

— PA — Environment Digest

*An Update on
Environmental
Issues in
Pennsylvania*

Edited By David E. Hess, Holston & Crisci

May 16, 2005

Growing Greener Ballot Question a Test

Gov. Rendell faces a test next week at the polls. No, he won't be running, but his \$625 million Growing Greener ballot question will.

Susquehanna Polling this week found likely voters supported the Growing Greener question by 58 to 29 percent. In a phone-in poll by KQV radio in Pittsburgh, listeners supported the ballot question 57 to 42 percent.

But, pollsters and politicians acknowledge the result could be a lot closer because a very low turnout is expected in this election with no statewide races to draw people to the polls.

See the special Growing Greener Section of the *Digest* for more information on how this issue is shaping up statewide.

House Democrats and the Rendell Administration opposed a proposed solution to the urgent issue of replenishing the Hazardous Sites Cleanup Fund this week as the House Environmental Resources and Energy Committee reported out Senate Bill 149 in a party-line vote. (*Details in this Digest*)

Party-line votes and verbal clashes this week on budget and tax issues in the Senate and House heralded the beginning of the delicate dance that starts the final few weeks of budget season.

Session Schedule

The House and Senate return to voting session June 6.

Budget Clock Ticking

- 13 voting days are scheduled through the June 30 budget deadline in the House
- 14 voting days in the Senate

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On the Hill

On the Senate, House Agenda

What's on the agenda? The May 17 election with the \$625 million Growing Greener question on the ballot and two special elections to fill Senate seats in Pittsburgh and Philadelphia.

Bill Action in the Senate and House

The budget, environmental education, hazardous sites cleanup, landfill permitting, hiking, stormwater planning, tire recycling and downtown redevelopment were all issues taken up in the Senate and House this week.

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In the Senate

The Senate this week moved the general state budget bill-- [House Bill 815](#) (Feese-R-Lycoming)— out and then back into Senate Appropriations to position the bill for action in June when budget negotiations begin in earnest. Democrats were concerned with the substance of the bill as it came over from the House because it added \$110 million in new spending while significantly cutting the Revenue and Corrections departments.

Landfill Permitting: [Senate Bill 197](#) (Rafferty-R-Montgomery) authorizing DEP to take multiple violations into account when considering landfill permits was referred to Appropriations.

Center for Environmental Ed: The Senate Appropriations Committee reported out [Senate Bill 410](#) (M.White-R-Venango) establishing the PA Center for Environmental Education in law.

In the House

Hiking Week: [House Resolution 184](#) (Rubley-R-Chester) designating May 28 through June 5 PA Hiking Week was passed by the House

Safe Boating: [House Resolution 304](#) (Fairchild-R-Snyder) designating May 21-27 Safe Boating Week was adopted by the House.

Funding Hazardous Sites Cleanup: On a party-line vote, the Environmental Resources & Energy Committee reported out [Senate Bill 149](#) (M.White-R-Venango) which restores the earmark from the Capital Stock and Franchise Tax for this program. The Rendell Administration opposed the bill saying it should be considered in the context of the overall budget discussions for the coming year. The bill was then referred to House Appropriations.

Tire Recycling: [House Bill 1114](#) (Yudichak-D-Luzerne) further providing for the cleanup of waste tires was amended and reported out of House Environmental Resources and Energy and then referred to Appropriations.

Hold Harmless: [House Bill 86](#) (Steil-R-Bucks) which authorizes state agencies to keep the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers free of certain liabilities was amended to include other project areas and reported out of House Environmental Resources & Energy and then referred to Appropriations.

Stormwater Planning: [House Bill 88](#) (Steil-R-Bucks) authorizing certain counties and municipalities to develop stormwater management plans was referred to the House Appropriations Committee.

Main Street Program: [House Bill 965](#) (Hickernell-R-Lancaster) expanding the definition of downtown area in the Main Street Program was referred to Appropriations.

Downtown Relocation: [House Bill 218](#) (Reed-R-Indiana) redefining “downtown area” was referred to House Appropriations.

Zero Emission Vehicle Incentives: [House Bill 220](#) (Reed-R-Indiana) establishing a career development tax credit was amended to remove provisions establishing a check off on income tax returns for military family relief and language exempting hybrid, electric and zero emission cars from the sales and use tax and was reported out of Senate Finance.

Joint Conservation Committee Explores Greenhouse Gas Action Plans

The Environmental Issues Forum sponsored by the [Joint Legislative Air and Water Pollution Control and Conservation Committee](#) this week heard from Thomas Peterson, a senior research associate at Penn State University on what states are doing to develop greenhouse gas action plans.

Peterson said carbon dioxide emissions are predicted to increase in the coming years and there is a concern that the temperature of the Earth will increase as well. Peterson suggested that the temperature of the Earth will increase 5°C by 2100. The temperature increase will have many effects, he said, including melting of the ice sheets and droughts throughout parts of the world.

