

# — PA — Environment Digest

*An Update on  
Environmental  
Issues in  
Pennsylvania*

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Edited By David E. Hess, Crisci Associates

February 5, 2007

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[PA Environment Digest Video Blog](#)

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## Bill to Help Farmers REAP the Rewards of Proven Conservation Practices

Rep. Jerry Stern (R-Blair) this week announced plans to reintroduce bipartisan legislation designed to help Pennsylvania farmers meet environmental regulations through an innovative financial assistance plan called the [Pennsylvania Resource Enhancement and Protection \(REAP\) Tax Credit Program](#).



“I first introduced this legislation last year and still think this is a vital program that can help Pennsylvania farmers meet the

sometimes financially challenging endeavors of implementing proven environmental conservation practices,” said Rep. Stern. “As a lawmaker from an agriculturally-rich region of the state and someone whose family has been in the farming business, I understand the many financial concerns farmers have in adopting some of the conservation practices available to them.”

**Video Blog:** [Rep. Stern Talks About REAP Proposal to Help Farmers](#)

Rep. Stern explained that the REAP program will provide tax credits for private investment in the implementations of a variety of proven and cost-effective best management practices, including improvements to barnyards, pastures and riparian corridors, development and implementation of nutrient management plans, remediation of legacy sediments and other approved practices. REAP will ultimately help farmers use best management practices to manage nutrients appropriately and reduce nutrient and sediment loss in the land.

“Our farmers are more than willing to implement environmental conservation practices, and often do, they just need some financial assistance to help them afford the equipment and tools needed to make these improvements possible,” said Rep. Stern, who noted that more farms are being subject to more environmental regulations as a result of recent changes to the law and other regulatory revisions.

**Video Blog:** [Rep. Daley Talks About Solving Water Quality Problems and REAP](#)

The credits will be available for personal and corporate income tax, the Capital Stock and Franchise Tax, and the Sales and Use Tax. Qualified applicants will receive a tax credit of 25 percent to 75 percent of the project cost, depending on the practice implemented. Other elements of the program specify that tax credits may be sold to other entities and for business or individual sponsorship of a project installed by a landowner. Tax credits may be carried over for maximum of 15 years.

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“It’s a challenge for farm families to deal with the financial squeeze of farming while implementing practices that improve water quality,” said Matthew J. Ehrhart, CBF PA Executive Director. “This legislation provides farmers with new resources to improve the environment— an investment in clean water for all Pennsylvanians.”

“Strengthening the private sector’s role in promoting farm conservation is another key goal of the legislation,” said Ehrhart. “REAP creates a sponsorship program that allows businesses to sponsor projects on farms in exchange for tax credits. This option may be particularly helpful to the state’s Amish, Mennonite, and other farmers who cannot accept government payments.”

REAP will go a long way toward helping Pennsylvania meet its obligations under the 2000 Chesapeake Bay Agreement to reduce nutrient and sediment pollution loads to the Chesapeake Bay.

“Agriculture is Pennsylvania’s number one industry and a significant job provider,” said Rep. Stern. “My legislation will help our farmers better protect the land they so obviously need to keep the industry thriving.”

Rep. Stern said the legislation is expected to be assigned to the House Agriculture and Rural Affairs Committee, where it should come up for review in the coming months.

**Video Blog:** [Sen. Waugh Talks About Farm Conservation and REAP](#)

**Video Blog:** [Lamonte Garber Talks About Farm Benefits of REAP](#)

**Issue Notebook:** [PA Resource Enhancement & Protection Act Proposal](#)

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### Session Schedule

The Senate and House return to session on February 5 and the Governor’s Budget Address is February 6.

### [PA Environment Digest Video Blog](#)

- Fairmount Park in Philadelphia an Important Bird Area? Go Figure!

### On the Hill

- On the Senate/House Agenda/Bills Introduced
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- CBF Honors Sen. Wenger With Lifetime Achievement Award
- Committee to Consider Reappointment of DCNR Secretary DiBerardinis
- House Names Committee Members for Environment, Game, Agriculture
- Sen. Waugh Reappointed to Chesapeake Bay Commission

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- \$850 Million Energy Independence Program, Climate Change Proposal Coming
- Up To \$182 Million in Annual Savings from Electricity Demand Management

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- Nominations Sought for Western Pennsylvania Environmental Awards
- Governor’s Awards to be Presented at PEC Harrisburg Dinner April 17
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- Operations and Maintenance Plan Assistance Available to Watershed Groups
- Five-Star Habitat Restoration Grants Due March 7
- DEP to Hold Growing Greener Workshop February 8 in Wilkes-Barre
- Comments Invited on Large Watershed Proposed, Revised Final TMDL Plans
- Preparing for the Storm: Stormwater Solutions for PA Communities April 5 & 6
- State Parks’ Watershed Education Program More Popular Every Year
- Public Meetings on Draft Delaware River Basin Flood Mitigation Recommendations
- EPA Recognizes Pollution Reduction Efforts of Bethlehem, Allentown Companies
- U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Offers Grants for Imperiled Species Projects
- Local Officials Invited to Planning for Agriculture Workshops
- Generous Gift Adds 3,000 Acres to Tioga State Forest
- PA Recreation and Park Society to Hold Annual Conference March 24-28
- Saving Kids From Nature Deficit Disorder, A Presentation By Ken Finch
- Pennsylvania Leads the Nation in College RecycleMania Participation
- PA Cleanways Invites Litter Hawk Youth Award Nominations
- Lebanon School District Joins EPA’s Tools for Schools Program
- Alternate Energy Futures Writing and Video Contest for High School Students
- DEP Publishes Updated List of Available Emission Reduction Credits
- Help Wanted: Executive Director Keep Philadelphia Beautiful

### Opinion

- Carbon Sequestration Underground Offers Potential Solutions, *By Jeffrey Jarrett Assistant Secretary, Office of Fossil Energy, U.S. Department of Energy*

### Feature

- Migrating Golden Eagles Targeted By Research, *By Joe Kosack, Wildlife Conservation Education Specialist*

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

### Video Blog

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#### Fairmount Park in Philadelphia an Important Bird Area? Go Figure!

Keith Russell, Audubon PA’s on-site ornithologist and outreach coordinator, describes why the East Reservoir and Fairmount Park in Philadelphia are important bird habitats. The Park was named as one of Pennsylvania’s Important Bird Areas in 2005.

Tim Schaeffer, Executive Director of Audubon PA, outlines the potential of Fairmount Park as an



exciting focus for a variety of environmental education activities in the community, the city and the region.

Joe Schultz, of the Philadelphia Water Department, briefed the group on the history of the reservoir and current activities undertaken there.

**Video Blog:** [Fairmount Park Important Bird Area](#)

**Links:** [Audubon PA](#)  
[Fairmount Park Important Bird Area Background](#)  
[Philadelphia Water Department](#)

## **On the Hill**

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### **On the Senate/House Agenda/Bills Introduced**

Sewage, electricity rate caps and the Fish and Boat Commission are topics before legislative committees this week. Here's the rundown...

**Senate Committees:** the Consumer Protection and Professional Licensure Committee has scheduled a public hearing with the Public Utility Commission on electric deregulation and the lifting of electricity rate caps in 2010.

**House Committees:** the Game and Fisheries Committee hears Fish and Boat Commission present its annual report.

**Other Meetings:** the Sewage Task Force of the Joint Legislative Air and Water Pollution Control and Conservation Committee meets in State College.

### **Bills Introduced**

Several more environmental bills were introduced this week, here's the rundown...

**Solar Tax Credit:** [House Bill 97](#) (Adolph-R-Delaware) eliminating sales and use tax on residential solar energy systems.

**Funding Sewage Disposal:** [House Bill 114](#) (Readshaw-D-Allegheny) providing funding for private lateral sewer lines.

**Coal Bed Methane Rights:** [House Bill 132](#) (Yewcic-D-Cambria) providing for ownership rights to coal bed methane.

**Hunting Heritage Act:** [House Bill 160](#) (Baker-R-Tioga) enacting the Hunting Heritage Protection Act requiring DCNR to manage its lands to create hunting opportunities.

## House/Senate Bipartisan Coalition Unveils Global Warming Bill

Rep. Greg Vitali (D-Delaware) and Sen. Ted Erickson (R-Delaware) announced the introduction of legislation that would require Pennsylvania to take action on measuring and reducing its greenhouse gas emissions.

The proposal has several basic elements and is included in [House Bill 110](#) and Senate Bill 265 (*not yet online*) --

- Annual state inventory of greenhouse gas emission;
- Creation of a stakeholder advisory group;
- Development of a global warming impact statement for PA; and
- Development of a greenhouse gas action plan.

“Climate change is the most important environmental problem facing our planet,” Rep. Vitali said. “Pennsylvania alone produces about 1 percent of the world’s greenhouse gasses, which is a significant contributor to global warming. So, in essence, Pennsylvania has a responsibility to do more as far as reducing its carbon dioxide and other greenhouse gas emissions.”

“Other states are taking steps to identify how much they are contributing to the global warming problem, and are developing plans to be part of the solution. There is no reason why Pennsylvania should not do the same,” said Sen. Erickson, vice chairman of the Senate Environmental Resources and Energy Committee.

“This will begin to allow business development in Pennsylvania that creates both jobs and a sustainable environment,” said Sen. Erickson, a former Regional Administrator for the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. “It’s the next great opportunity for the American economy, and I believe Pennsylvania should strive to be a leader, and not play catch-up. The information and direction these bills will provide, if enacted, is essential to achieving that goal.”

Rep. Vitali said the state, despite its influence and contribution to global warming, has yet to develop a plan of action for reducing its greenhouse gas emissions, something many other states have already done, including New York and New Jersey.

