

# — PA — Environment Digest

*An Update on  
Environmental  
Issues in  
Pennsylvania*

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**Edited By David E. Hess, Holston & Crisci**

**December 19, 2005**

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## **2006 Improve Your Habitat Calendars**

The *PA Environment Digest* is pleased to present the first of two new “2006 Improve Your Habitat” calendars for you to print out and use all year long.

This week’s offering presents photographs that highlight places, projects and beautiful scenery from all around Pennsylvania that we hope motivates you throughout the year to improve your habitat!

[Download Your Copy Here](#)

*(For best results, print on photo paper.)*



Next week, look for our collection of native plants featuring photographs by Karen Hohman.

## **Session Schedule**

The House tentatively plans to return to session on December 19 or 20 to finish work on a property tax relief plan. The Senate adjourned to the call of the Chair.

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### On the Hill

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#### On the Senate/House Agenda

The House is tentatively set to return to session on either December 19 or 20, presumably to deal with the Senate version of property tax reform or their own unique plan. The Senate adjourned to the call of the Chair. Here's a rundown of what we know about the House Calendar and Committee meetings at this point.

The House will return to session with these bills on its regular session Calendar-- [House Bill 2067](#) setting limits on state spending through a constitutional amendment; [House Bill 1902](#) eliminating the sunset date on the \$2/ton Recycling Fee and requiring Recycling Performance Grants to be used for local recycling and waste reduction efforts; and [Senate Bill 881](#) and [Senate Bill 897](#) making changes to the Eminent Domain Code in response to *Kelo*.

#### House Committee Sets Meetings on Greenhouse Gas Emissions, Energy Policy

The House Environmental Resources and Energy Committee has set the next Energy Policy informational meeting for January 25 and a meeting January 11 to discuss greenhouse gas emissions and climate change.

The January 11 meeting will be held at the Springfield Township Building in Delaware County and will feature a presentation by Dr. Richard Alley of Penn State University on the science of climate change, Dr. Adam Rose, also from Penn State, on state responses to greenhouse gas emissions and Ms. Joy Bergey of the Pennsylvania Interfaith Climate Change Campaign.

The January 24 Energy Policy informational meeting agenda includes Dr. Alan Scaroni, Director of the Energy Institute at Penn State University regarding energy research and development, Rosemary McAvoy of the Renewable Energies Council discussing alternative fuels and Christopher Lynch, Director, [Environmental Management Services](#) of the Small Business Development Center at the Wharton School regarding energy efficiency in small businesses.

The House Committee is chaired by Rep. Bill Adolph (R-Delaware) and Rep. Bud George (D-Clearfield).

#### Bills Moving in Senate/House

Here's a quick rundown on several environmental bills that moved in the Senate and House this week.

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**Low-Income Energy Help:** [House Bill 1539](#) (Nickol-R-York) to provide emergency heating assistance to low-income households was given final approval by the Senate and House and was signed into law by the Governor.

**Recycling Fee:** [House Bill 1902](#) (Rubley-R-Chester) eliminating the sunset date on the \$2/ton Recycling Fee and requiring Recycling Performance Grants to be used for local recycling and waste reduction efforts was reported from House Appropriations Committee.

**Donation of Computers:** [House Bill 472](#) Reichley (R-Berks), amending the Tax Reform Code providing for a tax credit for the donation of used computers to a charitable organization, volunteer firemen's organization, nonprofit education institution or religious organization, passed the House and now moves to the Senate.

**Eminent Domain:** [Senate Bill 881](#) (Piccola-R-Dauphin) and [Senate Bill 897](#) (Brightbill-R-Lebanon) making changes to the Eminent Domain Code in response to *Kelo* were reported from House Judiciary Committee and referred to Appropriations. [House Bill 2054](#) (Grell-R-Cumberland) making similar changes to eminent domain law, was amended and reported out of Senate State Government Committee.

**California Car Standards:** [House Bill 2141](#) (Geist-R-Blair), which would prohibit the Environmental Quality Board from adopting California vehicle emission standards was referred to the House Environmental Resources and Energy Committee. (*See separate article on Senate California car standard hearing.*)

**Farmland Preservation:** The House Agriculture Committee reported out [House Bill 671](#) (Reichley-R-Berks) allowing county farmland preservation boards to spend any interest generated on land preservation.