Peterson said if each state in America were an independent country, they would make up 18 of the top 50 emitters of carbon dioxide. However, he noted, several states are taking action to reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

He told the committee about initiatives taking place in Pennsylvania, including: the passage of the Advanced Energy Portfolio Standard, Energy Harvest Grants, recycling programs, the Penn State University greenhouse gas inventory, city of Philadelphia climate change strategy and the presence of more LEED (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design) certified buildings than any state.

Peterson said states have created individual plans to lower greenhouse gas emissions and then join together in regional agreements. He added that state plans create inventory, offer implementation mechanisms, create goals and include reporting and tracking to make sure goals are met. Peterson stated that technical specificity is necessary when creating a State plan, but "you need to keep alternative solutions in mind."

Public involvement is critical, Peterson told the Committee, when creating a State greenhouse gas emissions plan, and the process he said must be "transparent." He said states that have implemented plans have seen an average 2 percent reduction in emissions below the baseline forecast.

When asked how long it would take for Pennsylvania to implement a greenhouse gas reduction plan, Peterson replied that most states take about 12 months to create the plan. Peterson was also asked what drives the increased release of carbon dioxide, to which he said the combustion of fossil fuels and release from soil and trees.

The Committee will hold its next Environmental Issues Forum on June 13.

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House OKs Resolution on Historic Designation for Captain John Smith Water Trail

The House adopted [House Resolution 296](#) (Fairchild-R-Snyder) this week that asks the U.S. Secretary of the Interior to study the feasibility of designating the Captain John Smith Chesapeake National Historic Water Trail as a national historic trail.

Fairchild, who is a former chairman of the three-state Chesapeake Bay Commission and currently chairs the Susquehanna River Legislative Caucus in the state House, said that the historic designation will help preserve and protect the bay.

"A national historic trail designation would provide rich opportunities for education, recreation and heritage tourism for the 16 million Americans living in the Chesapeake Bay watershed and for visitors to the region," Fairchild said.

He noted that legislation has already been introduced in the U.S. Senate to study the feasibility of this designation. Fairchild's resolution will now be forwarded to the U.S. Secretary of the Interior.

Growing Greener Ballot Question

Special Section: Growing Greener Ballot Question on May 17 Ballot

On election day, May 17, voters will be asked to vote on the Growing Greener question on the ballot. To promote discussion of this issue, *PA Environment Digest* is setting aside this special area to highlight comments on the issue by a variety of groups.

There is just 1 day left before the election.



NewsClips

[Editorial: Growing Greener-Delivered on Its Promises – Harrisburg Patriot-News](#)

[Editorial: Growing Greener II Needs OK – York Dispatch](#)

[Editorial: This Tuesday Vote Yes on Growing Greener – Citizens Voice Wilkes-Barre](#)

[Op-Ed: A call to vote in primary and establish PA's future](#)

[Editorial: Yes on Ballot Questions-Growing Greener – Philadelphia Daily News](#)

[Go Green at Polls, Area Legislators Say](#)

[PA Voter Approval of Greener II Bond Issue is Beginning](#)

[State to ask voters to OK \\$625 million loan](#)

[Voters to decide on seeking green for work](#)

[Officials Back Growing Greener II – Delaware Valley College](#)

[Secretary of Aging Urges Older Voters to Support Growing Greener](#)

[Op-Ed: Bond OK would keep county green – Carlisle Sentinel](#)

[Environmental groups campaign for land cleanup, preservation bond](#)

Vote YES Campaign for Growing Greener Ballot Question Gains Momentum

Citing support from all over Pennsylvania, the co-chairs of the Vote YES for Growing Greener Committee said this week the campaign to win voter approval for programs to

cleanup our rivers and streams and preserve working farms is gaining momentum with just a few more days to go before the May 17 election.

Making the comments were the bipartisan co-chairs of the Vote YES Committee, Harris Wofford, former Democratic U.S. Senator for Pennsylvania, and John Oliver, former Secretary of the Department of Conservation and Natural Resources under Republican Governors Ridge and Schweiker.

"Public officials from all over Pennsylvania are supporting Growing Greener-- Republicans, Democrats and Independents," said Wofford. "From all the candidates for mayor in Pittsburgh, to House and Senate members in places as diverse as Susquehanna and suburban Philadelphia counties, multi-partisan backing is building statewide."

"We've seen editorials in favor of the ballot question from papers in Pittsburgh and Philadelphia," said Oliver. "But we also have support from the newspapers in Towanda, Chambersburg, Allentown and the Poconos and from over 30 environmental and citizen groups around the state."

If approved, the Growing Greener ballot question would provide funding for three of the most urgent environmental problems in Pennsylvania-- cleaning up pollution in rivers and streams, the loss of working farms and natural areas, and acid mine drainage that is killing streams.

"The Growing Greener ballot question strikes a cord with people," said Oliver. "People want to see our streams and rivers cleaned up so they can fish and swim, and supporting Growing Greener is a way each of us can contribute to that effort."

"People are also concerned about our disappearing farms and natural areas," added Wofford. "With funding for a major part of our farmland preservation ending July 1, this is the only chance we have to continue that program."

