

— PA — Environment Digest

*An Update on
Environmental
Issues in
Pennsylvania*

Edited By David E. Hess, Holston & Crisci

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Take Time to Enjoy Fall in Pennsylvania, Peak Times October 8-15

Fall officially arrived September 22, but many people didn't notice with the hurricanes, school starting and lots of other things going on.

Take some time now to enjoy Fall in Pennsylvania, that once a year time most other parts of the country can't experience. [Peak times for leaves](#) come fast – October 8 for some northern areas through October 15 for southern.

Pennsylvania's [Fall in PA website](#) has a wealth of information on taking fall foliage trips, birdwatching, hiking and special [Fall events and festivals](#). You can even monitor for peak leaf times online with the [live Foliage Cams](#).

Visit the [PA Wilds webpage](#) for tips on [Elk watching](#) and other [PA Wilds roadtrips](#)

Migrating birds from falcons and hawks to the traditional geese offer great excuses to get outside this Fall. For suggestions, visit [Birdwatching](#), [Hawk Mountain Sanctuary](#), [Susquehanna River Birding and Wildlife Trails](#), [Birding in Western Pennsylvania](#) and visit the [Audubon Pennsylvania website](#) for links to local chapters around the state.

And if you'd like to share your [Fall](#) experience with others, send in your photos of the best places you visited and we'll share them. Email them to: DHess@HolstonCrisci.com.

Session Schedule

The Senate and House both return to regular and Special session October 17.

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This grand photo should have you pining for the outdoors this Fall. But where is it? *See Stories Invited for answer.*

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

On the Hill

House Hears Comments on Strengthening Brownfield Cleanup Covenants

The House Environmental Resources and Energy Committee chaired by Rep. Bill Adolph (R-Delaware) and Rep. Camille George (D-Clearfield), heard comments this week on [House Bill 1249](#) (Rublely-R-Chester) that would strengthen environmental covenants used in brownfield cleanups.

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The bill is based on legislation drafted by members of the National Conference of Commissioners on Uniform State Laws that has already been adopted in at least seven states.

House Bill 1249 would do several things – require the use of covenants with standard elements that make them clearly enforceable in court without relying on common law understandings; specifies the entities that are required to be notified of the covenants, including local governments; gives the Department of Environmental Protection and persons with an interest in the property clear authority to enforce covenants and requires the agency to set up a registry of all covenants as a resource for developers.

The Committee heard comments from Ray Pepe, representing the National Conference; Eugene DePasquale, DEP Deputy Secretary for Revitalization & Local Government Support; Pam Witmer, Pennsylvania Chemical Industries Council; and [Brian Hill, Pennsylvania Environmental Council](#).

Witnesses supported the need for specific legislation to create enforceable covenants to ensure the future integrity of brownfield cleanups. Covenants connected to brownfield cleanups assign responsibility for maintaining engineering controls and limits on using the property that make sure future owners or current users are not at risk.

Hill said, “Cleanups that isolate or prevent the use of a site in certain ways are only good if you preserve the integrity of those controls. The way to do that is to clearly spell out those limits and responsibilities in covenants that are clearly enforceable on existing and new owners of brownfields.

“The Pennsylvania Environmental Council has promoted the cleanup of brownfield sites since the 1990s as a way to encourage new development on existing sites. The more brownfields we reuse, the fewer farms and open spaces will come under development pressure.”

Hill said the Council has a number of brownfield-related projects now underway in several areas of the state including: development of the French Creek Outdoor Learning Center on a former brownfield site in Meadville, a brownfield and grayfield (abandoned mine site) inventory in Luzerne and Lackawanna counties and is working with the Northeast Riverfront Task Force to redevelop the North Delaware Riverfront and the Delaware Riverfront Greenway both in Philadelphia.

Comments by the Chemical Industries Council suggested re-looking at provisions that had the potential for reopening federally-approved and Superfund cleanups to convert them to the new covenants so they could be included on the central registry and making the legislation more self-implementing without the need for lengthy DEP regulations.

DEP supported the legislation noting there are now 424 sites around the state with deed restrictions designed to limit the uses of property or protect the integrity of engineering controls.

The agency said it was open to discussing different ways of achieving the objectives of the legislation and would be glad to participate in further discussions in the workgroup put together by the prime sponsor Rep. Rubley.

There was a suggestion by Rep. Surra (D-Elk) that DEP look at whether these environmental covenants could be used to assign responsibilities for long-term treatment of acid mine drainage and DEP agreed to look at that issue.

Attorney General, Oil Industry Warn of Tough Winter Ahead

Attorney General Tom Corbett warned members of the Senate Consumer Affairs and Professional Licensure Committee this week that home heating oil and natural gas prices could replace current concerns about gasoline prices, all due to the impacts of the two hurricanes hitting the Gulf Coast.

Representatives of the petroleum industry echoed those same concerns.

The Associated Petroleum Industries of Pennsylvania reported 23 percent of the refining capacity, and 28 percent of crude oil production and 15 percent of the natural gas production of the United States is out of service along with a significant number of natural gas processing plants.

The Department of Energy already has projected natural gas and heating oil prices will increase 40 – 70 percent this winter, although experts say it is difficult to predict where prices will be.

The Pennsylvania Petroleum Marketers and Convenience Store Association said there were concerns about rising heating oil prices even before the hurricanes. The Association also said the New York Mercantile Exchange has a significant impact on heating oil and gasoline pricing as traders not connected to the industry buy and sell product for delivery in the future.

Another potential problem is the interrelated nature of some natural gas users and demand for heating oil. The Association said as natural gas supplies to businesses are interrupted, many switch to heating oil as a replacement fuel putting further demand on supplies.

Rising heating costs will also put more pressure on the [LIHEAP low-income household heating assistance program](#) which will be inadequate for this heating season, the Association said. They recommended an increase in funding for the program.

The Attorney General said his office has received 1,400 complaints about gasoline price gouging since Hurricane Katrina hit. His Office has issued 30 subpoenas, done over 600 spot checks at service stations and has joined a 43-state investigation of prices by Attorney Generals in other states.

The Public Utility Commission this week also re-launched its own [“Prepare Now” campaign](#) to educate the public about ways they can reduce energy costs.

NewsClips: [Rendell Considers Boost in Heat Aid](#)
[Rendell Pushes More Federal LIHEAP Aid](#)
[Bleak Winter Outlook](#)
[Rendell – State Needs Other Energy Sources](#)
[What’s Up With Energy Costs?](#)
[PGW Seeks 29% Natural Gas Rate Boost](#)
[30% Natural Gas Hike Likely in Western PA](#)

New Issue of Environmental Synopsis, Next Issues Forum October 24

The latest edition of the Environmental Synopsis by the [Joint Air and Water Pollution Control and Conservation Committee](#) is now available online and the next Environmental Issues Forum will be October 24.