Rep. Vitali’s legislation, which has 64 co-sponsors, including 10 Republicans, and Erickson’s bill, which has 18 co-sponsors in the Senate, would require Pennsylvania to do four things: inventory the greenhouse gas emissions of various economic sectors in the state; create a voluntary greenhouse gas registry; develop and publish a global warming impact statement for Pennsylvania; and develop an action plan for reducing greenhouse gas emissions in the state.

Environmental advocates, including PennFuture, Sierra Club, Penn Environment, the Pennsylvania League of Conservation Voters and the Pennsylvania Council of Churches, also stood side by side with members of the legislature during the news conference to support the House and Senate legislation.

## Senate Committee to Consider Reappointment of DCNR Secretary DiBerardinis

Sen. Mary Jo White (R-Venango), chairman of the [Senate Environmental Resources and Energy Committee](#), this week announced the committee will hold a public hearing to consider Gov. Rendell’s reappointment of Michael DiBerardinis as Secretary of Conservation and Natural Resources.

The hearing is scheduled for February 13. (*See Calendar of Events*)

## CBF Honors Sen. Wenger With Lifetime Achievement Award

The [Chesapeake Bay Foundation](#) this week presented former Sen. Noah Wenger with a Lifetime Achievement Award to honor his conservation achievements. The award was presented at a reception attended by elected representatives, government officials, farmers, and business and environmental leaders at the Harrisburg Civic Club.

"Sen. Wenger's commitment to the environment, conservation, and the health of family farms has left a lasting legacy in Pennsylvania," said Chesapeake Bay Foundation President William C. Baker. "He has long understood that the health of our agricultural economy is crucial to the water quality in our rivers and streams, and has acted to ensure the health of both."

After 30 years of service, Sen. Wenger retired this past December, leaving behind him a long list of accomplishments. Among them, Wenger is credited with spearheading the state's farmland preservation program, which was launched in 1989. Pennsylvania now leads the country in the total number of acres permanently protected, and last month achieved the significant milestone of 3,000 farms preserved.

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

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

Rep. Stern (R-Blair) introduced REAP in a companion bill in the House and announced he planned to sponsor the bill again this session. (*see separate story*)

CBF's PA Executive Director, Matthew Ehrhart, commended Wenger for finding common ground among environmental and agricultural interests. "Working with Democrats and Republicans, farmers, agricultural business leaders, watershed groups and other conservation oriented organizations, we hope to pass REAP, which will improve local water quality and go a long way toward achieving the goals set forth in the Chesapeake 2000 Agreement."

"CBF applauds Sen. Wenger for his efforts and is honored to bestow him with a Lifetime Achievement Award." Ehrhart said. Lifetime Achievement awards are presented by the CBF's Board of Trustees infrequently and only to those most deserving individuals whose long-standing dedication to and achievement in saving the Bay merit special recognition.



Agriculture Secretary Dennis Woff, Sen. Brubaker, former Sen. Wenger, Sen. Waugh, Rep. Stern, Wil Baker and Matt Ehrhart of CBF

## House Names Committee Members for Environment, Game, Agriculture

The House this week named members to each of their committees. Here's the rundown...

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### Environmental Resources and Energy

D - Chairman: Camille "Bud" George, Secretary: Scott Conklin (New), Subcommittee Chair-Energy: Michael Gerber, Subcommittee Chair-Mining: James Wansacz, Subcommittee Chair-Parks and Forests: John Yudichak, Lisa Bennington (New), Michael Carroll (New), Eugene DePasquale (New), Robert Freeman, John Hornaman (New), Daylin Leach, David Levdansky, Jennifer Mann, Michael McGeehan, Tim Seip (New), Greg Vitali

R - Chairman: Scott Hutchinson, Martin Causer, Garth Everett (New), Kate Harper, Ronald Miller, Jay Moyer (New), Jeffiey Pyle, Kathy Rapp, Dave Reed, Chris Ross, Carole Rubley, Richard Stevenson, Randy Vulakovich (New)

### Game and Fisheries

D - Chairman: Edward G. Staback, Vice-Chairman: Neal Goodman, Secretary: Deberah Kula (New), Peter Daley (New), Tony DeLuca (New), Marc Gergely, Gary Haluska, Michael Hanna, John Homaman (New), Tim Mahoney (New), Michael McGeehan, Harry Readshaw, Chris Sainato, Barbara McIlvaine Smith (New), Dan Surra, Ed Wojnaroski,

R - Chairman: Samuel Rohrer, Bryan Cutler (New), Gordon Denlinger, Garth Everett (New), Keith Gillespie, Rob Kauffman (New), Mark Keller, David Millard (New), Daniel Moul (New), Michael Peifer (New), Scott Peny (New), Brad Roae (New), Todd Rock (New)

### Agricultural and Rural Affairs

D - Chairman Michael Hanna (New), Vice-Chairman Gary Haluska, Secretary: David Kessler (New), Tom Caltagirone (New), Michael Carroll (New), Scott Conklin (New), Peter Daley, Richard Grucela, Harold James (New), Babette Josephs, Tim Mahoney, (New), John Myers, Frank Oliver, Timothy Solobay, Michael Sturla (New), Tom Yewcic (New)

R – Chairman Arthur Hershey, Bob Bastian, Karen Boback (New), Michele Brooks (New), Jim Cox (New), Gordon Denlinger (New), Mike Fleck (New), David Hickernell, Rob Kauffman, Mark Keller, David Millard (New), Dan Moul (New), Tina Pickett

### Appropriations

D – Chairman Dwight Evans, Vice-Chairman: Bill Keller (New), Secretary: Josh Shapiro, Subcommittee Chair-Health and Welfare: Kathy Manderino, Subcommittee Chair-Education: Jake Wheatley, Subcommittee Chair-Economic Impact and Infrastructure: Michael McGeehan (New), Subcommittee Chair-Fiscal Policy: Greg Vitali, Scott Conklin, Dan Frankel, John Galloway (New), Thaddeus Kirkland (New), Bryan Lentz (New), Tim Mahoney (New), John Myers, Cherelle Parker (New), Joseph Petrarca (New), Sean Ramaley (New), Dante Santoni (New), John Siptroth (New), Matt Smith (New), Don Walko (New),

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R - Chairman: Mario Civera, Jr. (New), Vice-Chairman: Craig Dally, Stephen Barrar, Steven Cappelli, Gordon Denlinger (New), Brian Ellis (New), Fred McIlhattan (New), David Millard (New), Ronald Miller (New), Scott Petri, Dave Reed (New), Douglas Reichley (New), Katie True

The entire list of committee assignments will be listed on the [House of Representatives webpage](#).

**Note:** “New” means new to the Committee.

### **Sen. Waugh Reappointed to Chesapeake Bay Commission**

Sen. Mike Waugh (R-York) has been reappointed by Sen. Joe Scarnati, President Pro Tempore, to continue serving the Commonwealth as a member of the [Chesapeake Bay Commission](#).

Sen. Waugh will be entering his tenth year of service on this tri-state legislative advisory committee. Having served for four years while in the House of Representatives, he was reappointed to the Commission in 2002 after coming to the Senate. He will now serve through 2010.

During his most recent term, Sen. Waugh served as the Chairman of the Pennsylvania Delegation in 2004, as well as the Chairman of the Commission in 2005. And throughout his time on the Commission, Sen. Waugh has continued being an active representative for Pennsylvania knowing the important connections both the Commonwealth and his district have to the Bay.

“The Susquehanna River provides 50 percent of the freshwater supply in the Chesapeake Bay, and many York County residents depend on the Chesapeake Bay’s health in pursuit of food, recreation, and other economic factors,” said Sen. Waugh.

Sen. Waugh is also very aware that individuals do much more than simply depend on a clean Bay; they, like the Commission, are working to keep it that way.

“South Central PA, including York County plays an essential role in ongoing efforts to preserve the ecological balance of the Chesapeake Bay. Pennsylvania’s involvement is crucial to the success of all programs with an objective to preserve this vital estuary.”

Created in 1980, the Chesapeake Bay Commission is a tri-state group that serves in an advisory role to the members of the General Assemblies of Pennsylvania, Maryland, and Virginia on matters of Bay-wide concern. Of its 21 members, 15 are lawmakers – five each from PA, MD, and VA. Part of the Chesapeake Bay Commission’s ultimate goal is to clean up pollution, restore habitats and protect fish and wildlife.

## Other News

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### **\$850 Million Energy Independence Program, Climate Change Proposal Coming**

Gov. Rendell this week proposed an [\\$850 Million Energy Independence Program](#) funded by a new tax on electric use that would provide financing for renewable energy resource development, promoting energy conservation and provide a transition to competitive electricity markets when price caps end in 2010.

He said his proposal would save residential, commercial and industrial consumers \$10 billion over 10 years.

Also on the issue of climate change, Gov. Rendell said, “I think everyone now understands that you cannot deal with energy policy without addressing global warming. It is the largest environmental problem we face and Pennsylvania needs to do something about it.”

“The efforts I am announcing today to save energy and produce more clean energy are a good first step, but they are only a first step,” said the Governor. “In the next 90 days I will present a comprehensive strategy to make Pennsylvania a leader in addressing climate change.”

The elements of Gov. Rendell’s energy proposal will be contained in four pieces of legislation that are expected to be made available next week. The major components of the Energy Independence Program include--

#### **Increase Clean Energy Capacity**

\$300 million in project funding would finance clean energy projects (working capital, machinery and equipment purchases, construction and LEED certification programs) for non-profit, local government and for-profit projects.

\$200 million would be made available in a new “Pennsylvania Sunshine” program to jumpstart the market for installing solar electric panels and to attract solar manufacturers to Pennsylvania managed by DEP and the PA Energy Development Authority. DEP hopes to save \$10 million per year in electric costs.

\$150 million would fund low interest loans and grants for site preparation and infrastructure needs related to clean energy projects overseen by the PA Energy Development Authority.

\$56 million would be given to the Ben Franklin Technology Partners to invest in commercializing promising clean energy technologies.

\$50 million would fund construction and improvement of clean energy project through an Energy Independence Capital Assistance Program administered by the Governor’s Budget Office.