"We now have a week to go before the election, a short time for voters to understand the benefits of Growing Greener," said Wofford. "To give voters a place to go to get answers, we've opened a special website www.VoteGrowingGreener.org where it's fast and easy to get information on the ballot question."

"Growing Greener is not only a good deal for our environment and our economy, it's a good deal for taxpayers too," said Oliver. "Gov. Rendell joined Leadership in the House and Senate in saying no new taxes or fees would be proposed to pay for the Growing Greener Programs."

To learn more and help spread the word about the Growing Greener question on the May 17 ballot, go to www.VoteGrowingGreener.org .

Game Commission Urges Voter Support for Growing Greener Ballot Initiative

Game Commission Executive Director Vern Ross this week urged all hunters and trappers registered to vote to remember to vote "YES" on the Growing Greener II bond issue that will appear on the May 17th primary ballot.

If approved by voters, the \$625 million bond issue will fund Gov. Rendell's proposed renewal and expansion of the state's Growing Greener program.

Under the proposal, Gov. Rendell would fund parks, open space and farmland projects; environmental cleanup; water quality improvements in the state's rivers, streams and lakes; and revitalization projects for older Pennsylvania communities. As part of the

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initiative, the Game Commission and Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission would share a portion of those funds for infrastructure needs.

Ross noted that the Game Commission would benefit from the funding - estimated at \$6 million per year - targeted for infrastructure by using the monies to repair and inspect dams, impoundments and bridges; upgrade and repair buildings; and maintain shooting ranges on State Game Lands.

In addition, Growing Greener funding would enable the Game Commission to move forward with its plan to implement a point-of-sale system for licenses that would improve customer service and increase the agency's ability to gather more public input.

Ross pointed out that the Game Commission received some funding in the 1960s and the 1970s through two previous bond issues - Project 70 and Project 500 - which it used to buy important wildlife areas threatened by development, and to build roads, parking lots, shooting ranges, bridges, impoundments and other utilities on State Game Lands. The agency also used some of the Project 500 monies to pay for construction of environmentally-controlled pheasant brooder houses.

A summary of the agency's infrastructure maintenance requirements includes:

- 410 buildings, including the Harrisburg and six Region Office headquarters; State Game Land, game farm and radio buildings; Howard Nursery; Middle Creek and Pymatuning visitor centers; and an educational complex at the elk viewing area. Several of these buildings host public education and outreach programs concerning wildlife diversity and habitat;
- 41 rifle ranges and 11 pistol ranges, which are open to hunters and others who enjoy shooting sports. Earlier this year, the agency was forced to close four ranges due to its inability to fund necessary repairs to address safety issues;
- More than 1,000 dams and other water impoundments, including eight high-hazard dams and 135 others that require permits from the state Department of Environmental Protection; and
- 2,275 public parking lots; 2,652 miles of administrative roads; and 6,417 miles of boundary lines.

Annual maintenance costs for Game Commission buildings continue to increase due primarily to the age of many of the structures.

Four regional office buildings are all more than 40 years old and require major renovations or, in the case of the Northwest Region Office in Franklin, Venango County, complete replacement of the building. Along with replacement of the heating/ventilating/air-conditioning system at the Harrisburg headquarters, the cost for necessary work at these five buildings alone is estimated at more than \$2.3 million. Overall, including the normal annual maintenance costs, the agency estimates that it needs \$2.5 million per year during the next 10 years to eliminate its project backlog.

Like buildings, the Game Commission must maintain dams, bridges, culverts, roads, parking lots and other man-made facilities, all of which require regular maintenance and upkeep. Unfortunately, many of these facilities have reached or exceeded their design lifespan and represent unsafe conditions to the public and employees. For example, four high-hazard dams had been found to be unsafe. The only options available are to repair/replace the dams or drain and breach them.

Without a direct funding source to repair or replace the dams - estimated at between \$1 million to \$3 million per dam - the Game Commission decided to pursue the

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drain and breach option. On State Game Land 156, the Upper and Lower Rexmont dams were drained and breached. On State Game Land 308, the Game Commission is continuing to pursue options regarding Lofty Reservoir Dam in Schuylkill County.

On State Game Land 127, Brady's Lake Dam was initially scheduled for draining/breaching during the summer of 2003. The Legislature approved and Gov. Rendell released \$2 million in funds for the state Department of Environmental Protection to repair this dam.

In addition to the normal maintenance requirements of its overall road and stream crossing system, the Game Commission owns about 50 bridges that require inspection once every two years under the federal National Bridge Inspection System program. Scheduled to begin in 2004-2005, these inspections alone will cost about \$175,000 for the first two years, and about \$125,000 per year thereafter, and, through inspection results, will likely accelerate the major repair or replacement schedule for these larger bridges. The ongoing repair and/or replacement of bridges and culverts is required not only for public access to State Game Lands, but also is needed for timber harvesting and other land management access requirements.