**Donations of Land:** [Senate Bill 640](#) (Pileggi-R-Montgomery), allowing claims for taxes, water, lighting fees to be excused in donations of property, was referred to and reported from House Appropriations Committee.

**Eco-Terrorism:** [House Bill 213](#) (Godshall-R-Montgomery) providing penalties for ecoterrorism was referred to House Appropriations Committee.

**Capital Budget List:** [House Bill 2317](#) (Feese-R-Lycoming) itemizing Capital Budget projects for the Environmental Stewardship Fund and projects for the Department of Conservation and Natural Resources was amended and reported from House Appropriations.

**Radon Awareness Month:** [House Resolution 495](#) (Rubley-R-Chester) designating January as Radon Awareness Month was passed by the House.

**Tributary Strategy:** [House Resolution 539](#) (Nailor-R-Cumberland) urges the Department of Environmental Protection to delay implementation of the Chesapeake Bay Tributary

Strategy for nine months to allow time for the agency to meet with stakeholders and determine the cost and economic impact of compliance strategies was passed unanimously by the House. A similar Senate Resolution will be introduced by Sen. Vance (R-Cumberland) soon.

**NewsClips:** [Nutrient Limits for Dischargers in Chesapeake Bay Watershed Deadline on Water Quality Changes](#)

### **Senate Holds Hearing on DEP’s California Car Vehicle Emission Limits Proposal**

The Senate Environmental Resources and Energy and Transportation Committees held a joint hearing this week on a proposal by the Department of Environmental Protection to adopt California’s vehicle emission limits in Pennsylvania.

Department of Environmental Protection [Secretary Kathleen McGinty](#) and Transportation [Secretary Allen Biehler](#) both defended the Administration’s proposal saying the added emission reductions achieved by the tighter standards are relied on by the state now to meet federal Clean Air Act smog standards. They said if fewer emission reductions come from vehicles, they would have to come from somewhere else like factories, power plants or other sources.

Both said the California standards were originally adopted by DEP in 1998 and the Rendell Administration is just making adjustments to a program that is already in place.

Sen. Mary Jo White (R-Venango), chair of the Senate Environmental Resources and Energy Committee, and Sen. Roger Madigan (R-Bradford), chair of the Senate Transportation Committee, said the record on the 1998 action was clear—the California standards were only adopted as a backup plan and Pennsylvania does not rely on its added emission reductions in its current air quality State Implementation Plan to meet federal smog standards.

[White and Madigan](#) quoted from the 1998 documents ([PA Bulletin notice](#) and [EQB rulemaking package](#)) that accompanied the rulemaking which said, adopting the California standards “is a contingency” and part of a plan to encourage automakers to meet the federal Tier II vehicle standards. But it was the Tier II vehicle standards for which Pennsylvania took reduction credit.

They also quoted from [a recent EPA letter](#) which said the same thing—the California standards were originally adopted as a legal backstop and those emission reductions are not now relied upon by Pennsylvania in its State Implementation Plan, according to EPA Region III Administrator Donald Welsh.

Welsh did point out that Pennsylvania only participated in the Tier II vehicle standards through the 2006 model year and that the California standards were now legally enforceable in Pennsylvania.

The [Alliance of Automobile Manufacturers](#) supported [Senate Bill 1025](#) that would continue the federal Tier II vehicle emission standards in Pennsylvania. They pointed out Tier II standards reduce smog-forming emissions by 99 percent compared to pre-control levels.

The Alliance also raised a concern about direct adoption of the California standards because they have become a moving target changing 49 times since 1990. The most recent changes, to incorporate reductions in greenhouse gases, and other equipment needed to meet the California limits, would push the price of new vehicles up an average of \$3,000.

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The [Pennsylvania AAA Federation](#) also presented comments to the Committees saying the argument over the Clean Vehicle Program is not a debate between a clean car and a dirty car because both standards produce “exceptionally clean cars.”

AAA pointed to a U.S. Environmental Protection Agency comparison of the vehicle standards which said the extra benefit of the California car program was a one percent reduction in volatile organic compounds and two percent reduction in air toxics by the year 2020.