\$50 million would be made available through the Ben Franklin Technology Development Authority to match with professional investors to invest in clean energy companies at the seed and growth stage.



The types of projects proposed to be funded include: biofuels, solar, wind, clean coal and energy conservation projects.

### **Reducing Electricity Demand**

New proposed legislation would require electric distribution companies to show that increased electricity demands in their service areas could not be met by increasing energy conservation and demand management programs economically, before new traditional electric generating capacity is allowed to be built.

The proposal would also require electric distribution companies to offer smart metering programs that charge customers based on the time of day demand for electricity. Electricity would cost more during periods of peak demand and less at other times.

\$44 million would be spent on a new “Cool Appliances Swap” program that would provide \$100 rebates to residential and small business customers who replace inefficient room air conditioners and refrigerators managed by DEP and the PA Energy Development Authority. DEP hopes to save \$13 million in electric costs per year.

### **Electric Rate Cap Transition**

Gov. Rendell noted that recent experience with electric competition in other states where electric rate caps expired showed dramatic increases in electric costs from 40 to 72 percent. To avoid these rate shocks, the governor proposed several steps—

- Require the acquisition of power through a “least cost portfolio” that includes renewables (similar to [House Bill 3030](#) last year);
- Require the option of phasing in competitive electric pricing over three years;
- Provide the option of long term contracts to help lock in electric rates; and
- Promoting the use of “microgrids” where power plants serve small areas.

Gov. Rendell would not support a continuation of the current electric rate caps that are due to expire in most areas of Pennsylvania in 2010.

### **Alternative Energy Portfolio Standards**

Gov. Rendell also proposed changes in the Alternative Energy Portfolio Standards program enacted in 2005 that requires electric distribution companies to offer electricity from renewable energy sources.

Under the proposal, distribution companies could meet the portfolio standards not only by buying electricity from renewable energy sources in Pennsylvania, but also throughout the PJM or other regional electricity grid.

### **Renewable Transportation Fuels**

The Governor also proposed the “PennSecurity Fuels Initiative” that will require that we grow and use one billion gallons of clean and renewable fuels. The initiative would mean that every gallon of gasoline sold in Pennsylvania would include 10 percent ethanol, and every gallon of diesel would include an increasing amount (up to 20 percent) of soy or other renewable oil.

### **Cost to Consumers**

The proposed \$850 Energy Independence Fund would be financed by floating bonds paid for by a new tax on residential and commercial electric customers.

The new “systems benefit surcharge” would cost the average residential customer \$5.40 annually, for the average commercial customer \$36.36 annually and the average industrial customer \$882 per year.

However, Gov. Rendell said expected energy savings from his plan would save \$73 for every \$5 of cost to consumers.

Here’s a sampling of reactions to Gov. Rendell’s proposal.

"Every year around Feb. 2 I lament how we focus more attention on a groundhog than to addressing energy woes that make winter a season of desperation for too many citizens," said Rep. George (D-Clearfield), Majority Chair of the House Environmental Resources and Energy Committee. "This year, we can greet the groundhog knowing that we no longer are content to being slapped around by Mother Nature, OPEC, the oil industry or man-made catastrophes."

"Some of the proposals will be problematic, including the suggested surcharges and voluntary electric-payment increases to allay monstrous, electric-rate increases," Rep. George said. "However, the governor's initiatives regarding ethanol, bio-fuel and alternative energy will return Pennsylvania to its historic status as an energy powerhouse, which is a welcome change from its more-recent history of resorting to whimpering and wishing on woodchucks."

"The governor is asking consumers to fund government mandates in the form of an electric tax," said Gene Barr, PA Chamber Vice President of Political and Regulatory Affairs. "The Pennsylvania Chamber supports alternative energy use, but within the framework of a free market system, not through more mandates. This is especially true when other recent costly mandates are taken into consideration."

Barr said the electric utility industry, as well as consumers, already face a \$1.7 billion price tag to comply with a state-specific mercury reduction rule for which there is no discernable benefit to human health and the environment beyond the established federal law.

"The Pennsylvania Chamber cannot support an electric tax or additional mandates without first evaluating the cost impact of other recent regulations," Barr stressed.

**NewsClips:** [Rendell Outlines New Energy Plan, Proposes New Fee](#)  
[Rendell Offers \\$850 Million Energy Fund Strategy](#)  
[Rendell Outlines Energy Plan, Proposes New Fee](#)  
[Rendell Pitches Pay a Little Now, Save a Lot Energy Plan](#)  
[Electricity Fee Would Fund Rendell Plan](#)  
[Broad Plan Aims to Avert Electricity Price Spikes](#)  
[DEP Awards Grants to Help Small Business Energy Efficiency](#)  
[Fuels of Future Today](#)  
[Editorial: Global Warming](#)  
[Editorial: Climate Change Also Heralds the Crack of Doom](#)  
[Editorial: Politics of Global Warming Heating Up](#)  
[Bill Nye Talks About Climate Change](#)  
[PA Again Ranked as Leader in Green Power Use](#)  
[U.S. Dept. of Energy Looking for Model Cities for Solar Power](#)  
[Large Energy Users in PA Lobby for Continued Competition](#)  
[Kane School District Looking at Using Alternative Energy](#)

## **Up To \$182 Million in Annual Savings from Electricity Demand Management**

A [new independent study](#) has found that a modest reduction in electricity use during peak hours would reduce energy prices by at least \$57 million to \$182 million annually in the Mid-Atlantic region.

The study, prepared by The Brattle Group, examined the effects of reducing electricity use by three percent during the highest use hours for five utility areas. It notes

that, “More widespread participation and deeper curtailments would result in even greater price impacts.”

The five mid-Atlantic public utility commissions and PJM Interconnection worked together on the study. The objective was to demonstrate actual savings possible from greater use of demand response.

Demand response refers to a customer’s intentional reduction in the use of electricity during periods when electric supplies are tight or electricity costs are high because the most expensive generation units must be run. Reducing electricity demand at these times can decrease use of the most expensive sources of power. It also can avoid power shortages, and enhance grid reliability.

A three percent reduction during the peak use hours for each utility studied would have reduced energy market prices by \$8 to \$25 per megawatt-hour, according to the study. Actual demand response typically has been less than one percent of use during peak hours, according to PJM.

In addition to reductions in electricity prices, demand response participants were estimated to save \$9 million to \$26 million for energy annually and another \$73 million for capacity charges.

The study quantified the economic benefits of demand response by comparing prices without and with demand response reductions during the top 20 five-hour periods in 2005 for each utility. The five utility areas were Baltimore Gas and Electric, Delmarva Power, PECO, Pepco and Public Service Electric and Gas Company.

The public utility commissions and PJM sponsored the study as part of the Mid-Atlantic Distributed Recourses Initiative. The commissions in Delaware, the District of Columbia, Maryland, New Jersey and Pennsylvania along with PJM and federal agencies comprise MADRI. It was formed in 2004 to identify and remedy retail barriers to the deployment of distributed generation and demand response in the Mid-Atlantic region. Utility commissioner representatives to MADRI unanimously noted the study’s importance in supporting regional advances in demand response.

“This study documents the substantial public benefits of even a small customer demand response when prices are high,” said District of Columbia Commissioner Rick Morgan, who chairs MADRI. “It points out the value of regional coordination among the Mid-Atlantic states.”

“Peak demand drives up the price of electricity for everyone,” said New Jersey Board of Public Utilities President Jeanne M. Fox. “This study clearly demonstrates how a very minor decrease in electric use during peak demand by a few users can provide unequivocal economic benefits for all. It will be important in developing policies with our regional partners to address this critical issue.”

“This study and the MADRI’s efforts will be invaluable for states such as Pennsylvania as we continue to successfully implement alternative energy laws and to empower our energy consumers with innovative energy efficiency, demand-side response and advanced metering programs,” said Pennsylvania Public Utility Commissioner Kim Pizzingrilli. “Regional solutions developed by the MADRI process will continue to enhance the work of the states.”

“Fully valuing demand response and other demand reductions enables wholesale markets to empower customers and to deliver them more benefits,” said Allen M. Freifeld Maryland Public Service Commissioner.

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“The report shows that demand response is very important for a state like Delaware that experiences significant transmission congestion,” said Arnetta McRae, chair, Delaware Public Service Commission.

“Now that this report has demonstrated the economic benefit of demand response, we will work with the states in implementing initiatives that provide consumers financial signals and incentives to alter their use of electricity in response to grid conditions,” said Audrey A. Zibelman, PJM executive vice president and chief operating officer.

PJM ensures the reliability of the regional electric power supply system serving 51 million people in all or parts of Delaware, Illinois, Indiana, Kentucky, Maryland, Michigan, New Jersey, North Carolina, Ohio, Pennsylvania, Tennessee, Virginia, West Virginia and the District of Columbia. It administers the regional wholesale market for electricity and plans transmission expansion improvements to maintain grid reliability and relieve congestion.

The Brattle Group prepared the study, “[The Impact of Demand Curtailment on Power Prices in PJM.](#)”

**NewsClip:** [Large Energy Users in PA Lobby for Continued Competition](#)

### **PennFuture Sponsors Annual Clean Energy Conference May 30**

On May 30 PennFuture will again sponsor its annual [Clean Energy Conference](#) in Camp Hill with the theme, “To Market, To Market: Producing Pennsylvania-Made Energy in Governor Rendell’s Second Term.”

The keynote speaker will be DEP Secretary Kathleen McGinty and the luncheon speaker will be U.S. Senator Robert P. Casey.

The program will feature presentations on financing clean energy projects, can we get there from here policy forum, wind energy opportunities and challenges, with breakout sessions on solar, biofuels, demand side management, the Alternative Energy Portfolio Standard rules, a federal legislative update, consumer empowerment – energy efficiency and conservation and the carbon challenge.

[A detailed agenda is available online](#) and for more information go to the [Clean Energy Conference webpage](#).