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This month's issue features stories on Pennsylvania's State Forests, special fuel blends, lead hazards and 40 years of waste management.

Find the [September Issue online](#) as well as [back issues](#).

The first Environmental Issues Forum of the [Fall](#) legislative session will welcome [Pennsylvania Recreation and Park Society](#) President Lee Bryan to make a presentation on the implementation of the Pennsylvania Recreation Plan.

Bryan will be joined by Cindy Dunn, director of the Bureau of Recreation and Conservation, and Vanyla Tierney, chief of Greenways and Rivers Partnerships, both of the Department of Conservation and Natural Resources in offering the presentation.

Bills Moving in Senate/House

EnergyStar, historic preservation and utility shut-off legislation all moved this week in the General Assembly. Here's a quick rundown...

EnergyStar Tax Relief: [House Bill 1687](#) (Ellis-R-Bucks) eliminating the sales tax on certain appliances that meet [EnergyStar](#) requirements was reported out of House Rules and referred to House Appropriations.

Historic Preservation: [House Bill 27](#) (Tangretti-D-Westmoreland) establishing the Historic Home and Neighborhood Preservation Act was reported out of House Rules Committee.

Shutting Off Water: [House Bill 893](#) (Semmel-R-Berks) changing procedures for shutting off water for nonpayment of sewage bills was reported out of House Rules Committee.

Bills Introduced

Hybrid Vehicle Development: [House Resolution 445](#) (Cohen-D-Philadelphia) urging auto makers to develop and produce plug-in hybrid vehicles.

Increasing In-Lieu of Tax Payments: [Senate Bill 868](#) (Scarnati-R-Warren) would increase in-lieu of tax payments for state forest land.

In Other News

Groups Call On Congress to Clean Up Streams Polluted By Abandoned Mines

The [PA AML Coalition](#), a group of over 200 Pennsylvania conservation organizations, this week called on the U.S. Congress to extend the federal Abandoned Mine Reclamation Program until the job of cleaning up streams and water supplies polluted by abandoned mines is finished.

Andrew S. McElwaine, President & CEO of the [Pennsylvania Environmental Council](#), presented the Coalition's comments at a hearing by the U.S. Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

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“Pennsylvania alone has over 184,000 acres of abandoned mine sites that present public safety and health hazards, the most of any state in the nation,” said McElwaine. “Since 1999 more than 55 people have drowned in mining pits and quarries or riding over abandoned mines on ATVs. We have over 2,200 miles of streams polluted by drainage from abandoned mines which cannot sustain aquatic life or serve as water supplies.”

State agencies and watershed groups have spent nearly \$500 million in state funds since the 1970’s to cleanup abandoned mines and recently the Growing Greener II initiative was approved by voters to spend an additional \$60 million.

“Of the \$950 million in state and federal dollars spent on abandoned mine reclamation in Pennsylvania, nearly half came from state and private sources,” said McElwaine. “Pennsylvania is also doing our part by giving the current coal industry incentives to go back and re-mine abandoned areas and promoting other innovative solutions like treating polluted mine water for cooling at power plants to bring more private sector resources into solving this problem.”

Federal mine reclamation programs are funded by fees on coal production—35 cents per ton on surface mined coal and 15 cents per ton on coal from underground mines-- which have been temporarily extended three times over the last year.

“Congress needs to provide reliable funding to finish the job they started in 1977 by assuring states they will be a real partner in cleaning up abandoned mines,” said McElwaine. “Instead of annual battles and temporary extensions, Congress should make the commitment to reauthorize reclamation funding until at least abandoned mine sites that are unsafe or threaten public health are cleaned up. Our streams and water supplies can’t wait.”

The PA AML Campaign is recommending these changes—

- Commit to reauthorizing federal reclamation funding for at least until all Priority 1 (safety) and 2 (public health) sites are cleaned up—within 20 years -- and provide a program to fund Priority 3 (degraded lands);
- Allocate funding to states based on historic coal production levels so that states with the most abandoned mine problems receive the most funding;
- Fully appropriate the \$1.4 billion that is now sitting in the Abandoned Mine Reclamation Fund to support state and federal reclamation efforts;
- Reclamation fees collected by the AMR Fund should be sent directly to the states under a funding formula without need for an annual appropriation; and
- Fund the Combined Benefit Fund with the interest generated by the AMR Fund so health care benefits continue for retired miners and their families.

“The PA AML Coalition is grateful for the support of Pennsylvania’s entire Congressional Delegation, in particular U.S. Senator Arlen Specter, Congressmen John Peterson and John Murtha and U.S. Senator Rick Santorum as well as Gov. Ed Rendell and the Pennsylvania General Assembly, in reauthorizing federal reclamation funding,” said McElwaine. “I’m also proud the Pennsylvania Environmental Council could represent the AML Coalition at the Senate hearing.”

For more information, go to the [PA AML Coalition website](#) and for testimony by other witnesses at the hearing go to the [U.S. Senate Environment and Natural Resources Committee webpage](#).

DEP Asks for Comments on Interim Nutrient, Sediment Trading Policy

The Department of Environmental Protection formally published notice of its interim final guidance creating a nutrient and sediment reduction trading policy. DEP is asking for comments by November 18.

The trading policy is designed to lower the cost of complying with nutrient reduction requirements, like in the [Chesapeake Bay Watershed](#), by creating credits for every pound of nutrients reduced that can be traded to parties that are required to reduce nutrients.

By creating this credit market, sellers of credits from cheaper nutrient reduction techniques like installing best management practices on farms can be traded to buyers who would otherwise have to install expensive technology on wastewater treatment facilities to comply.

The net result is a lower cost of removing nutrients.

Written comments should be submitted to DEP's Water Planning Office, P. O. Box 2063, Harrisburg, PA 17105-2063 or by e-mail to Ann Smith at annsmith@state.pa.us or Andrew Zemba at azemba@state.pa.us.

For copies of the interim final policy and the accompanying appendix, visit the DEP [Chesapeake Bay Tributary Strategy webpage](#). Questions regarding the interim final technical guidance document should be directed to Ann Smith or Andrew Zemba at 717-772-4785 or by sending email to the addresses noted above.

AMD & ART Receive National Phoenix Award



The [AMD&ART](#) acid-mine drainage and art project in Vintondale, Cambria County will receive a 2005 Phoenix Award by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency at the [National Brownfields Conference](#) in November.

“The AMD&ART project is a terrific example of how to bring a river damaged by acid-mine drainage back to productive reuse. EPA is proud to support this project that is bringing streams back to life,” said Donald S. Welsh, Administrator, Region 3 EPA.

The AMD&ART project transformed a 35-acre property contaminated by acid-mine drainage and converted it into a passive water treatment system and open space. Portions of the project were funded by an EPA sustainable development challenge grant.