They expressed a concern that the California car standards would increase vehicle costs between \$1,000 to \$3,000 per vehicle, further restricting consumer choice for little added environmental benefit, while leaving older, more polluting vehicles on the road.

[PennEnvironment](#) presented testimony on the need to reduce air pollution from all sources because of its potential health consequences and that giving consumers the choice of a cleaner vehicle was critical to this effort.

The group also pointed out that eight states, including New York and New Jersey, have already adopted the California car standards.

DEP proposed the California car regulation at the [October 18 Environmental Quality Board meeting](#), but have not yet published the rule for formal public review.

The House this week referred [House Bill 2141](#) (Geist-R-Blair), which would prohibit the Environmental Quality Board from adopting California vehicle emission standards, to the House Environmental Resources and Energy Committee for further review.

**NewsClips:** [Emissions rules Fuel a PA Debate](#)

## In Other News

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### Grant Awards Announced by the Western PA Watershed Program

The [Western Pennsylvania Watershed Program](#) announced grants to 11 different organizations to promote watershed cleanups. Here’s a quick rundown on the grant awardees--

- Fulton Co. Conservation District, McConnellsburg, PA: \$10,000 for a FGM streambank restoration project along Cove Creek as it flows through the town of McConnellsburg. Appropriate signage and landscaping using native species is part of the design.
- Cowanshannock Creek Watershed Association, Rural Valley, PA: \$14,000 for an extensive natural stream channel design, re-establishing native plants and enhancing habitat using FGM design principles. This project is coming right from their DCNR Rivers Conservation Plan.
- Greater Johnstown Watershed Association, Johnstown, PA: \$20,000 for assessment of a mine discharge located at the base of the Inclined Plane that has a flow of 300-500GPM. The project is highly visible in the downtown and emanates from Bethlehem Mine 72.
- Shamokin Creek Restoration Alliance, Mt. Carmel, PA: \$15,000 for assessment work on an AMD discharge that is called site 19 and discharges 8-12 MGD. This project is being guided in part by the Geology Department of Bucknell University.



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- Southern Alleghenies Conservancy, Bedford, PA: \$10,000 for their Resource Recovery program, specifically supporting the recovery of manganese from AMD-abandoned mine drainage.
- Southern Alleghenies Conservancy, Bedford, PA: \$10,000 for a FGM stream design, restoring stream sinuosity and utilizing live stakes and rootwads along Bobs Creek, in close proximity to the Chestnut Ridge School District.
- Sewickley Creek Watershed Association, Youngwood, PA: \$10,000 for partnering on the installation of a passive treatment system to abate an AMD (abandoned mine drainage) discharge that is sometimes a 1500 GPM discharge. It is a high iron loading that pollutes 2 miles of Sewickley Creek.
- Stroud Water Research Center, Avondale, PA: \$15,000 to participate in research around the value of full-functioning headwaters streams and their ability to process nitrogen in particular. This quantification research, done in partnership with Bucknell University will evaluate potential nutrient uptake in the Chesapeake Bay drainage.
- Stream Restoration Inc., Cranberry Township, PA: \$6,000 for enhancement of a passive treatment system at Fox Run that abates a 20 GPM discharge that is net alkaline in character.
- Turtle Creek Watershed Association, Wilmerding, PA: \$20,000 for assessment of the Irwin Discharge to see if it can be treated along with the Delmont Discharge abating 9,000 GPM for one of the largest passive treatment systems ever built.

Previously the WPWP awarded two grants in the summer:

- The French Creek Project, Meadville, PA: \$10,000 for a storm-water demonstration project on a previous Brownfield site, utilized in part by the French Creek Project for outdoor education.
- Bakerton Sportsmans Club and West Branch Susquehanna Rescue, Northern Cambria, PA: \$10,000 for construction of an AMD treatment facility to address a 50 GPM discharge. The chosen design is an Open Limestone Bed.

The Western PA Watershed Program has also supported planning grants for eight Cold Water Heritage Fisheries as well as provided support for DCNR Rivers Conservation Plans in the Middle Allegheny, Buffalo Creek, and Pine Creek watersheds.