Hunters, Anglers Support Growing Greener

More than a dozen hunting and fishing organizations from around Pennsylvania are urging a Yes vote on the Growing Greener ballot question May 17. They released this letter--

Fellow Sportsmen and Conservation Partners:

Voters on May 17 will be asked to support selling up to \$625 million in bonds to support a variety of environmental initiatives. As anglers and boaters, we know that the quality of our recreation is inexorably linked to the quality of our water. Protecting and enhancing open space, cleaning up mine waste, and improving water quality all have a positive impact on fishing, boating and other water-based recreational activities. Growing Greener funding dedicated to fishing and boating infrastructure would also provide a direct benefit to anglers and boaters. Infrastructure such as dams, hatcheries and public access areas is the backbone of boating and fishing in Pennsylvania and contributes to the more than \$2 billion in annual economic impacts.

All of the state properties and facilities managed by the PFBC serve us, the sportsmen and women of Pennsylvania. Hatcheries provide fishing opportunities by stocking approximately 4 million adult trout and more than 100 million juvenile fish, including warmwater and coolwater fish. Dams and access areas help support recreational boating for the 2.5 million Pennsylvanians who go out in watercraft every year. These facilities have a backlog of \$153 million in capital improvement needs. The PFBC's day-to-day operating funds from license sales and boat registrations cannot be the basis for paying all the costs for hatcheries, dams, access areas and other properties.

The Growing Greener proposal offers the opportunity for the Commonwealth as a whole to reinvest in these state fish hatcheries, state dams and other fishing and boating infrastructure. We encourage all Pennsylvanians to join us in voting "yes" on May 17.

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Signed,

Pennsylvania Federation of Sportsmen's Clubs
PA B.A.S.S. Federation
Pennsylvania Trout (The PA Council of Trout Unlimited)
Hereford Manor Lake Conservancy & Watershed Group, Inc.
Doc Fritchey Chapter of Trout Unlimited
Allegheny Mountain Bass Anglers Club
Coalition of Concerned Pennsylvania Anglers
Penns Creek Chapter of Trout Unlimited
Adams County Chapter of Trout Unlimited
Save Canonsburg Lake Committee
Donegal Chapter of Trout Unlimited
Southside Lake Corp Homeowners Association
Lancaster County Hawg Hunters Bass Club
Mountain Laurel Chapter, Trout Unlimited
Northeastern Bassmasters
Cumberland Valley Chapter of Trout Unlimited
Berks Bassmasters

Boating Groups Show Support for Growing Greener

The five volunteer members of the Fish and Boat Commission's Boating Advisory Board have released a joint letter expressing their support for Growing Greener and asking other boaters to join them in voting to adopt the bond referendum appearing on the May 17 primary election ballot.

Fellow Boaters and Anglers:

On May 17, Pennsylvanian voters will have the opportunity to approve a Growing Greener ballot measure that will improve the quality of life in the Commonwealth. Voters will be asked to support selling up to \$625 million in bonds to provide for the maintenance and protection of the environment, open space, farmland preservation, watershed protection, abandoned mine reclamation, acid mine drainage remediation and other environmental initiatives. As members of the Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission Boating Advisory Board, we support adoption of the Growing Greener ballot question.

More than 2.5 million Pennsylvanians go out on the water each year in boats. Boaters know that the water and the quality of their recreation is the result of everything upstream. Cleaning up mine waste, protecting and enhancing open space and improving water quality will have a positive impact on boating as well as fishing and other water-based recreational activities.

Growing Greener funding dedicated to boating and fishing infrastructure would provide a direct benefit to boaters and anglers. The PFBC manages through state ownership 62 public lakes, about 250 boating access areas and 14 fish hatcheries. The dams that create these lakes, the public access areas that allow people to reach the water

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and the hatcheries that provide fish to pursue are critical for the enjoyment of boating in the Commonwealth. Unfortunately, these facilities have a backlog of \$153 million in capitol improvement needs. The PFBC's day-to-day operating funds from boat registrations and fishing license sales and will never be enough – nor should they be the basis for paying all the costs of major projects for dams, access areas, hatcheries and other state properties.

The Growing Greener proposal offers the opportunity for the Commonwealth to reinvest in boating and fishing infrastructure. Therefore, we encourage all Pennsylvanians to join us in voting “yes” on May 17.

Signed,

Rex Beers, Philadelphia
Michael Lentine, Langhorne
Steven Ketterer, Harrisburg
Edwin Matheny, Greensburg
Thaddeus Piotrowski, Bloomsburg

PEC, House, Senate Members, Groups Urge Support of Growing Greener

At rallies in Delaware County and Philadelphia this week, the Pennsylvania Environmental Council, Natural Lands Trust and the Friends of the Wissahickon joined a bipartisan group of House and Senate members and a former Secretary of the Department of Environmental Resources to urge support of the Growing Greener ballot question.

At the Delaware County event, Andrew McElwaine, President and CEO of the Pennsylvania Environmental Council joined Delaware County Rep. Bill Adolph (R), State Senators Ted Erickson (R) and Connie Williams (D) and former Department of Environmental Resources Secretary Nicholas DeBenedictis at a Vote YES on Growing Greener rally at the Natural Lands Trust Hildacy Farm Preserve in Media.