The Phoenix awards, established in 1997, are given annually by the non-profit Phoenix Awards Institute to recognize innovative yet practical remediation projects at Brownfields sites in the U.S. and abroad.

This is one of two Phoenix Awards projects in Pennsylvania received among the fourteen winners recognized at the Conference. (*See separate article on the Chester Project.*)

AMD&ART also won the [Governor's Award for Watershed Stewardship in 2001](#), the wetlands restoration award from the Department of Transportation in 2002 and the [2005 Western Pennsylvania Environmental Award](#).

NewsClip: [Brownfields Cleanup Wins Recognition](#)

Chesapeake Bay Targeted Watershed Grant applications Due November 18

The National Fish and Wildlife Foundation and the Chesapeake Bay Trust, in cooperation with the Chesapeake Bay Program, announced they are accepting applications for the [Chesapeake Bay Targeted Watersheds Grant Program](#).

Proposals are due November 18. A workshop for potential grantees is October 18

The overall goal for the Chesapeake Bay Targeted Watersheds Grant Program is to expand the collective knowledge on the most innovative, sustainable and cost-effective strategies – including market-based approaches – for reducing excess nutrient loads within specific tributaries to the Chesapeake Bay.

The National Fish and Wildlife Foundation will award 8-12 grants of up to \$1 million on a competitive basis to selected projects that target and reflect the diverse conditions (e.g., urban, rural, suburban) and sources of nutrients (e.g., agricultural, stormwater, other nonpoint sources) that exist throughout the Chesapeake watershed.

Specifically, the program seeks to:

- Support implementation of water quality trading demonstrations and other market-based strategies to reduce nutrient loads to the Bay;
- Promote the development of innovative, cost-effective approaches to facilitate adoption of Best Management Practices (BMPs) or those that identify and implement strategies to overcome existing barriers to adoption of BMPs;
- Demonstrate and ground-truth new BMPs or innovative technologies that support their inclusion on the list of practices approved for use within the Chesapeake Bay Watershed Model;
- Foster implementation and evaluation of the most effective BMPs or nutrient reduction measures contained in state Tributary Strategies within small watersheds.

A workshop for potential grantees is scheduled for October 18 in Washington, D.C. from 10 a.m.-3 p.m., at the Hall of the States building, 444 North Capitol Street, NW, Washington, DC.

Due to the security screening at the Hall of the States, the foundation requests that you please RSVP by sending an e-mail to chesapeake@nfwf.org and plan to arrive at the workshop at least 15 minutes early and bring a photo ID. If you have additional questions, contact Tom Kelsch at the foundation at 202-857-0166.

For more information on the program, visit the [Chesapeake Bay Targeted Watersheds Grant Program webpage](#).

Chesapeake Bay Watershed Photo Contest, Entries Due October 31

Attention photographers! The Chesapeake Bay Foundation is sponsoring a [Bay Watershed Photo Contest](#) to show off the people, wildlife, farms, industries and recreation features of the Bay Watershed. Website visitors can vote on their favorites.

You can also enter photos of the pollution problems the Bay Program is working hard to correct.

As an added feature, visitors to the CBF website can vote for their favorite photos through October.

Photos can be submitted online or by snail mail by October 31.

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First place winners will receive \$500, Second Place \$250, Third Place \$100 and Honorable Mention \$50, plus a free CBF membership and winner have their photos displayed online and in the CBF newsletter. Winners will be notified by December 15.

Visit the [Bay Watershed Photo Contest online](#) for more information.

New Monitoring Matters Newsletter Available Online

The latest issue of [Monitoring Matters](#) features stories on lakes and reservoirs including, the PA Watersheds Data System, bulletin board and grant opportunities, a profile of Stephen Foster Lake and Mill Creek, Bradford County and components of a lake assessment.

[Monitoring Matters](#) is published by the [Pennsylvania Organization for Watersheds and Rivers](#) and the Department of Environmental Protection.

Water Connects Us All - World Water Monitoring Day October 18



Citizens from around the world will join in [World Water Monitoring Day](#) on October 18 to share the results of the simultaneous measurement of temperature, pH, dissolved oxygen and turbidity in water bodies around the planet.

For more information on how you can be part of this shared experience, visit the [World Water Monitoring Day webpage](#).

September Issue of EPA's Watershed News Now Online

Up-to-date information on resources available to help restore watersheds is available through [Watershed News](#) every month from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.

The September issue provides information on the launch of a new online Watershed Discussion Forum, the River Network's new Clean Water Act manual, information on a new issue of Nonpoint Source News Notes, the Watershed Academy's free monthly webcasts and the Center for Watershed Protection's new Stormwater Institute.

To get your own copy by email, simply send a blank email to watershed-news-subscribe@lists.epa.gov. (courtesy [Watershed Alliance of York](#))

EPA Awards \$1 Million to Redevelop Brownfields in Allegheny County

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency awarded \$1 million to Allegheny County and the Riverside Center for Innovation to assess, cleanup and redevelop abandoned industrial sites into community assets throughout Allegheny County.

"Transforming brownfields to productive use brings enormous benefits to local communities. Every dollar of federal money spent on brownfields leverages about \$2.50 in private investment, and every acre of brownfields that is restored saves more than 4.5 acres of green space," said Donald S. Welsh, Region 3 EPA Administrator.

Of the \$1 million in EPA funding, the Redevelopment Authority of Allegheny County is receiving \$600,000: \$200,000 of this amount will be used to conduct

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community outreach activities, inventory and rank sites and perform environmental site assessments; \$200,000 will be used to conduct similar activities for up to eight sites that may be contaminated with petroleum, and \$200,000 will complete cleanup of the former Firth Sterling steel plant in McKeesport, a 13-acre site along the Monongahela River that is plagued by environmental issues.

“We have taken the initiative to clean up our brownfields, in an effort to not only spur development but also to revitalize our more distressed communities,” said Allegheny County Chief Executive Dan Onorato. “This EPA funding will jumpstart our environmental clean up process and expedite future redevelopment efforts.”

Riverside Center for Innovation, a municipal business development center located in the North Shore area of Pittsburgh, is receiving \$400,000. This includes \$200,000 to conduct community outreach, inventory and rank sites, perform hazardous site assessments and develop cleanup plans for seven municipalities in Allegheny County. The remaining \$200,000 will be used for similar activities for up to six sites that may be contaminated with petroleum.

“While the Riverside Center for Innovation is receiving EPA brownfield funds, the true beneficiaries are the seven municipalities that comprise the Allegheny River Town Enterprise Zone,” said Emily Buka, who directs the Riverside Center for Innovation. “This federal funding makes it possible to revitalize sites in our area to assure future growth and economic well being.”