For more information, visit the [Western Pennsylvania Watershed Program](#) or contact John Dawes by sending email to: [RJDawes@aol.com](mailto:RJDawes@aol.com) or call 814-669-4847.

## PA Signs Agreement to Improve Health, Economic Vitality of Great Lakes

Gov. Rendell this week announced that Pennsylvania and the seven Great Lakes states, along with Ontario and Quebec, have [signed agreements](#) updating the way the Great Lakes and the waters of the Great Lakes Basin are managed and protected for the millions of people who rely on its resources for energy, recreation, agriculture and industry.

The agreements, referred to as the Great Lakes Charter Annex 2001 Implementing Agreements, prohibit diversions of Great Lakes Basin water, with limited exceptions for certain uses within the states and provinces, and under rigorous review and approval criteria.

The agreements establish a new, consistent standard that the Great Lakes states and provinces will use to review proposed uses of Great Lakes water. The standard allows states and provinces flexibility to adopt their own programs, but provides for a default

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threshold of 100,000 gallons per day for regulation of all new or increased withdrawals of basin water, if a program is not established within 10 years.

The states and provinces commit to developing water conservation and efficiency programs consistent with regional goals and objectives within two years. The 10 jurisdictions also will periodically review their programs and cumulative impact data in order to recommend changes to management and conservation programs.

By signing these agreements, the Great Lakes states and provinces have entered into a good-faith agreement incorporating their commitments to one another. The provinces will implement the agreement through modifications to their applicable legislative and regulatory measures. The states will work to pass an interstate compact into law, where Congress will be asked to consent.

Signed on June 18, 2001, by all 10 of the Great Lakes governors and premiers, Annex 2001 to the Great Lakes Charter of 1985 committed the jurisdictions to develop a new decision-making standard, a new set of binding agreements, a new decision support system, a public participation program and improved sources and applications of scientific information, including the role of groundwater.

An initial draft of the agreements was released for public comment in the summer of 2004. More than 10,000 comments were received across the Great Lakes Basin. The comments and suggestions are reflected in the final draft agreements signed by the jurisdictions.

The Council of Great Lakes Governors includes the governors of New York, Pennsylvania, Ohio, Michigan, Indiana, Illinois, Wisconsin and Minnesota, as well as the premiers of the provinces of Ontario and Quebec, Canada.

For more information, visit the [Council of Great Lakes Governors website](#).

### PA Watersheds Data System Is Now Live

Pennsylvania Organization for Watersheds and Rivers announced this week the release of the [PA Watersheds Data System](#) that will store water quality data collected by volunteer watershed monitors statewide.

The system is designed to place water quality monitoring groups in charge of their data, including whether they will store their data in it and who they will allow to see it once it is stored there. The system will also include thousands of records dating back to the early 1970's can be made publicly available and help policymakers compare "before" and "after" conditions at affected streams.

"The PA Watersheds Data System will be both a repository for our data collection and a source of data for this type of critical research," explained Dr. Mel Zimmerman, Director of Clean Water Institute and Chair of Lycoming College Biology Department. "I am working with a consortium of educators (Susquehanna River Heartland Coalition for Environmental Studies) who are investigating the links between contaminants in the environment and human health. In addition to the eight college/universities, we are also collaborating with watershed organizations and the Geisinger Health System."

"The PA Watersheds Data System represents an important step forward in Pennsylvania's water resources management toolkit," commented Department of Environmental Protection Deputy Secretary for Water Management, Cathleen Myers. "Among other things, it allows everyone to see where regular monitoring is taking place

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and where it may not be taking place. This will help governments and private citizens alike understand the condition of the environment as well as fill in gaps where information is lacking. DEP is a strong contributor to the project both financially and in terms of scientific expertise and we're excited to see it come to fruition."

For more information, visit the [PA Watersheds Data System webpage](#).

### **Applications Due for PA Council of Trout Unlimited's Youth Fishing Camp**

Applications are now being accepted for the 12th annual [Rivers Conservation and Fly Fishing Youth Camp](#) being held June 18 –23, 2006 at the Allenberry Resort in Boiling Springs, Cumberland County.

