicle emissions standards that includes limits on climate-changing carbon dioxide for the first time.

The Board also approved [other items on the agenda](#), including proposed radiological health regulation changes needed for Pennsylvania to take over inspection and permitting duties from the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission, proposed regulations covering water resources management and consideration of the petition to redesignate Bear Run, Indiana County. However, the petition for Shermans Creek, Perry County, was held for further consideration.

The Board did accept several amendments to the California vehicle standards rule by Sen. Mary Jo White (R-Venango) that, among other things, requires the Department of Environmental Protection to evaluate Pennsylvania's current vehicle emission inspection program to determine if it can be changed or eliminated in light of the new California car standards.

In other climate change actions, the Department of Conservation and Natural Resources announced it was developing a [Carbon Management Plan](#), updating the state's greenhouse gas inventory and forming a work group to look at climate change issues.

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The Rendell Administration is also developing the [PennSecurity Fuels Initiative](#), a renewable biofuels legislative initiative that is designed to increase the use of biofuels instead of petroleum-based fuels.

NewsClip: [EQB Approves California Car Regulations State to Require Cleaner, Maybe Costlier, Cars](#)

No other new regulations were published this week.

[Pennsylvania Bulletin – September 23, 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 Environmental Protection published proposed revisions to the [PA Drinking Water Information System User's Manual](#).

DEP ID: 383-3310-409. Pennsylvania Drinking Water Information System (PADWIS) Violation and Enforcement User's Manual. This manual provides uniform instructions and protocol for the use of the online Safe Drinking Water Program violation and enforcement information system that is a major subsystem of the PADWIS. Comments due: October 23.

[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](#)

- **September 25** - Senate Rules Committee meets to consider [House Resolution 795](#) (DeWeese-D-Greene) designating December 19 as “Coal Miner’s Day.” Rules Committee Room. Off the Floor.
- **September 26** – **CANCELLED**. DEP Stormwater Manual Oversight Committee meeting. Rescheduled to October 10.
- **September 26** – Senate State Government Committee meets to consider [House Bill 854](#) (Rubley-R-Chester) establishing the Terrorism Infrastructure Disclosure Protection Act prohibiting the release of certain infrastructure records, [House Bill 236](#) (Pickett-R-

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Bradford) requiring the review of regulations for their impact on small business by the Independent Regulatory Review Commission. Rules Committee Room. 10:30.

- **September 27** – Senate Environmental Resources and Energy Committee meets to consider [House Bill 1902](#) (Rubley-R-Chester) to indefinitely extend the \$2 Recycling Fee. Room 8E-A East Wing. 10:00.
- **September 27** – [Delaware River Basin Commission meeting](#) on flood mitigation and flood loss reduction, a proposed water loss accountability program, a status report on the DRBC Water Resources Plan and other matters. DRBC Office, West Trenton, NJ.
- **September 27** – [DCNR Conservation and Natural Resources Advisory Council](#) meeting. Room 105, Rachel Carson Building. 10:00.
- **September 27** – DEP [Air Quality Technical Advisory Committee](#) meeting to take formal action on draft final mercury emissions control regulation. PSSHE Dixon University Center, Richards Hall, 2986 N. Second St. 9:00.
- **September 28** – Joint Air and Water Pollution Control and Conservation Committee meeting of Legislative Forestry Task Force. Senate Room, Penn Stater Conference Center Hotel, State College. 10:00.
- **October 3** – Renewable Agriculture Energy Council meeting. Penn State University. 10:00. (details to be announced)
- **October 5** – [PA Energy Development Authority](#) meeting. Room 105 Rachel Carson Building. 10:00.
- **October 10** – [DEP Stormwater Manual Oversight Committee](#) meeting. Room 105 Rachel Carson Building. 10:00.
- **October 13** - [DEP Water Resources Advisory Committee](#) meeting. Room 105 Rachel Carson Building. 9:30.
- **October 17** – ~~RESCHEDULED to a Conference Call~~. [State Board for Certification of Water and Wastewater System Operators](#).
- **October 19** – ~~RESCHEDULED~~. [DEP Environmental Justice Advisory Board](#) meeting was changed to this date from November 2. Rachel Carson Building. 9:15. Contact: Ayanna King, 717-783-5630.
- **October 19** – [Joint Legislative Air and Water Pollution Control and Conservation Committee](#) Forestry Task Force meeting. Penn Stater Hotel, State College. 10:00.
- **October 31-November 5** – [National Historic Preservation Conference](#). National Trust for Historic Preservation. Pittsburgh.
- **November 20** – Environmental Issues Forum, Joint Air and Water Pollution Control and Conservation Committee featuring J. Kent Crawford, USGS, to discuss the emerging contaminants project. Room 205 Ryan Building. Noon.
- **December 12** – ~~CANCELLED~~. [Coal and Clay Mine Subsidence Insurance Board meeting](#).
- **December 14** – [Coal and Clay Mine Subsidence Insurance Board meeting](#). 14th 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

[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@HolstonCrisci.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 Holston & Crisci and the public. Holston & Crisci is a Harrisburg-based government and public affairs firm whose clients include Fortune 500 companies and non-profit organizations. For more information on Holston & Crisci call 717-234-1716.

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