### **Nominations Sought for Western Pennsylvania Environmental Awards**

If you know a person, organization, or business that has helped to enhance the environment of western Pennsylvania, that achievement could win a \$5,000 [Western Pennsylvania Environmental Award](#).

Nominations must be submitted by March 16.

The Pennsylvania Environmental Council and Dominion, sponsors of the awards program, have announced that they are now accepting nominations for the 2007 Environmental Awards, to be presented at the Westin Convention Center Hotel on June 7.

Community groups, schools, businesses, volunteers, government officials, and other organizations, individuals, or programs are eligible to receive a Western Pennsylvania Environmental Award for their efforts to enhance the environment of western Pennsylvania. A total of 4 awards will be presented in the areas of Community (which includes a variety of eligible projects), Higher Education, Primary/Secondary Education and Business.

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An independent panel of judges will evaluate all nominations. In honor of each awardee, the sponsors will make a \$5,000 donation to a nonprofit organization of the awardee's choice that provides environmental benefits to western Pennsylvania.

The Western Pennsylvania Environmental Awards were established to encourage the community to adopt the standards set by successful nominees, thereby promoting innovative environmental efforts and enhancing the quality of life in western Pennsylvania. Through public recognition and award donations, the program also helps to advance those projects which achieve specific environmental objectives, and which reflect a genuine understanding of local needs.

Major funding for the awards comes from the [Dominion Foundation](#), which is dedicated to the economic, physical and social health of the communities served by Dominion companies.

[Nomination forms](#) and [guidelines](#) are available online at or by calling Davitt Woodwell at the Pennsylvania Environmental Council at 412-481-9400 or Denise Hughes at Dominion 412-497-5561

**Links:** [2006 Western PA Environmental Award Winners](#)  
[2005 Western PA Environmental Award Winners](#)

### **Governor's Awards to be Presented at PEC Harrisburg Dinner April 17**

The [Pennsylvania Environmental Council](#) will partner with the Commonwealth and the Department of Environmental Protection in announcing the 2007 Governor's Awards for Environmental Excellence.

The event will take place on April 17 at the Banquet Hall at the Farm Show Building on Cameron Street in Harrisburg.

The Pennsylvania Environmental Council is honored to create this gala event around the 2007 Governor's Awards for Environmental Excellence. These awards are the highest statewide honor bestowed on businesses and organizations.

Previous winners of the Governor's Award for Environmental Excellence are saving resources, saving money and helping build a healthier, stronger Pennsylvania through pollution prevention, waste reduction, recycling, indigenous resource use and technological innovation. These efforts are building new businesses in Pennsylvania, enhancing the bottom line and engaging residents in a renewed commitment to investing in their communities.

At the dinner, the Pennsylvania Environmental Council will welcome Kathleen McGinty, Secretary of the Department of Environmental Protection. PEC will also recognize the recipients of the awards at the dinner.

Tickets for the event are \$100 (\$60 for retiree/student/non-profit). Sponsorships are also available for the event.

For more information call 800-322-9214 or visit our [PEC website](#).

### **Public's Right of Access to Little Juniata River Wins Critical Protection**

A Huntingdon County court decision this week guaranteed the rights of citizens to have access to the Little Juniata River for fishing, boating and other recreation.

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The lawsuit was filed in 2003 against Donald Beaver and other defendants who had closed a 1.3-mile section of the Little Juniata River to the public and started a private fishing club. The Fish and Boat Commission, Department of Environmental Protection, and the Department of Conservation and Natural Resources filed the suit.

During a week-long trial, the agencies asked the court to confirm the Commonwealth's long-standing position that the Little Juniata River is a navigable water of the state that is held in trust for the benefit of the public.

"The court's ruling that the Little Juniata River is in fact a public waterway makes it clear that those who fish and boat have a right to enjoy one of the state's true natural treasures," said PFBC Executive Director Doug Austen. "Without access, the finest waters in the commonwealth have little value for public recreation. So protecting the public's rights on public waters is of utmost importance to this agency and our constituents."

The issue first surfaced in 2000 when Donald Beaver began operating an exclusive fly fishing business on the Little Juniata River at and downstream of its confluence with Spruce Creek in Huntingdon County. Beaver and his employees began excluding the public from the waterway by stringing cables across the river and posting "no trespassing" signs at both ends of the 1.3 mile-stretch of river.

The Commonwealth based ownership of the river on historical evidence of navigation and trade on the Little Juniata River dating from the 1700s, and statutory designations of the river as a public highway dating to 1794, 1808 and 1822.

The Commonwealth's case drew the support of local residents and businesses and statewide organizations representing anglers and hunters.

**NewsClip:** [Fishing Club Can't Cast Public Off River](#)  
[Judge Sides with State in PA Fishing Access Case](#)

**Link:** [Fish and Boat Commission Preserving Public Access](#)

### Operations and Maintenance Plan Assistance Available to Watershed Groups

Operations and Maintenance plans are crucial to the success of passive acid mine drainage treatment systems. O&M plans encourage long-term sustainable AMD treatment, helping grassroots watershed organizations maximize the life of their passive treatment systems.

Unfortunately, many of Pennsylvania's 250-plus passive AMD treatment systems - especially the older ones - do not have O&M plans.

[Stream Restoration Inc.](#) has partnered with the Department of Environmental Protection and [Biomost Inc.](#) to provide Pennsylvania watershed organizations with free technical assistance in developing O&M plans.

Their interdisciplinary team can visit your watershed and create an operations and maintenance plan for passive treatment systems that are currently without one. But the program ends at the end of March, so send in an O&M Plan Request Form soon!

For more information about treatment system operations and maintenance:

- [Free Technical Assistance Program](#)
- [Full O&M Resources from the 2006 PA Conference on AMR](#)
- [O&M Summary from AMRClearinghouse.org](#)

### **Five-Star Habitat Restoration Grants Due March 7**

Grant applications are being accepted until March 7 for the [Five-Star Restoration Grants](#) Program sponsored by the National Association of Counties, the National Wildlife Foundation, Wildlife Habitat Council and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.

Five-Star grants provide financial support for community-based wetland, riparian and coastal habitat restoration projects that build diverse partnerships and foster local natural resource stewardship through education, outreach and training activities.

Grants of between \$5,000 and \$20,000 will be awarded.

For more information, visit the [Five Star Restoration Grants webpage](#).

### **DEP to Hold Growing Greener Workshop February 8 in Wilkes-Barre**

The Department of Environmental Protection will hold an information session on February 8 to provide guidance on the 2007 [Growing Greener I & II grant application process](#) and schedule.

The information session is planned from 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. at [DEP's Northeast Regional Office](#), 2 Public Square in Wilkes-Barre.

The session will provide information on the 2007 Growing Greener application package and process, with descriptions of changes to the new application and an outline of the department's priorities for this grant round. Copies of the 2007 grant application package will be available at the session.

For more information about or directions to the Growing Greener Grant Application Session, call 570-826-2511.

### **Preparing for the Storm: Stormwater Solutions for PA Communities April 5 & 6**

Pennsylvania loses nearly 120,000 acres of open space to development each year. The increased stormwater runoff associated with so much land conversion begins a chain of events that includes flooding, erosion, stream channel alteration, and ecological damage.

Combined with an increase in man-made pollutants, these changes in function result in degraded systems no longer capable of providing good drainage, healthy habitat, or natural pollutant processing.

Today, more than 3,000 miles of Pennsylvania streams do not meet water quality standards due to urban runoff. In December of last year, the Department of Environmental Protection [released a new manual](#) intended to facilitate better site development and stormwater management across the state.

In order to aid in the understanding and implementation of this manual, Chesapeake Bay Foundation is hosting a 1.5-day conference at the Penn State Conference Center in State College, PA.

The event will focus on the engineering and land use planning aspects of good stormwater management. Presentations, given by renowned local and state officials, engineers, and nationally entities, will focus on how practitioners can use the concepts of the manual by citing real-world examples.

Attendees will also be able to tour state-of-the-art stormwater management facilities at the [ClearWater Conservancy](#) office, Penn State Visitors Center, and two green roofs on campus.

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Watershed organizations and concerned citizens are particularly encouraged to attend as they will garner tools to more effectively engage local governments on better stormwater management and land use planning.

Thomas Cahill, President of Cahill Associates and a nationally recognized consulting firm on innovative stormwater management, will serve as the keynote speaker.

Pulitzer Prize-winning journalist and author of the book *Save Our Land, Save Our Towns*, Thomas Hyton, will speak on the direct connection between land use and stormwater at the luncheon.

For registration, agenda and sponsorship and exhibitor information, visit the [Preparing for the Storm Conference webpage](#).

**Link:** [DEP Accepting Growing Greener Grant Applications, Deadline April 13](#)

### **Comments Invited on Large Watershed Proposed, Revised Final TMDL Plans**

The Department of Environmental Protection this week publish notices inviting comments on proposed and revised final Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) Plans in five watersheds, including—the West Branch Susquehanna, Little Schuylkill and Schuylkill River watersheds.

**Bernhart Creek Watershed**, Berks County: DEP has scheduled a public meeting to accept comments on a proposed TMDL plan on February 21 at 7:00 p.m. at the Berks County Agriculture Building, Leesport. Contact: Joseph Adams 717-705-4820.

**Clearfield Creek Watershed:** DEP scheduled a public meeting on February 20 at Prince Gallitzin State Park Headquarters, Patton. Contact: Bill Brown 717-783-2951.

**West Branch Susquehanna River Watershed**, Multiple Counties: DEP will hold a public meeting on February 22 at 7:00 p.m. at the Clearfield County Conservation District, Clearfield. Contact: Bill Brown 717-783-2951.

**Little Schuylkill River Watershed**, Multiple Counties: DEP has scheduled a public meeting to accept comments on a revised TMDL plan on February 20 at 10:00 at the DEP District Office in Pottsville. Contact: James Andrews 570-621-3118 or send email to: [jamesandrew@state.pa.us](mailto:jamesandrew@state.pa.us) .