The purpose of the camp is to educate students in the importance of coldwater conservation.

The college-level classes include: principles of ecology, hydrogeology, aquatic vertebrate and invertebrate sampling, hydrology, trout behavior, trout stream entomology, the biology of pollution, acid deposition, and the politics of conservation and the effects of humans on the Chesapeake Bay.

In addition, the camp provides hands-on classes such as fly tying, fly casting, streamside ethics, angling literature, the evolution of an angler, wader safety and survival, and streamside botany. The students will also participate in a watershed project to repair habitat in a stream.

The camp is limited to 32 selected, qualified students, aged 14 to 17. The student must have been born between June 23, 1988 and June 18, 1992 to qualify. The camp selection committee will choose students based upon each candidate's qualifications and their desire to attend as stated in the required essay.

For the first time this year campers who are working toward achieving either a fishing merit badge or a fly fishing merit badge with the Boy Scouts may complete the requirements for those badges at the camp.

For more information or to receive an application, go to the [Rivers Conservation Camp website](#) or contact Mike Klimkos at 717-243-3056, or send email at [klimkos@epix.net](mailto:klimkos@epix.net); or Rod Cross at 717-263-0365.

### **\$1.2 Million in Wild Resource Conservation Fund Grants Awarded**

\$1.2 million in [Wild Resource Conservation Fund](#) grants were announced this week to study and conserve Pennsylvania's native plants and animals.

The Department of Conservation and Natural Resources administers the Wild Resource Conservation Program, working with the Pennsylvania Game Commission and Fish and Boat Commission to operate the program.

The grant award includes—

#### **Plant-Related Projects**

- Albright College: \$6,500 to print a guide on mosses and liverworts in the commonwealth.
- Carnegie Museum of Natural History: \$19,000 to conduct field surveys and plant collection to augment the list of special-concern plant species.



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- The Cleveland Museum: \$15,000 to conduct a rare plant inventory in northwestern Pennsylvania to assess impacts from invasive species and changes in the levels of Lake Erie.
- Natural Lands Trust: \$24,449 to identify promising grasslands in the state and plan for their restoration.
- Penn State University: \$23,725 to assess wild and cultivated ginseng in the state and make recommendations to ensure its preservation.
- Trustees of the University of Pennsylvania: \$40,632 to prepare an illustrated manual to help with the management and protection of aquatic plants and lake ecosystems statewide.
- Western Pennsylvania Conservancy: \$61,000 to update and augment the 1979 list of rare plant species statewide.

### **Birds and Mammal-Related Projects**

- Carnegie Museum of Natural History: \$16,667 to expand an interactive web site and newsletter circulation to generate more volunteers for the Pennsylvania Breeding Bird Atlas study; and \$42,096 to support seven biologists collecting bird census and habitat data for the Pennsylvania Breeding Bird Atlas study.
- East Stroudsburg University: \$38,523 to determine the impact of double-crested cormorants on egret and heron populations on the Wade Island rookery in the Susquehanna River near Harrisburg.
- Penn State University: \$45,302 to assess the impacts of acidic deposition on forest birds.
- University of Scranton: \$23,450 to study the use of forested and upland shrub/scrub habitats by spring migrating birds in Lackawanna County.
- Wilkes University: \$41,416 to monitor small mammals at Hawk Mountain to determine their relationship with the fungi critical to healthy forests, and acorn dispersal for forest regeneration.

### **Fish, Reptile, Amphibian and Aquatic Invertebrate-Related Projects**

- Drexel University: \$30,034 to assess distribution and abundance of threatened red-bellied turtles and introduce red-eared turtles to determine impacts from competition.
- Duquesne University: \$47,864 to do genetic analysis of three threatened darter species newly discovered in the lower Allegheny River near Pittsburgh and develop management and protection recommendations.
- Penn State University: \$45,302 to conduct fish surveys on the deep-pool habitats of the Allegheny, Ohio and Monongahela rivers; \$16,777 for the final year of a three year study on the effects of nonnative trout on Pennsylvania non-game fishes and headwater-stream food webs; and \$26,112 to determine the statewide distribution of a crayfish species newly discovered this year at Valley Creek in southeastern Pennsylvania and develop conservation recommendations.
- Western Pennsylvania Conservancy: \$51,794 to fund a non-game biologist to help review permit applications for impacts to non-game fish, reptiles, amphibians and aquatic invertebrates and to help regulate timber rattlesnake collection and hunts.