Both Allegheny County and the Riverside Center will focus their petroleum and hazardous waste assessments in the Allegheny River Towns Enterprise Zone, or “ARTEZ,” and throughout the county, where the end of the industrial age in these communities left economic and physical obstacles from which they have yet to recover, saddling them with dwindling and underemployed populations and abandoned, unusable and contaminated lands.

ARTEZ is comprised of seven communities along the Allegheny River north of Pittsburgh including Aspinwall, Blawnox, Etna, Millvale, O'Hara, Sharpsburg, and Shaler.

Millvale Mayor Jim Burn commented, “These communities together represent 1,600 acres of land that is ripe for environmental clean-up and development. Our communities will use this investment to cooperatively position ourselves to attract quality business ventures and good jobs.”

In addition to these community-wide efforts, the \$200,000 that will be used to complete the Firth Sterling clean up project will also help to leverage \$2 million from the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, \$1 million from Allegheny County, and \$800,000 from Housing & Urban Development. Redevelopment of the property is expected to create 500 industrial jobs and generate \$17 million in investment for the City of McKeesport.

NewsClip: [EPA Awards \\$1 Million for Redevelopment](#)
[PA Announces Streamlined Process for State-Federal Cleanups](#)

Chester Waterfront Brownfields Project Wins Phoenix Award

The Waterfront Redevelopment Project in Chester, Delaware County has been selected to receive the highest honor for innovative remediation -- the Phoenix Award at the [National Brownfields Conference](#) in November.

“The [Chester Waterfront Redevelopment Project](#) is a terrific example of how to bring a property blighted by pollution back to productive reuse. EPA is proud to be a partner with PECO, an Exelon company, and the community in its huge redevelopment project,” said Donald S. Welsh, Region 3 Administrator for the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.

The Waterfront Redevelopment Project is being recognized for excellence in brownfields redevelopment. It is a 90-acre former industrial site along the Delaware River that is being converted into an office park with some open space.

This property was selected as a pilot project under the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act [brownfields pilot initiative](#) in 2001. EPA, PECO and the Department of Environmental Protection worked together to develop a plan to remediate the entire site. Redevelopment of this site will provide jobs and commercial and recreational space for the community.

The Phoenix awards, established in 1997, are given annually by the non-profit Phoenix Awards Institute to recognize innovative yet practical remediation projects at Brownfields sites in the U.S. and abroad.

This is one of two Phoenix Awards projects in Pennsylvania received among the fourteen winners recognized at the Conference. (*See separate article on AMD&ART Project.*)

NewsClip: [PA Announces Streamlined Process for State-Federal Cleanups](#)

Sitio Web de Superfund está disponible en español



Como parte de su continuo esfuerzo por comunicarse eficazmente con la comunidad hispana a través de los Estados Unidos continentales y Puerto Rico, la Agencia de Protección Ambiental de los Estados Unidos (U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, EPA por sus siglas en inglés) ha lanzado una nueva página [Web del Programa de Superfund en español](#).

Este nuevo sitio Web ofrece a la comunidad hispana que reside cerca de sitios denominados por el Programa Superfund información relacionada al proceso de limpieza de sustancias peligrosas abarcadas bajo el Programa Superfund y las diversas tecnologías frecuentemente utilizadas en los sitios Superfund, tales como sistemas de bombeo y tratamiento, extracción de vapores del suelo, cobertura de vertederos, entre otros.

A través de esta página Web, la EPA espera proveer a la comunidad hispana la información y herramientas necesarias que les permitirán participar significativamente en el proceso de limpieza del programa de Superfund. “La página Web de “Superfund en Español” beneficiará la salud de individuos, comunidades, y los ecosistemas alrededor de las áreas de Superfund al desarrollar consorcios firmes con las partes interesadas hispanas,” dijo Stephen L. Johnson, administrador de la EPA.

[Para más información sobre el programa de Superfund en español.](#)

[Para más información sobre el portal informático español de la EPA.](#)

PUC Takes Steps to Implement Alternative Portfolio Standards

The Public Utility Commission this week approved standards to track and verify demand management, energy efficiency, and load management programs and technologies under the Alternative Energy Portfolio Standards Act that took effect in February.

The requirements include:

- A catalog approach that will establish the number of credits available for standard energy savings measures that are available to a large number of customers through retail consumer products such as energy efficient appliances, light bulbs and heating and air-conditioning equipment.
- Custom or metered measures that require actual metered usage or self-generation. Custom measures include time-of-use pricing programs that determine savings by comparing actual metered usage to typical load profiles of similar customers. Metered measures include distributed generation where the value of generator output, for example, can be directly measured.

Demand side management deals with managing customer consumption of electricity or the demand for electricity through energy efficiency technologies, load management, or demand response technologies or industrial byproduct technologies. Demand side response programs benefit customers by helping them to reduce their electric use during high demand periods, generally during summer heat waves.

Generally, compliance will be measured in terms of the Alternative Energy Credit, which represents one megawatt hour of alternative energy generation. A credit may also be earned for each megawatt hour of electricity conservation resulting from adherence to demand side management and energy efficiency standards approved by the PUC.

The PUC Bureau of Conservation, Economics and Energy Planning will oversee the implementation of these standards approved as part of its market-monitoring responsibilities.

“The Commission’s action represents another important step in establishing a comprehensive regulatory framework for the successful implementation of the Alternative Energy Portfolio Standards Act, signed into law by Gov. Rendell,” said Chairman Wendell F. Holland. “I commend our Alternative Energy Portfolio Standards Working Group and the Department of Environmental Protection for being such strong partners in the implementation of a law that ultimately will bring new choices and new energy sources to Pennsylvania consumers.”

The Act requires 18 percent of electricity sold in Pennsylvania by 2020 to be from renewable and environment-friendly sources.

For more details visit the [PUC Alternative Energy Portfolio Standards webpage](#).

Consortium Formed to Buy Diesel Fuel Made from Waste Coal at Schuylkill Plant

Gov. Rendell this week announced the creation of a fuel consortium that will purchase nearly the full output of cheaper, cleaner diesel fuel to be produced by the nation’s first-ever waste-coal-to-diesel plant planned for Mahanoy City, Schuylkill County.

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The plant, which is being built by Waste Management and Processors Inc. (WMPI) of Gilberton, Schuylkill County, will use waste coal to produce as much as 40 million gallons of clean-burning diesel annually.

“We are going to be part of changing how America produces its fuel,” said Gov. Rendell. “We are going to ensure Pennsylvania has a long-term supply of clean, secure and affordable energy. Not only will Pennsylvania be the first state to build such a plant, we also will be the first state to use its purchasing power to lead a consortium to purchase some 40 million gallons of this Pennsylvania produced fuel.”

The consortium members include the Commonwealth which will buy 15 million gallons a year, and distributors Worley & Obetz, Inc. of Manheim, a heating oil company, and the Keystone Alliance, a fuel-purchasing group for the trucking industry.