**Schuylkill River Watershed**, Multiple Counties: DEP has scheduled a public meeting to invite comments on a revised final TMDL plan on February 20 at 10:00 at the DEP District Office in Pottsville. Contact: James Andrews 570-621-3118 or send email to: [jamesandrew@state.pa.us](mailto:jamesandrew@state.pa.us) .

Copies of the TMDL plans are available on [DEP's TMDL webpage](#).

## State Parks' Watershed Education Program More Popular Every Year

School participation in the [Bureau of State Parks' Watershed Education Program](#) showed a marked increase last year, with many students participating in on-site field investigations with park staff.

A program year-end report for the period from July 1, 2005, to June 30, 2006 showed Bureau Environmental Education Specialists continue to put forth a tremendous effort to educate middle and high school teachers and students on the topic of watersheds in Pennsylvania.

206 schools and 6,756 students and teachers actively participated in what is seen as "tremendous increase" from the previous report of 116 participating schools and 5,869 active students.

Similar to last year, state parks and environmental education centers facilitated more programs with students than teachers as indicated by the attendance at field trainings, student summits and program orientations.

The number of students performing field investigation training with park staff increased by 955; almost double last year's participation. The number attending program orientations also showed a dramatic increase reaching 464 more students than the previous year.

Basin-wide student summits posed a challenge for park staff this year due to increasingly stringent school liability policies and budgets.

*(Reprinted from [DCNR's Resource](#), January 31, 2007 issue)*

## Public Meetings on Draft Delaware River Basin Flood Mitigation Recommendations

Delaware River Basin Commission Executive Director Carol R. Collier this week announced that the first of four meetings will be held in Delhi, N.Y. on February 8 to give the public an opportunity to provide feedback on the [Interstate Flood Mitigation Task Force's](#) flood loss reduction and flood mitigation draft recommendations for the Delaware River Basin.

The first session will be held at 6:30 p.m., February 8, (an informal "poster session" to review information on display will begin at 6 p.m.) at the Sen. Charles D. Cook County Office Building, 111 Main St., Main Floor, Board of Supervisors Room, Delhi, N.Y.

The other three public meetings will be held during February in Pennsylvania, New Jersey, and Delaware (location information TBA). Written comments will be accepted until February 28, and should be mailed to: Robert Tudor, Deputy Executive Director, DRBC, P.O. Box 7360, 25 State Police Dr., West Trenton, NJ 08628.

"The Delaware River Basin Interstate Flood Mitigation Task Force has identified a total of 44 consensus recommendations for a more proactive, sustainable, and systematic approach to flood damage reduction," Collier said. "The task force has concluded that no set of mitigation measures will entirely eliminate impacts of flooding along the Delaware River, but the members believe that a combination of measures will improve the basin's resiliency -- its capacity to prepare for and recover from flooding -- in the future."

The recommendations are divided into six priority management areas: Reservoir operations; Structural and non-structural measures; Stormwater management; Floodplain mapping; Floodplain regulation; and Flood warning.

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Delaware Gov. Ruth Ann Minner, New Jersey Gov. Jon Corzine, Pennsylvania Gov. Edward Rendell, and New York Gov. George Pataki, who serve as DRBC members, jointly sent a letter to Collier on Sept. 21, 2006 authorizing and requesting commission staff to form the interstate task force. This was followed on Sept. 27 by the formal adoption of a resolution at a commission meeting which was unanimously agreed to by the four states and DRBC Chair Lt. Col. Gwen Baker, who represents the federal government on the five-member commission.

The interstate task force convened in October 2006 and is comprised of 32 members representing a broad array of government interests (both legislative and executive) as well as private sector and non-profit perspectives. In a Dec. 29, 2006 letter, DRBC staff apprised the four governors and incoming New York Gov. Eliot Spitzer with an update on the status of the draft report and outlined the planned process to give the public an opportunity to review the recommended measures.

Following the four meetings, the task force will meet in late-February to consider public feedback and prioritize actions, as well as to formulate comments and responses before a final set of recommended measures is submitted to the governors for their consideration. DRBC Deputy Executive Director Robert Tudor is leading the staff support of this effort.

The Delaware Basin was devastated by severe floods in September 2004, April 2005, and June 2006, following a period of nearly 50 years without any widespread main stem flooding.

Additional information about the task force, including the December 2006 update letter to the governors, can be found on the [DRBC website](#).

### **EPA Recognizes Pollution Reduction Efforts of Bethlehem, Allentown Companies**

PolyOne Corporation in Bethlehem and Prior Coated Metals, Inc. in Allentown were recognized this week by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency for their efforts to reduce pollution and waste as part of the [National Partnership for Environmental Priorities program](#).

#### **Prior Coated Metals, Inc.**

“As a member of the greater Allentown community, Prior Coated Metals, Inc. has taken steps to go above and beyond environmental compliance,” said Abraham Ferdas, EPA’s mid-Atlantic regional director. “This company is committed to finding a new and innovative way to conserve natural resources through waste reduction that will improve public health and the environment.”

As a new partner in EPA’s waste minimization efforts, Prior Coated Metals, Inc. will reduce naphthalene waste. Naphthalene is a component in solvents used to adjust the viscosity - - the thickness - - of their paint. The company is going to reduce naphthalene by substituting some of its reducing solvents with a naphthalene-free solvent.

Prior Coated Metals, Inc. is a subsidiary of Bouras Industries Inc. and produces quality pre-coated/pre-painted sheet metal for use in various consumer and construction products such as light fixtures, garage doors, roof deck, and swimming pools.

#### **PolyOne Corporation**

“PolyOne is joining companies across the country in EPA’s Resource Conservation Challenge to find flexible, yet more protective ways, to conserve our natural resources

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through waste reduction and energy recovery,” Abraham Ferdas, EPA’s regional director said.

“Today, PolyOne committed to eliminating lead in its manufacturing processes, as well as to developing a comprehensive recycling program. These efforts help to protect public health and the environment.”

PolyOne, the world’s largest polymer services company, provides its customers with a single source for polymer, colorant and additive products. Under the EPA partnership, the company, which used approximately 14,000 pounds of lead in 2004 in the manufacture of its lead-based stabilizers, has committed to eliminate all use of lead by redesigning or reformulating its products to use lead-free stabilizers.

PolyOne will also implement an extensive recycling program for paper, cardboard, and polymers in their manufacturing to conserve resources and reduce the amount of trash going into the landfills.

Their goal is to reduce the amount of waste sent to landfills from 321,000 pounds in 2004 to about 160,000 pounds in 2006. They are achieving this reduction by modifying processes and procedures, such as segregating waste, training employees and implementing of specific logistic systems. The ultimate corporate goal is to completely eliminate chemical wastes sent to landfills.

EPA created the [National Partnership for Environmental Priorities program](#), one of a several voluntary partnership programs, to reduce 31 highly toxic, priority chemicals found in our nation’s waste.

The agency’s goal is to work with industry and the public to reduce the presence of 31 priority chemicals in waste by 10 percent by the year 2008, compared to amounts generated in 2001.

For more information about this program, go to the [National Partnership for Environmental Priorities program webpage](#).

### **U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Offers Grants for Imperiled Species Projects**

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service is seeking proposals for conservation projects to benefit imperiled species on private lands through its Private Stewardship Grants Program.

Proposals are due February 14.

This grant is available under the Endangered Species Act to help landowners plan and implement projects. A ten percent match of cash or in-kind contributions is required.

For more information, visit the [Private Stewardship Grant Program webpage](#).

### **Local Officials Invited to Planning for Agriculture Workshops**

Township, borough and county officials are invited to learn more about agricultural law and regulations by attending one of six “Planning for Agriculture” workshops to be held in March, Agriculture Secretary Dennis Wolff said this week.

“As Pennsylvania’s number one industry, agriculture is a vital part of many communities,” said Secretary Wolff. “These workshops will provide local leaders with the tools they need to stay up-to-date on laws and regulations that relate to agriculture and planning.”

Planning for Agriculture workshops will provide elected officials with information on the variety of regulations governing farming and agricultural activities. Workshop

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participants will explore the impact of agriculture, as well as regulations and laws, on their communities.

Program topics include agriculture security area law, the Pennsylvania Farmland and Forest Land Assessment Act, the Right to Farm Act, municipalities planning code, farmland protection and various case studies.

Instructors include Phyllis Marquitz, acting director for Dickinson School of Law's Agricultural Law Resource and Reference Center; local government policy specialists from the Governor's Center for Local Government Services; and regional directors from the Department of Agriculture.

The three-hour workshops will be offered at six regional locations during March:

- March 1: West Chester, Chester County – Holiday Inn, 1- 4 p.m.;
- March 6: Meadville, Crawford County – Days Inn and Conference Center, 1- 4 p.m.;
- March 7: Washington, Washington County – Ramada Inn, 9 a.m.-noon;
- March 13: Chambersburg, Franklin County – Four Points by Sheraton, 1- 4 p.m.;
- March 15: Bethlehem, Northampton County – Hotel Bethlehem, 1- 4 p.m.; and
- March 21: Williamsport, Lycoming County – Holiday Inn, 1- 4 p.m.

Registration opens 30 minutes before each workshop begins. The registration fee is \$25 per person.

The seminar is being offered by the Governor's Center for Local Government Services, which provides fundamental programs, services and training to local officials and municipal employees.

For more information or to register online, visit the [PA Local Government Training website](#) or call 717-763-0930 to request a brochure.

### Generous Gift Adds 3,000 Acres to Tioga State Forest

The Department of Conservation and Natural Resources this week announced it has accepted a generous gift of nearly 3,000 acres of land from the Bob and Marion Jones family that will be added to [Tioga State Forest](#).

The land, formerly owned by a company that was controlled by the Jones family, has been transferred to the Department of Conservation and Natural Resources' Bureau of Forestry.