### **Insect-Related Projects**

- Carnegie Museum of Natural History: \$14,641 to expand the database and Web site on ground beetles; \$16,833 to study crane flies in the commonwealth; and \$18,527 to study Pennsylvania long-horned beetles.

### Multi-Purpose Projects

- Carnegie Museum of Natural History: \$2,000 to fund the participation of visiting scientists at the fifth annual Bioforay collection of data on natural resources at Powdermill Nature Reserve in the Laurel Highlands.
- City of Pittsburgh: \$30,975 to assess four major urban parks in Pittsburgh, focus on urban impacts to natural areas, develop management plans for each park and do outreach to share information.
- Hawk Mountain Sanctuary Association: \$14,900 to print 6,000 copies of "The Return of Magic," an illustrated book on American kestrels designed for 4-7 year olds.
- Penn State University: \$28,009 to coordinate data efforts among federal, state and private groups in the commonwealth doing conservation planning to better protect biodiversity.
- Slippery Rock University: \$37,717 to create a Web-based, Pennsylvania specific natural history information and education database.
- Tinicum Conservancy: \$25,000 to do a biological diversity inventory of the Roaring Rocks/Swamp Creek region of Tinicum Township in Bucks County to provide for better resource protection.
- Western Pennsylvania Conservancy: \$375,000 natural heritage inventories for four new counties (Armstrong, Cameron, Indiana and Philadelphia) and completion of five others (Fulton, Jefferson, McKean, Potter and Warren counties).
- Wildlands Conservancy: \$10,000 to create a training program for state and county park managers and others to eradicate or control invasive exotic plant species.
- Wildlife Information Center: \$31,000 to do an ecological inventory of plant and wildlife communities at Lehigh Gap Wildlife Refuge as part of the larger effort to protect natural communities along the Kittatinny Ridge and the Lehigh River corridor.

Launched in 1983, WRCP primarily finances research and protection efforts for native, non-game and wild plant species. Funds from the program have supported the reintroduction of otters, osprey, peregrine falcons and fishers to Pennsylvania; identified new plant and animal species; located rare plant species within the state; researched habitat for migrating birds; and provided educational materials to schools.

In addition to Growing Greener funds, the WRCP relies on state income tax refund donations, license plate proceeds and donations to support its work to protect and identify species of special concern.

For more information, visit [Wild Resource Conservation Fund webpage](#).

### Think Summer! Sign Up Now for a Free Summer Watershed Tour for Teachers

The Stroud Water Research Center will hold a [Watershed Tour Summer Institute for teachers](#) on June 26-29.

The Institute, titled "Explore, Create, Get Wet" is free and open to all upper elementary and middle school teachers in small urban centers within Chester, Montgomery and Delaware counties.

Participants will learn the science of streams and where drinking water comes from. All participants will receive a copy of "Watershed Tour," a curriculum developed by the Stroud Center staff, offering hands-on classroom activities with a follow-up outdoor investigation at several different sites.

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Lessons will focus on providing a framework for students to work in cooperative groups to gather chemical and biological data to evaluate water samples and to relate their findings to the water they use every day. Local cultural history and the written and visual arts will enhance the science.

Participants will receive 24 hours of Act 48 Continuing Professional Education hours. The workshop is funded by the Department of Environmental Protection.

Registration deadline June 3, 2006. Space is limited so register early.

For a registration form and more information please visit the [Watershed Tour Summer Institute webpage](#). For questions contact Vivian Williams at 610-268-2153, ext. 249 or e-mail [vwilliams@stroudcenter.org](mailto:vwilliams@stroudcenter.org).

### **Audubon Publishes Backyard Habitat Guide for Pennsylvania Gardeners**

*“The Audubon At Home Guide to Gardening for Life in Southeastern Pennsylvania”* is a new resource/guide book for creating backyard habitat published through a partnership between the Bucks County Audubon Society and Waste Management.