At the Philadelphia rally, McElwaine joined Philadelphia State Representatives Kathy Manderino, Babette Josephs and Dwight Evans and Tom Pelikan, Executive Director of the Friends of the Wissahickon, at the Philadelphia Waterworks.

10,000 Friends of PA, State Officials, Labor Leaders Call for Yes Vote

One of the developers of Pittsburgh's largest residential developments since World War II joined with state and local officials, labor leaders, environmental groups and conservation organizations Friday to encourage residents to support a \$625 million “Growing Greener” question on the May 17 primary election ballot.

Mark Schneider, president and managing partner of The Rubinoff Co., joined Department of Community and Economic Development (DCED) Secretary Dennis Yablonsky, United Steelworkers (USW) International President Leo Gerard, Allegheny County Chief Executive Dan Onorato and John Oliver, former secretary of the Department of Conservation and Natural Resources (DCNR) at Frick Park in Pittsburgh.

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Funding through Growing Greener programs was key to the environmental restoration necessary to transform the 240-acre former slag pile surrounding Nine Mile Run from a brownfield into a vibrant neighborhood, which eventually will feature more than 700 homes.

“Growing Greener is about public-private partnerships, and this project could not have happened without that kind of leveraging,” said Schneider, a member of the board of directors of 10,000 Friends of Pennsylvania. “Growing Greener funds leveraged a \$5.9 million U.S. Army Corps of Engineers grant to clean up Nine Mile Run, which flows through the site, and helped pay for environmental cleanup and remediation of the site. Growing Greener was the glue that got this together.”

And when the project is complete, Summerset Land Development Associates and the Urban Redevelopment Authority of Pittsburgh will deed 130 of the 240 acres to adjacent city-owned Frick Park. The result, a common good, is another long-lasting intent of Growing Greener.

“Having a dedicated resources program to invest in open space and park preservation and watershed protection leverages the opportunities to rebuild communities and create residential density where we need it,” Schneider said.

DCED Secretary Yablonsky and USW International President Gerard stressed that the bond initiative is vital to keep Pennsylvania thriving both environmentally and economically, ensuring a higher quality of life that will help the state win the race for new business development.

“Governor Rendell has focused on providing Pennsylvania communities with the necessary resources as they strive to invigorate their economies and neighborhoods,” DCED Secretary Yablonsky said. “This initiative will fund programs that will help to clean up our environment and revitalize older townships, boroughs and cities. It is essential to go beyond political boundaries and work together to ensure the future health and vitality of Pennsylvania communities that in turn will attract private sector investment and create family-sustaining jobs.”

“USW has a long history in Pittsburgh, and we're throwing our endorsement behind Growing Greener II to help secure the future here, too,” USW International President Gerard said. “Make no mistake about it: This bond initiative is about more than just the environment --- it is also a way for us to make sure our Commonwealth thrives economically and competes globally, and it is a way for us to make Pennsylvania more attractive for workers, families and businesses. We have a strong workforce here, and we want to keep them here. That means ensuring a better quality of space for residents.”

Only days remain before voters decide on the initiative --- one of the single largest investments in Pennsylvania's future.

In acknowledging his strong support for Growing Greener, former Secretary Oliver said, “Since 1999, I've seen first-hand how the original Growing Greener program has cleaned up our rivers and streams, funded repairs to our state parks and helped eliminate acid mine drainage.” Oliver, who also serves as co-chairman of the Vote YES for Growing Greener Committee, added: “Each one of us now has the opportunity to extend these real environmental benefits to more areas of the state by voting ‘yes’ on the Growing Greener ballot question May 17.”

“The Growing Greener initiative gives us the opportunity to enhance and invest in our parks, trails and other greenspaces,” Allegheny County Chief Executive Onorato said.

“Approving the Growing Greener ballot question allows us to take a proactive step toward revitalizing our neighborhoods and improving the quality of life for our residents.”

The \$625 million bond issue, which passed with overwhelming bipartisan support from the Legislature, will protect working farms; preserve natural areas and open spaces; clean up rivers and streams; take on serious environmental problems at abandoned mines and contaminated industrial sites, shore up key programs that are dangerously short of funds, improve our state parks; enhance local recreational needs; repair fish hatcheries and other habitat-related facilities; and revitalize communities across the Commonwealth.

Schneider urged the guests to vote “yes” on the bond referendum question May 17. “Because, if we have the resources to create these kinds of communities, then we can relieve the pressure on our open spaces and farmland.”

Animated Game Educates Citizens About Growing Greener Question

A new [20-second Internet game](#), designed to educate Pennsylvania citizens about the importance of the Growing Greener II bond referendum, has been developed by the Chesapeake Bay Foundation (CBF) to encourage voters to go to the polls on May 17. The game has been emailed to thousands of citizens and is available on the [CBF website](#).

If approved, the Growing Greener Environmental Stewardship and Watershed Protection Act will extend the Commonwealth’s successful Growing Greener program and fund critical environmental programs in Pennsylvania without raising taxes.