"Adding this important piece of Pennsylvania's great outdoors to Tioga State Forest will mean future generations will be able to enjoy it and the property will improve the quality of life in Tioga County," Gov. Rendell said. "This land has sentimental value to the children of Bob and Marion Jones, and we offer our heartfelt thanks for their generous gift.

"We are grateful that the Jones family recognized the value of this land to the public for outdoor recreation, watershed and habitat protection; and we appreciate the family's trust in DCNR to manage the property for the benefit of the public."

The approximately 3,000-acre forested tract is located near Morris Run in Hamilton, Ward and Union townships, in the 12-county region known as the Pennsylvania Wilds. Acquiring the property, which lies in the headwaters of the Tioga River, provides considerable public access to the river. Restoring the Tioga River watershed is crucial to improving water quality in the Susquehanna River drainage area, which is important as a recreational asset in the Pennsylvania Wilds.

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“Although not necessarily an avid outdoorsman, after his retirement my father would take long walks on this property, enjoying the serenity and the open space,” Dr. Robert Jones said. “Although we did have people who wanted to develop the property express an interest in acquiring it, our family felt it was important to see the land protected forever as open space as a part of the adjacent Tioga State Forest.”

A portion of the property has been reclaimed following mining operations and has unique grassland and early successional forests. Much of the property is younger Northern Hardwood stands, which will help the Tioga State Forest to achieve its management goal of balancing the age class of its forest. Under DCNR’s Forest Stewardship Council’s certified management, the forest will provide recreation, watershed protection, wildlife habitat and quality forest products for the citizens of Pennsylvania.

The goal of the [Pennsylvania Wilds initiative](#) is to increase outdoor recreation and heritage tourism across north central Pennsylvania consistent with responsible stewardship of the region’s public lands.

[Tioga State Forest](#), named after a tribe of Seneca Indians that once inhabited the area, consists of 165,000 acres of state forest land in Bradford and Tioga counties. Most of the land was once owned by large lumber companies and land holding companies. Tioga Forest contains the Pine Creek Gorge Natural Area – also known as the Grand Canyon of Pennsylvania – that occupies both sides of Pine Creek from just south of Ansonia to Blackwell, a distance of 18 miles.

[Pine Creek Gorge](#) was designated in 1968 as a registered National Natural Landmark.

### PA Recreation and Park Society to Hold Annual Conference March 24-28

The PA Recreation and Park Society will hold its 60th annual conference with the theme of “[Celebrate the Brilliance of Recreation and Parks](#)” from March 24-28 in Hershey.

The event will open with a keynote address, “The Creation of More Livable Communities,” delivered by Mark Fenton, host of the PBS series, *America’s Walking*. Described as an “entertaining, persuasive, and knowledgeable walking advocate,” Fenton is billed as among the nation’s foremost experts on the activity.

A citizens’ symposium, “Changing Lives, Impacting Communities” co-sponsored by the society and the Department of Conservation and Natural Resources will be a major highlight of the conference.

“Society and DCNR organizers have designed this symposium specifically for the citizen advisory board members serving on Pennsylvania’s local recreation and parks boards, as well as local officials and friends and advocates of recreation and parks,” said Cindy Dunn, director DCNR’s Bureau of Recreation and Conservation.

Other symposium speakers and topics will include: Judy Houck, assistant parks and public works director, Bethlehem Township: “Basic Training for Recreation and Parks Board and Commission Members;” Ron Woodhead, director, Centre Region Parks and Recreation Department: “Financing Recreation and Parks;” and commercial inspirational speaker Randy Snow, president, NO.XQs Inc.: “Attitude, Accountability and Action – Diamonds That Help Us Shine!”

A conference registration fee of \$75 covers admission to the symposium and includes other conference events, lunch, and informational packets. The symposium opens with 9:30 a.m. registration and closes with the 5:15 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. opening of an exhibit

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hall where more than 100 vendors will display products and services. Educational breakout sessions are planned throughout the day.

Who should attend? Society and DCNR organizers say symposium speakers have the answers for questions from citizens recreation and park board members; recreation and park directors; municipal managers and secretaries; elected officials; and community volunteers interested in improving local recreation and parks programs and services.

For more information and a copy of the complete [2007 PRPS Annual State Conference Registration Guide](#), visit the [PRPS website](#) or call 814-234-4272.

### **Saving Kids From Nature Deficit Disorder, A Presentation By Ken Finch**

Ken Finch, President and founder of Green Hearts Institute for Nature in Childhood (Green Hearts Inc.), a new nonprofit organization dedicated to bringing children and nature back together, will make presentations at three forums across the state in March.

He will present programs--

- March 12: Saint Vincent College, Latrobe, PA at 7:00 p.m.;
- March 13: Pennsylvania College of Technology, Williamsport at PA 7:00 p.m.; and
- March 15: Lehigh University, Bethlehem, PA at 7:00 p.m..

Ken's discussion will be based on Richard Louv's book, *The Last Child in the Woods*. He will lead participants in considering how nature deficit leads to problems in children's health and well-being, as we look for solutions.

Parents, childcare providers, youth leaders, educators, and all those interested in the future of conservation are encouraged to attend. A panel discussion will follow his talk. Refreshments provided.

For more information, contact Angela Belli at 724-805-2051 or send email to: [angela.belli@email.stvincent.edu](mailto:angela.belli@email.stvincent.edu) .

**Link:** [Saving Kids From Nature Deficit Disorder](#)

### **Pennsylvania Leads the Nation in College RecycleMania Participation**



Pennsylvania leads the country in the number of colleges and universities participating in the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's [RecycleMania 2007](#) challenge.

Twenty schools in Pennsylvania have joined the competition which will end April 7.

RecycleMania, a competition among colleges and universities to see which schools can collect the most recyclables over a 10-week period, is organized and operated by university recycling coordinators and endorsed by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's WasteWise program and other organizations.

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

## PA Cleanways Invites Litter Hawk Youth Award Nominations



PA CleanWays announced it is seeking nominations for its 2007 [Litter Hawk Youth Award Program](#).

The deadline for nominations is March 31.

The Litter Hawk program gives youth and teens a chance to illustrate their concern about littering and illegal dumping prevention, recycling, proper disposal, beautification, and stewardship through visual arts, language arts, and community outreach. This program includes two age groups, 10 and under and 11 to 18.

Entries will be judged on creativity and the project's ability to convey the chosen theme. Three winning entries in each age group will receive gift cards in the amount of \$75 (10 and under) and \$100 (11-18). Awards will be announced during Earth Month (April).

The Litter Hawk Youth Award Program is not open to PA CleanWays employees or the immediate relatives of PA CleanWays employees.

PA CleanWays is a statewide nonprofit organization empowering people to eliminate illegal dumping and littering in Pennsylvania. Since 1990, PA CleanWays has facilitated over 600 illegal dump cleanups resulting in the removal of over 9,000 tons of trash, 22,000 tons of scrap metal and 319,000 tires statewide. PA CleanWays community-based approach has involved more than 31,000 volunteers.

Information about the [Litter Hawk Youth Award program](#) is available on the PA CleanWays website or by contacting the PA CleanWays office at 877-772-3673.

## Lebanon School District Joins EPA's Tools for Schools Program

The Lebanon School District has joined the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's [Tools for Schools program](#) to improve the indoor air quality of its schools.

While renovating, the District will work with EPA to address their indoor environmental issues and to develop site specific plans. Renovation practices should consider the use of solvents, paints, from debris, dust, volatile organic compounds and other air pollutants as contributing factors to poor indoor air quality.

The EPA Tools for Schools program is a nationwide EPA initiative helping school officials prevent, address and resolve indoor air quality problems while protecting the health and productivity of students.

The District comprises of seven schools, more than 3,851 students and about 500 professional staff.

[Download a factsheet](#) on implementing a [Tools for Schools Program](#) in your school.

## Alternate Energy Futures Writing and Video Contest for High School Students

Stories change understanding, and understanding can change the world. That is the foundation of [Imagining Tomorrow: Alternate Energy Futures](#), a national writing and video contest about clean energy for high-school students was announced this week.

All entries are due by midnight March 31.

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All entries must have energy issues, policies, or technologies as some basis, and must supply a short description of the conceptual starting point, citing relevant references and statistics.

Students have the opportunity to compete in regional or state contests. Winners advance to the national level, with \$10,000 committed in cash awards.

A very successful pilot program was run last year in Massachusetts, in partnership with the Northeast Sustainable Energy Society. [The winning stories are posted at the national website.](#)

Mary Essary, program director, observed that the stories make for fascinating reading, but equally compelling are the afterwards and information about the students who wrote the stories.

"It is clear that young people are very aware of all aspects of the energy issues that we face," she stated, "and this program gives them an opportunity to become better educated as well as to envision and express the impact the choices that we make today will have on their own future."

Chris Mason, education director at NESEA noted "The creative format of Imagining Tomorrow is very appealing, and also motivates students and teachers to take advantage of the wealth of existing resources offered by various organizations about our energy issues, challenges, and options."

Details about the contest, including guidelines and submission information, are available at the [ForeSight Project website.](#)

The website also contains examples of starting points from environmental, political, economic, and technology perspectives and other resources for students and for teachers. Schools and teachers are encouraged to participate and use the contest as a curriculum-related activity, as an assignment, or as an extra-credit or honors project. Students may also submit stories independently.

For more information, visit the [Imagining Tomorrow: Alternate Energy Futures webpage.](#)

### **DEP Publishes Updated List of Available Emission Reduction Credits**

The Department of Environmental Protection this week published a notice of availability of emission reduction credits, by company, in the state's Emission Credit Registry and a summary of recent transactions ([February 3 PaB 580](#)).

Included in the Registry are credits for nitrogen oxide, volatile organic compounds, carbon monoxide, lead, sulfur oxides and particulate matter.

Credits in the Registry can be used to satisfy new source review requirements and to trade and sell to companies that need them or have an excess.