Waste coal contributes to the problem of acid mine drainage, which is the leading water pollution problem in the commonwealth, and represents a public health hazard. Fires that ignite waste coal contribute to poorer air quality. Rural communities and small coal mining towns are plagued by scarred lands.

Aside from being cheaper, the plant’s diesel will be cleaner. The fuel will burn with no sulfur emissions --- a contributor to acid rain and global climate change --- and burn with a high level of energy efficiency, making it more economical for drivers. The plant will use state-of-the-art control technology in its manufacturing process to control air emissions.

In addition, the waste heat from making the liquid fuels will be used to generate 41 megawatts of low-cost electric power that will be fed into the grid, a concept known as cogeneration. The waste heat is enough to power more than 40,000 homes.

Pennsylvania has offered significant financial incentives to make energy manufacturing a cornerstone of the state’s economic future, including \$47 million in tax credits for the development of this project. The U.S. Department of Energy has committed another \$100 million in grants, and the recently passed federal energy plan singles out this project for a federal loan guarantee.

Development work on this plant began in 1998 with a trade mission to South Africa.

NewsClips: [State Clears Way for Waste Coal to Diesel Plant](#)
[Coal to Oil Plant Boosted](#)
[Fill'er Up With Coal Scraps?](#)

Small Business Energy Efficiency/Pollution Prevention Grants Awarded

Twenty-two grants totaling \$120,353 were awarded this week to help small businesses put in place equipment or processes that enhance energy efficiency or promote pollution prevention from the [Small Business Advantage Program](#).

Projects funded by this round of grants include projects like: Strong Cleaner Inc. in Allegheny County \$7,500 to install new cleaning equipment to reduce the use of perchloroethylene; Hillegas Trucking in Bedford County \$3,750 to install auxiliary power unit to reduce truck idling; Tripp’s Grill in Clinton County \$2,250 to purchase an EnergyStar compliant freezer; Frank Horchen Enterprise in Elk County \$7,500 to install a waste oil burner; and Logan Street Laundromatt in Montgomery County \$7,500 to install high efficiency dryers. [A complete list is available online.](#)

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Small Business Advantage grants provide a 50 percent match of up to \$7,500 for equipment or processes to reduce energy consumption and promote pollution prevention while helping to increase profitability for small businesses located in Pennsylvania.

The program, which was launched in July 2004, has awarded more than \$990,000 to 190 recipients across the state.

Funding is still available for the program. Grant applications will be accepted through January 6. The grants are awarded on a first-come, first-served basis.

For more information visit the [Small Business Advantage Grant Program webpage](#), call 717-783-8411 or send e-mail to epadvantagegrant@state.pa.us.

Farm, Tourism Grants Support Ethanol, Farm Product Marketing, Trail Projects

First Industries Fund tourism and farm grants announced this week included \$939,250 in support of a variety of projects, including ethanol, manure gasification, biodiesel and wood waste energy facilities, developing local farm production marketing networks, alternative uses for mushroom substrate, and promotion of the Loyalhanna Trail. Here's a quick list--

- \$175,000 to Ellesworth Co, Inc., Chester County, to fund a study to determine if obtaining industrially important enzymes from spent mushroom substrate is a viable business.
- \$175,000 to NorAm Biofuels, Inc., Washington County, for economic impact and engineering studies necessary for the development of a refining facility to produce biodiesel fuel from seed oil.
- \$175,000 to PA Association of Sustainable Agriculture, Western Pennsylvania, for planning activities necessary to develop a regional food production and distribution network in a 19-county region.
- \$175,000 to Sunnyside Ethanol, LLC, Clearfield County, for predevelopment activities associated with the construction and operation of a 40 million gallon per year fuel ethanol and co-generation power plant.
- \$72,100 to the Regional Economic Development District Initiative, Adams County, to investigate the creation of a farmer-owned manure gasification/conversion process facility.
- \$66,950 to Headwaters Charitable Trust, Northcentral Counties, for a feasibility study for a power plant using wood waste to generate electricity.
- \$41,200 to Pennsylvania Environmental Council, Crawford County, for a feasibility study associated with creating a sustainable regional producer-market food system, primarily through the Meadville Market House.

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- \$37,000 to Crawford County Farm Bureau, Northwest Counties, for a feasibility study to evaluate the viability of creating a dry mill ethanol production plant.
- \$22,000 to Loyalhanna Watershed Association, Westmoreland County, for planning to develop the Loyalhanna Creek Hiking and Biking Trail as a year-round tourist destination.

For more information, visit the [First Industries Program webpage](#).

Cambria District Mining Office Opens for National Solar Tour October 1

DEP's [Cambria District Mining Office](#) will be part of the October 1 National Solar Tour as an example of green building construction. When it opened in 2000, it was the first building in the United States to meet LEED 2.0 Gold Certification.

The Cambria office building uses 40 percent less energy and has 43 percent lower energy costs than typical buildings of similar size. It has a geothermal ground source heat pump system that heats or cools the building through a closed loop system with water wells, tile floors made from recycled rubber, waterless urinals in the men's room and biofiber hard board made from sunflower seed shells used for trim on the building walls.

As part of the [National Solar Tour](#), the [Northeast Sustainable Energy Association](#) is coordinating open houses all across the Northeast. As an added incentive, all individuals registering at any of the open houses will be entered into a drawing for door prizes from BuildingGreen, a \$200 gift certificate from A Reclaimed Lumber Co., and a \$50 gift certificate from The ReStore, a construction reuse outlet.

[Directions to the Cambria office are available online.](#)

For more information, visit the [Cambria District Mining Office webpage](#).

Turnpike Commission Increases Purchase of Wind Power



Somerset Windmills

Under a new, 30-month agreement, the Pennsylvania Turnpike Commission will increase its purchase of Pennsylvania-based wind energy to 10 percent of its statewide electricity needs.

The Turnpike Commission is the first and only toll road agency in the nation to commit to green power, setting a precedent for the entire sector.

The Turnpike will purchase 4.2 million kilowatt hours of wind energy annually from wind-energy marketer and developer Community Energy Inc. of Wayne, Pa. Previously, the Turnpike had purchased wind energy equivalent to 100 percent of its energy usage to operate its certified green building in Harrisburg.

“By expanding our environmental commitment, the Turnpike Commission is pleased to contribute to the development of new clean energy resources in the Commonwealth,” said Turnpike CEO Joe Brimmeier. “We are striving to be a forerunner in the use of alternative energy sources.”

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The Turnpike established itself as a national wind energy leader in 2002 through its original agreement to purchase 2.7 million kilowatt hours of wind-generated power per year.