"While this is a very serious issue for the protection of Pennsylvania’s natural resources, the game is fun, and will help voters see how their vote can help protect water quality in our rivers and streams," said Kim Patten, CBF Pennsylvania Grassroots Coordinator.

The game, designed by local multi-media company [JPL Productions](#), demonstrates the importance of passage of the Growing Greener II bond referendum. When playing, continually clicking for a "Yes!" vote will allow the user to prevent Pennsylvania’s environment and economy from reaching a dismal state.

"What’s really fun about the game is graphic animation that occurs as the players click ‘yes’ or ‘no’ and explore how bad it will get if they don’t vote for the Growing Greener bond," said Patten.



[Click on Picture](#)

In Other News

Grants for Innovative Water, Wastewater Technology Projects Available

The Department of Environmental Protection announced this week applications are now being accepted from communities, municipalities, municipal authorities and public

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school districts to finance improvements to their existing sewage facilities and drinking water systems using innovative or new water and wastewater technology.

The deadline for submitting applications is July 29.

Grants of up to \$500,000 will be available to make physical improvements to existing drinking water and sewage treatment facilities, and sanitary and combined sewer collection/conveyance systems.

Preference will be given to new or innovative projects which treat groundwater under the direct influence of surface water; holistic approaches to treatment of drinking water for nitrates and other mobile contaminants to ensure safety with respect to potential current and future risks; and advanced wastewater treatment for nutrient removal in watersheds where nutrient removal has been identified by DEP as a priority.

New or innovative technology refers to technology that is commercially available, but not yet widely used in Pennsylvania. New or innovative technology should provide one or more significant advantages over conventional technology.

The [grant application form](#) is available electronically on DEP's website. (Note: a login box may appear at this link. Just click on login as a guest.)

Allegheny County Mini-Environmental Grants Available

The Allegheny County Health Department is accepting applications for its 12th annual [Tony Stagno Environmental Health Mini-Grant Awards Program](#).

The application deadline is May 27.

Any community-based organizations may apply. The grants can be used for projects designed to preserve and improve communities in the areas of indoor or outdoor air quality, drinking water, wastewater, housing and community environment, food safety, solid waste, childhood lead poisoning, injury prevention and violence prevention.

Grant applications may be obtained by calling the Allegheny County Health Department at 412-687-ACHD or by visiting the [Stagno Awards Program webpage](#). At least 10 grants of up to \$3,000 each are available.

Municipal governments, universities and hospital systems are not eligible for the funding.

Riverlife Task Force Receives NiSource Grant for South Shore Riverfront Park

The Riverlife Task Force received a \$100,000 grant from the [NiSource Charitable Foundation](#) to advance the design and development of the South Shore Riverfront Park, a large green space that will be part of Three Rivers Park, a grand urban-scale riverfront park that extends nearly 10 miles around the central business district on the Monongahela, Allegheny and Ohio rivers in Pittsburgh.

Plans for South Shore Riverfront Park include river trails, a landing for passenger vessels and water taxis, a performance venue, a water feature using artifacts from the original LTV site and river overlooks.

Once a symbol of Pittsburgh's industrial heritage and prosperity, the former mill site sat idle for years, but is now enjoying a rebirth as a growing new neighborhood. The South Side Works development plan, which has been advanced by the Urban Redevelopment Authority since 1993, demonstrates progressive smart growth principles

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and has been recognized by the EPA and state government for brownfield redevelopment and an open space strategy that will enhance economic growth and the quality of life for everyone in the community.

Earlier this spring, over 30 attendees including the South Side Local Development Corp., Green Building Alliance, City Planning, the Urban Redevelopment Authority, the departments of Conservation & Natural Resources and Environmental Protection participated in a design charette hosted by the Heinz Endowments. State grants totaling \$345,000 have been committed to the project.

The [NiSource Charitable Foundation](#) partners with NiSource's operating companies to seek community investment initiatives that have a direct impact in the communities served by NiSource companies and that focus on education, the environment, economic development, human services and/or public safety.

Eleven PA Projects Get EPA Brownfield Grants

Communities in 44 states, including 11 in Pennsylvania, will share more than \$75 million in U.S. Environmental Protection Agency brownfields grants to help revitalize former industrial and commercial sites, transforming them from problem properties into community assets. The Pennsylvania grants include:

- [Allegheny County Redevelopment Authority](#)
- [Bucks County Redevelopment Authority](#)
- [Butler County](#)
- [Chester County Economic Development Council](#)
- [Earth Conservancy](#)
- [Lehigh Valley Economic Development Corporation](#)
- [Lycoming County](#)
- [Philadelphia](#)
- [Sayre Borough](#)
- [Washington County Authority](#)
- [West-to-West Coalition, Inc. Monongahela River Valley](#)

The Small Business Liability Relief and Brownfields Revitalization Act of 2002 authorizes up to \$250 million in funds annually for brownfields grants. That law broadened the definition of a brownfield to include mine-scarred lands, sites contaminated by petroleum or areas polluted by the manufacture of illegal drugs.

For more information, visit [EPA's brownfields webpage](#).