For more information contact DEP's Bureau of Air Quality, 717-787-4325 or go to DEP's [Emissions Credit Registry background paper.](#)

### **Help Wanted: Executive Director Keep Philadelphia Beautiful**

Keep Philadelphia Beautiful is seeking a person to fill the position of executive director to develop and implement policies and programs as well as provide overall direction for the nonprofit Keep Philadelphia Beautiful organization.

Responsibilities include: plan, direct and coordinate activities at the highest level of management; provide communication and public-relations consulting service to the Philadelphia Streets Department; manage Philadelphia's affiliations with Keep Pennsylvania Beautiful and Keep America Beautiful; develop and implement recruitment and incentive programs in support of the Philadelphia More Beautiful Committee's Clean Block Program and other large-scale cleanup events; develop and implement youth-education initiatives on litter prevention and other Clean City topics through the Philadelphia School District.

Knowledge of business and management principles involved in strategic planning, resource allocation and leadership techniques. Prefer five years' experience in community organizing, volunteer management and/or nonprofit administration.

Please direct all inquiries and resumes to: M. Robin Maddox, Esquire, Gold & Vilim, 6703 Germantown Avenue, Suite 220, Philadelphia, PA 19119, 215-546-5464 or send email to: [rmaddox@goldvilim.com](mailto:rmaddox@goldvilim.com)

## Opinion

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### Carbon Sequestration Underground Offers Potential Solutions

By Jeffrey Jarrett

Assistant Secretary, Office of Fossil Energy  
U.S. Department of Energy



From some of the overheated, so to speak, talk about climate change in the media every day, one could mistakenly draw the conclusion that we face an immediate, incontestable and potentially catastrophic problem, and that the federal government isn't doing anything about it.

Here's the real story. As scientists wrestled with a mass of complex and imperfectly understood data that suggested the global climate was warming somewhat and that man-made carbon emissions might be contributing to the change, President Bush announced a comprehensive, multi-billion dollar [Climate Change Science Initiative](#) that would use good science to settle questions concerning the causes and potential consequences of climate change and a complementary Technology Program that would devise ways to reduce man-made CO<sub>2</sub> emissions.

As a result, the technology to substantially reduce man-made CO<sub>2</sub> emissions from energy production, particularly coal-based electricity generation, should be available in a few short years -- and it will be an essential component of the FutureGen prototype power plant of the future.

It's a big challenge. Eighty-five percent of the world's energy comes from fossil fuels -- oil, gas and coal -- that emit CO<sub>2</sub>, just as we humans do every time we exhale. If we were to try to reduce CO<sub>2</sub> emissions by mandating a reduction in fossil-fuel use without satisfactory and cost-competitive alternatives, even as our population and economy grow and the populations and economies of developing countries grow even faster, we would risk economic and social dislocations that really don't bear thinking about.

The recently released strategic plan for the Department of Energy's \$3 billion [Climate Change Technology Program](#) lays out the comprehensive, common-sense, technology-based ways we plan to reduce carbon emissions without adversely affecting our economy and standard of living.

The Technology Program emphasizes efficient energy use, non-CO2 emitting alternate energy sources, international collaboration and something called "carbon sequestration," in plain English, the technology for capturing and permanently storing underground the CO2 emissions from coal-based power plants.

In the United States, about 22 percent of total energy, and 52 percent of our electricity, is produced from coal. Coal accounts for 25 percent of total worldwide energy. Imagine the dent we could make in CO2 emissions if we could find a cost-effective way to "bury" the CO2 produced from coal power plants.

It looks like we'll be able to do just that.

The Department of Energy is conducting five dozen carbon sequestration research and development projects in conjunction with private industry, academic institutions, state governments, environmental organizations and international partners both in the United States and overseas.

Here at home, a nationwide network of seven regional partnerships is helping to determine the technology, infrastructure and regulations best suited to promote carbon sequestration in different parts of the country. The department recently announced a \$450 million, 10-year program to validate advanced carbon sequestration technologies in North America.

Sequestration is not just a matter of finding underground formations suitable for storing carbon dioxide. It also presents a unique opportunity to use waste CO2 from energy production to produce more energy, namely oil and natural gas.

Injecting CO2 into mature oil fields is a tested and proven way to stimulate production from older oil fields that still contain a lot of oil. Projects are currently under way to test the ability of oil and gas formations to store injected CO2 permanently. If successful, the availability of large volumes of previously unavailable and affordable waste CO2 for injection from power plants could lead to a surge in domestic oil and gas production.

The promise of carbon capture and storage is also stimulating something else -- the interest of other governments. Twenty-two nations plus the European Commission, accounting for 75 percent of the world's carbon emissions, have joined the [Carbon Sequestration Leadership Forum](#) created by the United States in 2002. There are currently 17 sequestration tests underway outside the United States, including projects in China and India, the world's fastest growing consumers of energy and emitters of CO2.

Just how promising is carbon sequestration? A recent report by the [Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change](#) estimated that sequestration could get us more than halfway to the ultimate goal of atmospheric stabilization. More than halfway, from just one technological option.

There is still a lot of testing, measuring, monitoring and verification to do, but carbon sequestration is shaping up to be the kind of smart approach for the development of innovative, advanced technology that always has and always will address the energy and environmental challenges that come our way.

*Jeffrey Jarrett* is assistant secretary, Office of Fossil Energy, for the U.S. Department of Energy, former Director of the Federal Office of Surface Mining and the former Deputy Secretary for Mineral Resources Management of the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection. He can be contacted by sending email to:

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**NewsClips:** [Editorial: Debating Global Warming](#)  
[Editorial: Business Players Seek U.S. Action on Climate Change](#)  
[Montco Joins an End Run to Kyoto](#)  
[Editorial: Climate Change Also Heralds the Crack of Doom](#)  
[Editorial: Politics of Global Warming Heating Up](#)  
[Bill Nye Talks About Climate Change](#)  
[Editorial: Global Warming](#)

## Feature

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### **Migrating Golden Eagles Targeted By Research**

By Joe Kosack

Wildlife Conservation Education Specialist

The Game Commission is partnering with the [National Aviary](#) and [Carnegie Museum of Natural History](#) to evaluate how [eastern golden eagles migrate](#) through Pennsylvania, and identify areas of potential conflict that migrating eagles face from the developing wind energy program in the Commonwealth.

The possible increase of wind power on Appalachian ridges may threaten golden eagles as they travel their historic migratory corridor that follows these mountains through Pennsylvania to reach their nesting grounds in eastern Canada or wintering grounds in the southern reaches of the mountain chain.

Since all known eastern golden eagle migratory routes track over the Appalachian Mountains, possibly along or in close proximity to ridges targeted for wind power development, the Game Commission must ensure the well-being of this state and federally-protected species - as well as other wildlife - as this growing industry sites turbines between the state's Allegheny Front and Blue or Kittatinny Ridge.

For more than two decades, the eastern golden eagle has been recognized as a geographically and genetically isolated population. That influenced its ranking as a "Pennsylvania vulnerable" species in the state Wildlife Action Plan adopted by the Game Commission and ratified by the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service in 2006. It is not, however, a state or federally-endangered species.

"The recent increase in wind energy development projects in Pennsylvania has raised several important wildlife conservation concerns, one of which is the potential impacts to raptors which would be further pronounced during their migrations through Pennsylvania," explained Bill Capouillez, Game Commission Bureau of Wildlife Habitat



Management director. "This initiative will help address that immediate concern and in conjunction with the Commission's efforts through a voluntary cooperative agreement with wind energy developers, we hope to address the remaining issues related to potential wildlife impacts. Turbine locations should ultimately be the product of a thorough wildlife impact analysis, of which migrations of golden eagles is only one part that needs to be taken into consideration."

"The Game Commission does not oppose harnessing wind power as an alternative energy source. It offers substantial environmental benefits over burning fossil fuels, reducing America's dependency on foreign oil, and hopefully making electricity more affordable for Pennsylvanians. We recognize that harnessing wind power is part of this state's and America's future. It is the world's fastest-growing energy industry. Nonetheless, the agency must ascertain what risks - both local and national - to wildlife that instate wind turbines pose, especially since impacts have been documented instate and elsewhere. It is our constitutional responsibility and a matter of public trust to safeguard wildlife."

This golden eagle study will mark the second research project sanctioned by the Game Commission to analyze the potential impact wind turbines create for some wildlife species. The first was started in 2006 when the Board of Game Commissioners approved a \$153,000 State Wildlife Grant project to monitor the pre-construction and post-construction mortality of bats and birds at the proposed Penobscot Mountain Wind Farm in Luzerne County.

A planned 36-turbine wind farm on the Pocono Plateau presented the opportunity to develop much needed pre-construction protocols and assessments of bat activity, measure site-specific changes in bat activity caused by wind farm development, and to correlate biological and environmental variables to the wildlife impacts.

The \$25,000 State Wildlife Grant subsidizes the \$177,989 eastern golden eagle telemetry study, largely funded by the National Aviary and Carnegie Museum of Natural History. Officially titled, "Assessing conservation needs of eastern golden eagles in Pennsylvania," the study will be headed by Dr. Todd Katzner, the National Aviary's director of conservation and field research. The project will chart the migration patterns of eastern golden eagles using transmitters attached to free-flying eagles - as well as individuals counting migrating eagles on ridge-tops.

Researchers will trap, fit and release golden eagles with a 70-gram, solar-powered transmitter that will record their movements through GPS technology and send the information to a satellite that will, in turn, route the information to researchers.

"Using the Argos satellite system, these transmitters, once fitted on an eagle's back, will send 10 to 15 GPS locations daily," explained Katzner. "The data will be used to generate maps showing the specific route eagles take as they migrate through Pennsylvania. In addition, we'll synthesize data and observations to further understanding of eagle habitat use along migration routes."

The study also will be used to corroborate whether eagle flight behavior is influenced by changes in land topography and weather patterns.