“Gardening for life” – meaning gardening to create habitats for living things—is a growing trend in the United States. Habitat gardening provides safe places for birds, insects and other wildlife while creating interesting and diverse landscapes for the enjoyment of people.

Residents of southeastern Pennsylvania are faced with challenges that are found commonly throughout the northeast United States: excessive water, invasive plants, deer and over-development.

The *Guide to Gardening for Life* offers 84 colorful pages with informative essays and companion profiles of noteworthy area residents who have successfully tackled problems and created habitat spaces that are toxic-free and wildlife-friendly. Each chapter is summarized with helpful “At Home Actions (AHA!)” and includes proven advice from the profiled subjects.

Readers will also find plant and animal lists intended to enhance conservation efforts, and help to explore the meaning of their personal ecological address and the things to do to preserve its natural health.

The *At Home Guide* includes contributions from the state office of the Audubon Society and many other state and local organizations.

The book is available at the [John James Audubon Center at Mill Grove](#) gift shop or can be ordered from the [Bucks County Audubon Society](#). It is also available to view on the [Audubon At Home website](#) for more information.

*(Reprinted from Audubon Pennsylvania, Winter 2006, published by [Audubon Pennsylvania](#).)*

### **Christmas Tree Recycling Day Set For January 14 in Pittsburgh**

The Pennsylvania Resources Council is partnering with the City of Pittsburgh, the Union Project, and Construction Junction to host a [Christmas tree recycling](#) drop-off on January 14.

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Sponsored by Emery Tree Service, the event runs from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. and takes place at Construction Junction (214 N. Lexington Street, North Point Breeze section of Pittsburgh). Emery Tree Service will recycle the trees into mulch.

During the event, individuals are welcome to drop off their real Christmas trees for a \$1 fee per tree. Monies collected help defray the cost of the collection. Christmas trees must be free of lights and loose or tied with a string when dropped off. Trees in plastic bags will not be accepted.

“Over the last two years, we collected an average of 315 a year,” PRC’s Ginette Walker Vinski said. “We expect the number of trees collected to increase this year, mostly, because we are partnering with the Union Project. We’re hoping that by partnering together and sharing resources, we’ll be able to bring in more trees than ever.”

Volunteers are needed to help unload trees from vehicles and to direct traffic in the parking lot. Everyone helping out can stay warm with cups of hot cocoa and other refreshments. They will also receive a coupon for one free hour of kayaking, courtesy of Kayak Pittsburgh. To volunteer, call Vinski at PRC at 412-488-7490.

For more information, visit the [Christmas tree event webpage](#) or the [Pennsylvania Resources Council website](#).

### **Pennsylvania Conservation Directory to be Updated By Citizens Council**

The Citizens Advisory Council to the Department of Environmental Protection is updating the [Pennsylvania Conservation Directory](#) that was last published in 2000.

The Pennsylvania Conservation Directory is an interactive electronic database of organizations, agencies, and environmental centers concerned with the protection and conservation of Pennsylvania's natural resources.

The new Directory will be easier to search and can be updated electronically.

If you would like to add your group or organization to the directory, visit the Citizens Advisory Council’s [Pennsylvania Conservation Directory webpage](#) for instructions.

The Citizens Advisory Council will be contacting organizations that are currently listed in the Directory so they can update, confirm or modify their contact information.

If you have any questions, contact Stephanie Mioff at 717-787-4527 or send email to [RA-EP-CONSERVDIR@state.pa.us](mailto:RA-EP-CONSERVDIR@state.pa.us)

### **March 31 Deadline for Host Municipal Waste Facility Inspector Reimbursements**

The Department of Environmental Protection [reminded local governments](#) the deadline for submitting applications for reimbursement under the [Host Municipal Waste Facility Inspection Program](#) for 2005 expenses is March 31.