TreeVitalize Partners Plant Trees at 24 Schools in Philadelphia

The Philadelphia Eagles joined students and state, city and School District of Philadelphia officials planting trees this week to plant 309 trees at 24 schools in the city as part of [TreeVitalize](#), a public-private partnership to restore tree cover to the five-county Philadelphia region.

The Eagles made a \$125,000 donation to the TreeVitalize effort for plantings at schools in the Philadelphia School District as part of the team's ['Go Green' initiative](#).

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Through ‘Go Green,’ the Eagles are introducing green principles, sustainable practices and programs throughout the organization in an effort to reduce the team’s environmental footprint.

Schools were chosen based on being located in neighborhoods with little tree cover and being able to link the planting to an environmental education program.

Bache Martin School, Brown and 23rd Sts.;	Lamberton School, 7501 Woodbine Ave.;
Blain School, 30th and Berks St.;	Leidy School, 1301 Belmont Ave.;
Bregy School, 17th and Bigler Sts.;	Levering School, 5940 Ridge Ave.;
Bridesburg School, 2800 Jenks St.;	Logan School, 5000 N. 17th St.;
Comly School, 1001 Byberry Road;	McCall School, 6th and Panama Sts.;
Elwood School, 6717 North 13th St.;	Mifflin School, Conrad and Midvale Sts.;
Emlen School, 6501 Chew Ave.;	Pastorious School, 5650 Sprage St.;
Farrel School, 8300 Castor Ave.;	Patterson School, 70th and Buist Ave.;
Fairhill School, 615 W. Somerset St.;	Shawmont School, 450 Dearnley St.;
Holme School, 9150 Academy Road;	Spruance School, 6401 Horrocks St.;
Jenks School, 8317 Germantown Ave.;	Stephen Decatur School, 1240 Academy Rd
Kelly School, Pulaski and Hansberry Sts.;	Sullivan School, 5300 Ditman St.

Tree care training on how to keep the newly planted trees healthy was provided by the [Pennsylvania Horticultural Society](#) in April to principals, teachers, parents and community representatives.

Fairmount Park's environmental education staff will provide a free hands-on educational program at each school participating in the TreeVitalize project. Students will learn the importance of trees in an urban environment, discover the exciting birds and other wildlife that these trees attract and will learn how to water and maintain the trees.

The Fairmount Park Commission, which oversees the planting and care of 250,000 street trees in Philadelphia, is managing the planting projects at the schools.

The \$8 million TreeVitalize program targets neighborhoods in older cities, boroughs and townships where tree cover is below 25 percent. Tree cover refers to the percentage of land shaded by trees and shrubs.

DCNR oversees [TreeVitalize](#) and has partnered with: the state Department of Environmental Protection (DEP); Aqua Pennsylvania; Philadelphia Eagles; PECO, an Exelon Co.; U.S. Forest Service; Pennsylvania Horticultural Society; Morris Arboretum; William Penn Foundation; Pennsylvania Landscape and Nursery Association; Fairmount Park Commission; and county and local governments.

Diverse Gathering Looks at U.S. Oil Policy In Montgomery County

More than 100 people attended a discussion of U.S. oil policy in Montgomery County that featured Congressmen Jim Gerlach and Mike Fitzpatrick and Dr. Gal Luft of [Set America Free](#).

The event was sponsored by local chambers of commerce and environmental groups.

Former PA State Representative Ellen M. Bard, who moderated the event stated, “Because of the urgent need to reduce our vulnerability to foreign oil disruptions, terrorist

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activity, trade deficits and gasoline price escalation, Set America Free and our forum, today, examine a new U.S. oil policy that encourages real alternatives that will make a difference now. Because most oil is used in vehicles, the key target is the transportation sector.”

[Set America Free](#) believes that there is no time to wait for the commercialization of technologies that are still at the research and development phase. The coalition believes the U.S. should implement technologies that simply need a push to enter the mass market. Technologies central to the Set America Free Blueprint for Energy Security are biofuels and hybrid vehicles as described at the group’s website.

A Toyota Prius hybrid electric vehicle was on display at the forum for attendees to see. Hybrid electric vehicles use conventional unleaded gasoline but get two to three times the mileage per gallon versus the average conventional vehicle. If the fuel used to power the hybrid were a biofuel like ethanol or biodiesel mixed with small amounts of petroleum fuel, or if gas-optional plug-in-at-home hybrids were brought to market, the actual performance of a hybrid vehicle could reach 500 miles per gallon of gasoline, as anticipated by Set America Free.

Luft noted that America’s relations with countries that own most of the world’s oil reserves are at an all time low. “If you look at every global conflict we have faced in the past, there was always a technological component. We always had technology as a game changer. And this conflict calls for one as well.”