“The Commission continues to exhibit leadership that has directly contributed to the development of new renewable energy sources in the region,” said Brent Alderfer, president and CEO of Community Energy Inc. “The more Pennsylvania customers who purchase clean, emission-free [NewWind Energy](#), the more Pennsylvania wind farms will be brought online, creating jobs, local economic benefit and a better future.”

The energy is locally generated at wind farms in Pennsylvania. One of Pennsylvania’s five wind farms is clearly visible from the Turnpike near Somerset, Pa.

PPL Project Earth Environmental Education Grant Applications Due

Teachers can receive up to \$1,500 in funding for environmental education projects that focus on issues watersheds and wetlands, air quality, renewable and non-renewable resources, energy conservation and the greening of schools through [PPL’s Project Earth Program](#).

Applications can be submitted to PPL starting in October.

Public, private and parochial schools near major PPL facilities are eligible for these competitive grants. Projects must be completed by June 30, 2006.

For more information on the application process and to check eligible school districts, visit the [Project Earth Environmental Education Grant webpage](#).

(courtesy [Watershed Alliance of York](#))

Springside School in Philadelphia is Recycle Ready with RecycleBank



Scott Stein (at left), the Chair of the Science Dept., Middle School student Annelise Davies, Ron Gonen and Robert Milligan of RecycleBank.

[Springside School](#) in Philadelphia (pre-K through 12) is partnering with [RecycleBank](#) to launched a schoolwide recycling initiative. The program kicked off on September 22 with a special Eco-fashion show by Summer Rayne Oakes.

With RecycleBank, Springside is the first school in Philadelphia to recycle all paper, plastic, glass, metal, and cardboard. Students and faculty will be responsible for emptying the over 100 collection bins needed for the program on a regular basis.

The school hopes to reduce waste pickups from three times a week-- one eight yard and one six yard container-- to just one six yard container a week.

The recycle program has quickly been incorporated into the culture of both the school and the classroom. For example, one class has collected and measured waste to document what might have been placed into the waste stream and will now be recycled.

On launch day, [Eco-fashion Model Summer Rayne Oakes](#), a United Nations U.S. Partnership Youth Emissary, was also at school to share with students her Eco-fashion 101

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curriculum which has as its goal "sustainability education" - to develop in young people and their teachers new ways of thinking needed to achieve economic prosperity while regenerating the health of the ecosystems.

RecycleBank's education initiative is partially sponsored by Coca-Cola through the donation of RecycleBank dollars by residents in Philadelphia.

For more information visit the [Springside Elementary website](#) or contact [Gretchen Harrison](#), Director of Media Relations Springside School, 215-247-7200 ext. 7131.

Recycling Workshops for Local Government Officials in October, November

The Pennsylvania State Association of Township Supervisors and Department of Environmental Protection are offering seven "[Municipal Recycling Works!](#)" workshops for local government officials and recycling coordinators this [Fall](#). Private sector recycling managers are welcome to attend.

The three-hour workshops will provide expert instruction on the concepts covered in the report: [Building Financially Sustainable Recycling Programs](#). Other topics to be covered include Computer and Electronics Recycling and the Recycling Technical Assistance Program.

The workshop schedule and locations include:

- October 18 -- Radisson Hotel, Sharon, Mercer County (morning);
- October 19 -- Radisson Hotel, Monroeville, Allegheny County (evening);
- November 1 -- PSATS One Source Training Center, Enola, Cumberland County (morning);
- November 2 -- Holiday Inn, West Chester, Chester County (morning);
- November 3 -- Comfort Inn, Allentown, Lehigh County (evening);
- November 9 -- Best Western East Mountain Inn, Wilkes-Barre, Luzerne County (morning);
- November 10 -- Hampton Inn, Williamsport, Lycoming County (evening).

Registration for morning sessions begins at 8:30 a.m. Evening session registration begins at 5:30 p.m. PSATS asks that you register at least two weeks prior to a workshop and not later than three days prior. Registrations will be accepted on a first-come, first-served basis.

To register online, visit the [Municipal Recycling Works! webpage](#) or call PSATS at 717-763-0930.

RecycleBank Figures in National Waste Container Rollout, Acquisition

[RecycleBank](#), the incentive-based recycling program that tripled recycling rates in a Philadelphia pilot program, has figured in two major announcements in recent weeks -- Cascade Engineering's national rollout of its RFID equipped waste containers and the purchase of Blue Mountain Recycling by Casella Waste Systems.

Cascade's "smart" waste containers emit radio signals that allow sanitation personnel using an electronic reader to collect key data on the container's use. The new bins combine the company's expertise in engineered plastics systems with a technology known as radio frequency identification, or RFID, that has gained popularity in a number of other applications. The benefits from this new container technology include:

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- More effective maintenance. Automated data collection creates a "container history" that prompts for maintenance or replacement;
- Ease of use. The tags are easy to program, can be read from a distance of up to 15 feet, and don't need to be within the line of sight; and
- Security. Because the tag is embedded in the container material, it is virtually tamper proof. In addition, each container has its own unique code, which makes it easy to track and reduces the possibility of loss or theft.

The company partnered with the City of Philadelphia and RecycleBank to launch a six-month, incentive-based program that was designed to help increase participation rates in Philadelphia's residential recycling program.

As part of this program, Cascade supplied nearly 2,000 of its new RFID-enabled waste containers to Philadelphia residents.

For more information visit the [Cascade Engineering website](#).

[Casella's acquisition](#) of Blue Mountain Recycling, a RecycleBank partner, drew this comment from Casella, "We believe Blue Mountain's and RecycleBank's platform, combined with our existing recycling infrastructure, represents several unique short- and long- term opportunities.

"First, there is an opportunity to increase the volume of processables in our markets, resulting in a significant return on net assets and capacity utilization increases at our existing facilities. It also allows us to potentially extend the utilization of our valuable long-term disposal capacity."

Chester County Sponsors Computer, Hazardous Waste Collection Event October 1

If upgrading and donating are not viable options for managing your used computer or you don't know where to safely dispose of our household hazardous waste, come to the Chester county RECYCLE IT even October 1.

Participating Chester County municipalities are hosting a Residential Computer Recycling and Household Hazardous Waste Collection Event on October 1 at the Government Services Center, 601 Westtown Road, West Chester. The collection site will be open at 9:00 AM and will close at 3:00 PM sharp.

The computer-recycling event is being held in conjunction with the Southeastern Pennsylvania Regional Household Hazardous Waste Collection Program.

Products labeled toxic, flammable, ignitable, corrosive, reactive, dangerous and hazardous will be accepted. Unacceptable materials are latex paint, used motor oil, tires, medical waste, explosives, ammunition, appliances and commercial and industrial waste.

For more information call 610-344-6692 or visit the [RECYCLE IT webpage](#).