Under the program established in 1988, municipalities can be reimbursed for half the cost of a local inspector of a municipal waste landfill or incinerator or a hazardous waste facility

### **Quick Clips**

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

[Editorial: Philadelphia Shouldn't Miss RecycleBank Opportunity](#)  
[Commonwealth Court Says Lehigh County Recycling Fees Illegal](#)  
[Indiana County Senior Environment Corps Share Tips on Controlling Invasive Species](#)  
[Game Officials Worry About Hunting's Lagging Popularity](#)  
[Some Happy With Deer Season Thus Far, Some Not](#)  
[Game Panel Asks For Patience on Deer Issue](#)  
[State Battles Drop in Hunters](#)  
[Editorial: Hunting Decline an Opportunity](#)  
[Bruce Smith Decides to Retire in 2006](#)  
[Grant Opens Door for Land Preservation in Northampton](#)  
[Editorial: Carbon Trade Off](#)  
[Growing Greener Funds Enhance Great Outdoors](#)  
[Secretary McGinty Shares Views in Grist Online Magazine](#)  
[Environmentally Friendly Foods on Campus](#)

## **Watershed NewsClips**

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

[Partnerships Vital in Protecting Watersheds](#)  
[Delaware Waterfront Project Touted](#)  
[Defining Runs, Creeks and Rivers](#)  
[Pittsburgh's Find the Rivers! Project](#)  
[Chartier's Creek Dirty Eight Needs New Name](#)  
[Study Targets Acid Mine Drainage Sources](#)  
[CMU Center to Help Monitor Water Quality](#)  
[York County Awarded Stormwater Management Grant](#)  
[Nutrient Limits for Significant Dischargers in Chesapeake Bay Watershed](#)  
[Editorial: Funding the Bay Cleanup](#)  
[Op-Ed: Trading Credits Promises to Ease Bay Pollution, PA Environmental Council](#)

## **Regulations**

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The Department of Agriculture published proposed regulations for comment on [commercial manure haulers and broker certification](#). Comments due: January 16.

### **[Pennsylvania Bulletin – December 17, 2005](#)**

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

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

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



## Technical Guidance & Permits

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The Department of Environmental Protection published a [final drinking water system and a draft wastewater reuse policies](#) this week along with changes to the certified radon contractors list ([PA Bulletin page 6834](#)).

**Final:** DEP ID: 383-2125-110. Development of a Replacement Source for a Community Water System. This document provides guidance to a community water system that is replacing an existing groundwater source with a well, spring or infiltration gallery to alleviate lost capacity or water quality problems at their current supply source.

**Draft:** DEP ID: 362-0300-009. Reuse of Treated Wastewater Guidance Manual. This manual provides guidance to domestic sewage treatment plant operators and other parties who are interested in implementing a beneficial wastewater reuse project. It contains information on the design, operation and maintenance requirements for wastewater systems discharging treated water for beneficial reuse. Comments due: January 17.

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

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

## Calendar of Upcoming Events

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Upcoming conferences, meetings, workshops, plus links to other online calendars. [Go To: PA Environment Digest Calendar Page](#)

- **December 20** – [Environmental Quality Board meeting](#).
- **December 20** – DEP Critical Water Planning Area Subcommittee, [State Water Plan Statewide Committee](#) meeting.
- **January 11** – House Environmental Resources & Energy Committee informational meeting on greenhouse gas emissions and climate change. Springfield, Delaware County.
- **January 12** – Forestry Task Force Meeting (Joint Legislative Conservation Committee) in State College.
- **RESCHEDULED** – January 19 – [Rachel Carson Forum on Nutrient and Sediment Credit Trading](#).
- **January 19** – Green Building Association of Central Pennsylvania “[Escape Cabin Fever Reception and Seminar](#)” Harrisburg.
- **January 24** – House Environmental Resources & Energy Committee informational meeting on energy policy.

### [DEP Calendar of Events](#)

#### [Watershed Events](#)

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

[Environmental Education Workshop/Training Calendar](#)

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

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

**Helpful Web Links**

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[Daily NewsClips](#) [Daily DEP Update](#) [GreenTreks Network](#) [Watershed Weekly](#)

[DEP Press Releases](#) [DEP Advisory Committee Meetings & Agendas](#)

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

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

**Stories Invited**

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Send your stories about environmental issues, programs and positive actions to **PA Environment Digest** - [DHess@HolstonCrisci.com](mailto:DHess@HolstonCrisci.com) or go to [www.PaEnvironmentDigest.com](http://www.PaEnvironmentDigest.com) .

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