"We're trying to get a better handle on how flight elevations and routes used by migrating eagles are influenced by topography and meteorology," Katzner said. "The information is crucial to understanding the correlation of eagle movements, landscape features and weather, and should help us determine if differently constructed wind turbines expose eagles to greater risk or provide increased protection. We are currently operating in an information void."

This past November, two golden eagles were captured near Central City and fitted with transmitters to verify the feasibility of this telemetry project. To date, the birds have been transmitting signals and their movements can be viewed at the [National Aviary website](#). Under the SWG project up to four more eastern golden eagles will be equipped with backpack transmitters to provide movement information.

Field observations indicate that golden eagles migrating north to nesting areas in spring remain between the Allegheny Front and Kittatinny Ridge as they pass through the Commonwealth.

"Their biannual passage through this 30- to 60-mile corridor provides Pennsylvania a chance to play a leading role ensuring the future eastern golden eagles," Katzner said. "We must determine if threats to their preferred habitat in this corridor will impact the population's stability in any way. This Pennsylvania pass creates a bottleneck for the population to pass through en route to breeding and wintering grounds, where the population is more broadly dispersed."

Golden eagles, which are found in mountainous areas throughout the world, are mostly seen in state during their spring and fall migrations. About the same size as a bald eagle, and sporting a wingspan that can exceed seven feet, they soar more than they flap while flying, and lack the distinctive white head that defines a mature bald eagle. Golden eagles primarily prey on medium-sized mammals.

Golden eagles are identified in Pennsylvania's new Wildlife Action Plan as a species that may be threatened by the development of ridge-top wind turbine farms or clusters. "Careful attention should be made to proper siting of turbines away from major migration pathways to minimize the risks of collision," the Plan noted. "Thorough pre- and post-construction studies are necessary to document the effect of wind turbines on golden eagles and other migrating raptors."

Dan Brauning, Game Commission Wildlife Diversity Section supervisor, said, "The National Aviary's and Carnegie Museum of Natural History's contributions to this project have created a unique opportunity to explore a relatively uncharted conservation concern. Help from two other long-standing conservation partners, Penn State University and [Hawk Mountain Sanctuary](#), will round out this research effort. The Game Commission, the state's growing wind energy industry and Pennsylvanians surely will benefit from this research. But the biggest winners will be golden eagles.

"What this all boils down to is Pennsylvania's ridge and valley province plays an important role in the development of wind power and as a migratory corridor for eastern golden eagles," explained Brauning. "That could mean the future of this small population of eagles hinges on our ability to make responsible and informed decisions concerning the development of wind farms in this region," he noted. "But the project may also conclude there won't be a problem for eagles. Right now, eastern golden eagle numbers are stable or rising. We'd prefer to see them stay that way."

Created in 1895 as an independent state agency, the Game Commission is responsible for conserving and managing all wild birds and mammals in the Commonwealth, establishing hunting seasons and bag limits, enforcing hunting and trapping laws, and managing habitat on the 1.4 million acres of State Game Lands it has purchased over the years with hunting and furtaking license dollars to safeguard wildlife habitat. The agency also conducts numerous wildlife conservation programs for schools, civic organizations and sportsmen's clubs.

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The Game Commission does not receive any general state taxpayer dollars for its annual operating budget. The agency is funded by license sales revenues; the state's share of the federal Pittman-Robertson program, which is an excise tax collected through the sale of sporting arms and ammunition; and monies from the sale of oil, gas, coal, timber and minerals derived from State Game Lands.

**Video Blog:** [Hawk Mountain Offers Unique Experience](#)

### Quick Clips

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

[Overlooked Overlooks: Kittatinny Ridge is a Natural Treasure](#)  
[Bird Watcher's Early Love Becomes a Full Time Career](#)  
[Wildlife Adjusts to Winter's Mild Start](#)  
[Bee Die-Off in PA Worse than Thought](#)  
[Forum: Keeping PA Wild](#)  
[Editorial: Keep It Real, Allegheny National Forest Deserves More Wilderness](#)  
[Fishing Show Reels in Enthusiasts](#)  
[Penn State Earns C+ for Sustainability](#)  
[Manayunk's Green Architects](#)  
[Wood Chips May Be Used to Heat School](#)  
[Another Dentist Saves Energy, Reduces Waste](#)  
[PPL Projects 2008-09 Starts for Scrubbers](#)  
[Town Eyes Restrictions on Natural Gas Drilling](#)  
[Radon Rundown](#)

### Watershed NewsClips

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

[Environmentalists: Cleaning Up Chesapeake by 2010 is Unrealistic](#)  
[New Farm Bill May shortchange Cleanup of Chesapeake Bay](#)  
[Editorial: Save the Bay Without Delay](#)  
[Interest in No-Till Farming Grows in Westmoreland](#)  
[PA Ready to Trade Nutrient Credits](#)  
[Project Teaches Pupils Sound Sewage Treatment Methods](#)  
[Conservation District, Seniors Get Groundwater Training Model](#)  
[State Bans Taking Live Fish Out of Lake Erie](#)  
[Editorial: Plan the River](#)  
[Forum: Our Rivers Are the Fate of Philadelphia](#)  
[22 Releases Planned in Lehigh River Flow Management Plan](#)  
[Bucks Communities Keep Floods at Bay](#)  
[Group Maps Out Plan for Riverfront Towns](#)  
[The Very Height of Greenness – Green Roofs](#)  
[Article I Wetlands & Watersheds Series](#)

## Regulations

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The Governor's Office published their [semi-annual Regulatory Agenda](#) that provides notice of which regulations agencies will consider over the next year future. The list is organized agency by agency.

[Pennsylvania Bulletin – February 3, 2007](#)

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 notice of proposed revisions to the Air Quality [State Implementation Plan for the Johnstown area](#) and scheduled a public hearing.

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

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

## Calendar of Upcoming Events

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

- **February 6** – Gov. Rendell's Budget Address
- **February 6** – Senate Consumer Protection and Professional Licensure Committee has scheduled a public hearing on electric deregulation and the lifting of electricity rate caps in 2010. Room 8E-A. 10:00.
- **February 7** – **CANCELLED**. [PA Energy Development Authority board meeting](#). Room 105 Rachel Carson Building. 10:00.
- **February 7** – House Game and Fisheries Committee to hear Fish and Boat Commission present its annual report. Room G-50 Irvis Building. 10:00.
- **February 8** – Sewage Task Force, Joint Conservation Committee. Penn Stater, State College. 10:00.
- **February 9** – DEP [Storage Tank Advisory Committee](#) Financial Responsibility and Certification Subcommittee meeting. 14th Floor Conference Room, Rachel Carson Building. Harrisburg. 10:00.

## PA Environment Digest – Crisci Associates

- **February 12** – DEP [Technical Advisory Committee on Diesel-Powered Equipment](#) Special Meeting. Fayette County Health Center, 100 New Salem Road, Uniontown. 10:00.
- **February 13** – Senate Environmental Resources and Energy Committee hearing on the nomination of Michael DiBerardinis as Secretary of Conservation and Natural Resources. Room 8E-B East Wing. Noon.
- **February 14** - House Appropriations Committee – Presentation of budget needs by House members. 9:00.
- **February 15** - House Appropriations Committee – Presentation of budget needs by House members (if needed). Majority Caucus Room. 9:00.
- **February 15** – Legislative Forestry Task Force Meeting, Joint Conservation Committee. Penn Stater Conference Center, State College. 10:00.
- **February 15** – **CANCELLED**. DEP [Small Water Systems Technical Assistance Center](#) meeting. Next schedule meeting is May 17.
- **February 26** - Senate Appropriations Committee - Dept. of Revenue (1:15). Hearing Room 1, North Office.
- **February 27** - House Appropriations Committee – PA Emergency Management Agency (11:30). Majority Caucus Room.
- **February 28** - Senate Appropriations Committee - Budget Secretary (3:00). Hearing Room 1, North Office.
- **February 28** - House Appropriations Committee – Public Utility Commission (9:00), Dept. of Community and Economic Development (10:00). Majority Caucus Room.
- **March 1** - Senate Appropriations Committee - Dept. of Conservation and Natural Resources (9:00). Hearing Room 1, North Office.
- **March 3** – [Schuylkill Watershed Congress](#). Montgomery County Community College, Pottstown.
- **March 5** - House Appropriations Committee – Dept. of Environmental Protection (1:30), Dept. of Agriculture (3:00). Majority Caucus Room.
- **March 6** - Senate Appropriations Committee - Dept. of Transportation (9:00). Hearing Room 1, North Office.
- **March 6** - House Appropriations Committee – PA Economy League on Transportation Funding (10:00), Dept. of Transportation (2:00). Majority Caucus Room.
- **March 7** - Senate Appropriations Committee - Dept. of Community and Economic Development (1:15). Hearing Room 1, North Office.
- **March 7** – House Appropriations Committee – Dept. of Conservation and Natural Resources (3:00). Majority Caucus Room.
- **March 8** - Senate Appropriations Committee- Dept. of Agriculture (9:00), Public Utility Commission (10:30), Dept. of Environmental Protection (1:15). Hearing Room 1, North Office.
- **March 18-20**: [Governor’s Outdoor Conference](#). State College.
- **April 5-6**: [Preparing for the Storm: Stormwater Solutions for PA Communities](#). State College.
- **April 13-15**: [PA Assn. Environmental Educators “No Child Left Inside” Conference](#). Wilkes-Baree.

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- **April 27-28:** West Branch Susquehanna Restoration Symposium III. Genetti Hotel. Williamsport. Contact: Amy Wolfe at 570-726-3118 or send email to: [awolfe@tu.org](mailto:awolfe@tu.org) .  
**Video Blog:** [Amy Wolfe Talks About Restoring the West Branch](#).

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

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

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

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

### **Helpful Web Links**

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[PA Environment Digest Video Blog](#)

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

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

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

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

### **Stories Invited**

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

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