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

Bills Announced to Strengthen Mine Safety, Resulting from Quecreek Accident



Gov. Rendell, Sen. Kasunic (D-Somerset) and Rep. Bastian (R-Somerset) this week announced legislation to strengthen standards for protecting Pennsylvania miners, taking lessons learned from the [2002 Quecreek Mine accident](#) and generally upgrading the state Deep Mine Safety Act.

“Since the near disaster and dramatic rescue of nine miners at Quecreek, we have worked with industry and labor representatives to address various concerns and update antiquated rules,” the Governor said. “The end result, this legislative package, will make miners safer and enhance the reputation of our already renowned mining industry.”

“Pennsylvania’s mine safety program is a national model, but we want to make sure we have in place the highest standards to protect our miners and maintain our leadership in mining operations,” Gov. Rendell said. “While our mines are among the safest in the world with consistently high production, we want to make sure they remain safe work places for our 4,600 underground miners.

The initiative includes the creation of a three-member Mine Safety Board with the authority to promulgate regulations to keep pace with changing mine safety technology. The board could act more quickly to put in place necessary improvements and precautionary measures to keep miners safe as the industry continues to advance rapidly.

The changes also eliminate obsolete language in mine safety statutes, which were written in the late-19th century and last updated slightly in 1961. The changes remove references to animals and stables in mines, signals to “turn steam to the pumps” and “substituting approved gas detection devices in lieu of ‘flame safety lamps’” --- clearly outmoded language that demonstrates how outdated state’s mine safety statute has become.

Corporate responsibility also would increase under the proposed changes, which make the mine operator/owner primarily responsible for safety compliance at the mine. Only individual certified employees or supervisors, such as foremen, can be held responsible for an accident under today’s law, not the mine company or its executives. The initiative establishes criminal penalties with fines and incarceration, as well as civil enforcement actions and civil sanctions for certain violations of the coal mining act.

Among some of the other provisions of the initiative:

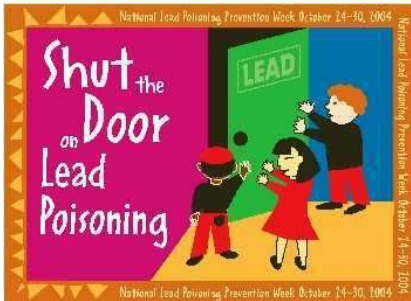
- Strengthening DEP’s Bureau of Deep Mine Safety’s role in the mine permitting process to review the application to ensure no health or safety threats exist (DEP enacted policy changes that accomplished this same goal shortly after the accident);
- Increasing to 500 feet from 200 feet the distance from which a bituminous underground operator must conduct advanced drilling when approaching an adjacent mine which may contain water or gas (this same requirement was put into effect through an executive order shortly after the Quecreek accident);
- Enabling DEP to promulgate rules and regulations that keep pace with technology to ensure continuous improvement with respect to mine safety;

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- Authorizing DEP to enforce actions against mine owners who violate mine safety standards and allowing the department to assess fines and penalties for noncompliance;
- Making the mine owner the bearer of responsibility for mine safety. Existing mine safety laws preclude enforcement actions generally against the owners of mines;
- Strengthening the permit application review process to require the operators to demonstrate that all maps being presented are reliable (the department enacted policy changes that accomplished this same goal shortly after the accident);
- Granting the department statewide authority to copy all mine maps and increasing measures to ensure final mine maps are submitted in a timely manner;
- Authorizing the department to seek from a mine operator reimbursement for expenses incurred in responding to a mine emergency and other costs incurred as a result of a failure to submit an accurate certified, final map; and
- Authorizing the department to use emergency contracting provisions to pay for mine rescue and other mine safety activities.

Pennsylvania's bituminous underground coal mines are among the safest in the world while maintaining consistently high production rates. There has been one fatality in the past three years among the Commonwealth's 4,600 underground miners.

Shut the Door to Lead Poisoning – Lead Prevention Week October 24-30



Learn how you can prevent lead poisoning during [National Lead Poisoning Prevention Week](#) in October. This year's theme is "Shut the Door to Lead Poisoning."

Children six years old and under are most at risk from lead poisoning because their bodies and nervous systems are still developing. Lead poisoning in children, even at low levels, can cause developmental problems, learning disabilities, impaired hearing and

behavioral problems.

The primary sources of lead exposure for children are deteriorating lead-based paint, lead contaminated dust and lead in residential soil. Minority and low-income children are disproportionately affected by lead poisoning since they are more likely to live in pre-1978 housing containing lead-based paint.

Lead exposure among young children has been drastically reduced over the last two decades because of the phase-out of lead from gasoline, beverage cans, new house paint, federal, state and local regulations on lead in paint, reductions of lead in industrial emissions, drinking water, consumer goods, hazardous sites and other sources.

As a result of these past and on-going efforts, children's blood-lead levels have declined over 80 percent since the mid-70s. In 1978, there were about 14.8 million children in the United States with elevated blood-lead levels.

Currently, approximately 434,000 U.S. children age 1-5 years have blood-lead levels greater than the Centers for Disease Control recommended level of 10 µg/dL.

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The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency has a variety of educational materials available in several different languages to educate parents, teachers and kids about the dangers of lead.

For more information, visit the [National Lead Poisoning Prevention Week webpage](#).

2006 National Wetland Awards Nominations Due

The Environmental Law Institute is accepting nominations for the 2006 National Wetlands Awards until December 15.

Since 1989, the National Wetlands Awards Program has provided an opportunity to recognize individuals who dedicate their time and energy to wetlands protection. Co-sponsors include ELI, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, U.S. Forest Service; U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service; Federal Highway Administration; and the NOAA Fisheries Service.

The 2006 Awards will be given in six categories: 1) Education and Outreach; 2) Science Research 3) Conservation and Restoration; 4) Landowner Stewardship; 5) State, Tribal, and Local Program Development; and 6) Wetland Community Leader.

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

Urban and Community Forestry Advisory Council Grants Due November 1

The National Urban and Community Forestry Advisory Council has \$1 million available to support education, restoration and research funds available for applicants interested in sustainable forestry.

Pre-proposals are due November 1.

The Council is seeking pre-proposals in the following categories:

- Innovative Urban and Community Forestry for Minority and Underserved Populations;
- Advancing the Emerging Field of Green Infrastructure and Sustainable Urban Ecosystem Development;
- Innovative Urban and Community Forestry Research and Technology Development;
- Specially Targeted Projects of National Significance;
- Nationwide Database for Lidar Satellite Imaging of Urban Forest Canopy;
- Grassroots Funding Initiative;
- Replication and Transfer of Model Urban Forestry Programs; and
- Assessment of Storm Damage to Urban Forests.

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

(courtesy [Watershed Alliance of York](#))

PA Conservation Corps Grant Applications Due January 6

The Department of Labor and Industry is accepting applications from political subdivision and state agencies for the [Pennsylvania Conservation Corps Program](#).

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The PCC program is designed to provide work experience and educational opportunities to unemployed young adults as they undertake needed projects on public lands in this Commonwealth.

Funds available through the PCC program may be used to purchase approved construction materials and contracted services. Political subdivisions must provide a 25% cash match. The wages of corpsmembers and crewleaders are paid directly by the Department of Labor and Industry.

For an application and instructions, visit the [Pennsylvania Conservation Corps Program](#) webpage, call 717-783-6385 or send email to: pcc@state.pa.us.

PA Environmental Council Harrisburg Awards Dinner Set for November 16



Pennsylvania
Environmental
Council

The [Pennsylvania Environmental Council](#) will hold its Harrisburg dinner on November 16. The theme for this year's dinner will be "Innovative Environmental Solution: Harnessing the Market Place to Improve Water Quality."

The Council will present a number of awards to recognize individuals and organizations for their work to protect Pennsylvania's environment in the Central Pennsylvania Region.

The keynote speaker for the dinner will be Donald Welsh, Administrator for Region 3 of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, who oversees all EPA environmental programs in Pennsylvania and a five state area.

The Council, founded in 1970, promotes the protection and restoration of the natural and built environments through innovation, collaboration, education and advocacy with the private sector, government, individuals and communities as partners to improve the quality of life for all Pennsylvanians.

The Council serves the entire state through offices in Meadville, Franklin, Wilkes-Barre, Pittsburgh, Harrisburg and Philadelphia.

For more information and tickets, contact Leanne Beck at 717-230-8044 x 15, visit www.pecpa.org or call 717-230-8044.

Quick Clips

[Rendell – State Needs Other Energy Sources](#)

[McGinty to be Speaker at American Council on Renewable Energy Forum](#)

[Editorial: Hydrogen, Fuel of the Future](#)

[PNC Banks Green Inside](#)

[Bucks County Farm Goes Solar](#)

[EPA Raises the Bard for New Homes to Earn EnergyStar Label](#)

[Fuel Options Offer Opportunities](#)

[State Clears Way for Waste Coal to Diesel Plant](#)

[PA Announces Streamlined Process for State-Federal Cleanups](#)

[DOE Announces Draft Plan for Reducing Greenhouse Gas Emissions](#)

[DEP Announces Plan to Streamline Air Plan Approvals](#)

[Designers Envision Use for Open City Space in LANDvision Project](#)

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[Adams County to Apply for Nature Preserve Grant](#)
[Bucks County Adds 46 Areas of Open Space](#)
[State's Coyote Population Climbs](#)
[Windmills Fatal Attraction for Bats](#)
[EPA Promotes Cleaner Wood Stoves](#)
[Farmers Ask AG for Reviews Under ACRE Legislation](#)
[Pittsburgh's Tree Inventory Full of Surprises](#)
[State to Help Stabilize Fly Ash Pile](#)
[Game Commission 2006 Calendar Goes On Sale, Student Essay Contest Deadline Nears](#)
[Kerry Holzman Winner of 2006 Duck Stamp Art Contest](#)

Watershed NewsClips

[Former PG Editor Lauded for Riverfront Work](#)
[Bartram Park and Darby Creek Stream Restoration Project](#)
[Volunteers Hope to Find Source of Discarded Tires](#)
[Take a Hike... for the Wissahickon](#)
[Montour Watershed Soon Off Impaired Waters List](#)
[Watershed Database Explained to Students](#)
[Volunteers Search for Old Oil Wells](#)
[Scranton Mine Land to be Revived](#)
[TreeVitalize Program to Plant Nearly 1,200 Trees, Tree Workshops Available](#)
[POWR Annual Meeting Featured Workshops, Planning Sessions](#)

Regulations

No new regulations were published this week.

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Comment Deadlines: [Regulations \(DEP website\)](#) [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 the interim final nutrient trading guidance for comment this week along with final guidance on storage tank modifications and draft guidance on air monitoring and a [proposed general permit for restaurant oil and grease](#).

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Final: DEP ID: 257-0900-011. Storage Tank Modification and Maintenance Issues. This guidance document specifies the classification of various storage tank system modification and maintenance activities and when certified inspectors/installers are required.

Interim Final: DEP ID: 392-0900-001. Nutrient and Sediment Reduction Credit Trading Interim Final Policy and Guidelines. This guidance provides interim policy and guidelines for the trading of nutrient and sediment reduction credits. Comments due: November 18. [Text of Policy](#). [Policy Appendix](#)

Draft: DEP ID: 274-0300-005. Applicability Determination for Continuous Source Monitoring Manual Revision No. 8. This guidance document applies to the owners of monitored sources that must comply with the requirements of 25 Pa. Code § 139.102(3) (relating to references), which are identified and described in the Department's Continuous Source Monitoring Manual--Revision No. 8 (Manual) (DEP ID 274-0300-001). Comments due: October 31.

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

- **October 4** – [Clean Energy Executive Summit](#) by PECO, Community Energy, Inc. and PennFuture. Philadelphia.
- **October 4** – [PA Energy Development Authority Board meeting](#). Harrisburg.
- **October 5** – [DEP Sewage Advisory Committee meeting](#). ([change from Oct. 12](#))
- **October 8** – [Hidden In Plain Site – The Forest in the City](#) community events related to Hays Woods in Pittsburgh.
- **October 8** – Dauphin County Community Recycling Collection. 9 to 1:00 at HACC Parking Lot.
- **October 14** – DEP Mercury Rule Workgroup Meeting. 105 Rachel Carson Building. 9:00 a.m. Harrisburg.
- **October 18** – CANCELLED - [DEP Diesel-Powered Equipment Advisory Committee](#)
- **October 22** – [Global Warming 2005 – An Activist’s Primer](#). Paoli.
- **October 24** – Environmental Issues Forum – Joint Senate-House Conservation Committee presentation by PA Recreation & Parks Society and DCNR on implementing the State Recreation Plan.
- **November 2** – [DEP/PennVEST public hearing](#) on drinking water project priority list. Harrisburg.

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- **November 4-5** – [Mid-Atlantic Volunteer Water Monitoring Conference](#). West Virginia.
- **November 16** – PA Environmental Council Awards Dinner. Harrisburg
- **November 17** – PA Resources Council Awards Dinner. West Conchohocken.
- **November 17** – House Health & Human Services Committee hearing on [House Bill 1369](#) (Sturla-D-Lancaster) relating to powers and responsibilities during a public health emergency.

[DEP Calendar of Events](#)

[Watershed Events](#)

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

[Environmental Education Workshop/Training Calendar](#)

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

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

Helpful Web Links

[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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Photo Answer: The Pennsylvania Grand Canyon through which Pine Creek flows.