The coalition has called upon the American public and its representatives and shapers of public opinion to endorse the Set America Free plan and put energy security at the top of the national agenda. Deron Lovaas of the Natural Resources Defense Council (NRDC) has already responded to the call along with other opinion leaders, such as Gary L. Bauer, President, American Values, Frank Gaffney, Center for Security Policy, Bracken Hendricks, Apollo Alliance, Hon. Robert C. McFarlane, Former National Security Advisor, Daniel Pipes, Middle East Forum, Professor Richard E. Smalley, 1996 Nobel Laureate in Chemistry, Admiral James D. Watkins, Former U.S. Secretary of Energy, and Hon. R. James Woolsey, Former director of the CIA and Co-Chairman, Committee on the Present Danger.

In his remarks at the forum, Congressman Mike Fitzpatrick stated, “We need a balanced energy policy that releases us from our dependence on oil and embraces new and emerging fuel technologies that not only release ourselves from the grip of foreign oil but advance environmental stewardship. I am honored to be able to take part in this important discussion and I am sure that this event, and the proposals discussed by Gal Luft, will undoubtedly move the public debate forward.”

True to its mission to bring a wide range of people together, the forum drew attendees from Washington, D.C., Harrisburg and Doylestown. The event was sponsored by Earthright and co-sponsored by the Suburban Horsham-Willow Grove Chamber of Commerce, the Glenside Chamber of Commerce, the Eastern Montgomery County Chamber of Commerce, Briar Bush Nature Center, Pennypack Ecological Restoration Trust, Bryner Chevrolet, Inc., Caddick Construction, Co., Inc., Franklin Fuel Cells, Inc., and Worley and Obetz, Inc.

Bard said, “We’re very pleased with the turn-out and appreciate the hospitality of Upper Moreland Township and the attention of Congressman Gerlach, Congressman Fitzpatrick and Dr. Luft. This important discussion today looked at alternatives to U.S.

dependency. Current technology offers efficiency and fuel alternatives that can safeguard the future health of our economy, our society and the environment we leave our children and grandchildren.”

Designing Low-Energy Buildings Workshops Set in PA

The Sustainable Buildings Industry Council is sponsoring a series of three, two-day workshops entitled, [Designing Low-Energy Buildings with Energy-10](#) in Pennsylvania in May and June.

ENERGY-10 is an award-winning, PC-based design tool that helps architects and building designers quickly identify the most cost-effective, energy-saving measures for small commercial and residential buildings. ENERGY-10 can identify the best combination of energy-efficient strategies, including daylighting, passive solar heating, and high-efficiency mechanical systems. Using ENERGY-10 at a project’s start takes less than an hour and can result in energy savings of 40 to 70 percent, with little or no increase in construction cost.

The workshops are scheduled for May 20-21 in Pittsburgh, June 7-8 in Harrisburg and June 17-18 in Philadelphia.

Green Building Alliance Sponsors Penn State Green Building, Green Roofs Tour

On June 2 the Green Building Association of Central Pennsylvania is sponsoring a tour to the new School of Architecture and Landscape Architecture at Penn State University and to hear a presentation about green roof research by Dr. David Beattie.

The SALA building is a new LEED registered four-story 112,000 square foot building with associated landscaped exterior spaces and parking. The facility houses studios, classrooms, administrative offices, faculty offices, library, computer labs, shop, conference rooms, and a community design center.

Visit the [Green Tour and Green Roof Seminar webpage](#) for more information.

PRC Offers Hard to Recycle Collection Event at Construction Junction

On May 21 [Construction Junction](#) in Pittsburgh will host a [special event for collecting hard to recycle items](#)—large appliances, tires, latex paint and electronics.

For the fourth consecutive year, the Pennsylvania Resources Council, through its Construction Junction used and surplus building materials center, is hosting a series of collection events for tires, electronics, large appliances, and latex paint.

PRC is offering this one-stop drop off for these items for a modest fee compared to what individuals would normally pay for disposal of these materials. The fees are:

- Tires: \$1 No rims. Tires must be 18" or smaller
- Latex Paint: \$1/can (includes quarts, pints, etc. up to a gallon) or \$1/gallon for cans over a gallon
- Appliances: Air conditioners \$15; Other freon items \$10; Stoves, washers, dryers and other large appliances \$5
- Electronics: CPUs, monitors, VCRs, DVD players, stereos \$5; Mice and keyboards \$1; Cell Phones are FREE; Complete computer system (including CPU, monitor,

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mouse, and keyboard) \$10; Printers - small \$10, large \$15; Televisions up to 19" in size \$15; 20" and up \$20

Collection days are also scheduled for July 16 and September 17

For more information call 412-431-4449 x243.

Robeson Township Votes to Keep Highway Closed to Protect Rural Character

The [Hay Creek Watershed Association](#) announced this week that the Robeson Township Supervisors in Berks County took action to protect the rural community character of the area and the environmental integrity of the Hay Creek Watershed by passing a resolution to keep a portion of State Highway Route 82 closed to traffic.

The road was closed due to flood damage that occurred nearly 18 years ago and will remain closed to automobile traffic.

“This resolution goes above and beyond the hopes of the Hay Creek Watershed Association, and it represents a major step in protecting the quality of life for our residents” stated Todd R. Stell, Board Member of the association and Outreach Coordinator for the Pennsylvania Highlands Coalition.

A similar resolution requesting the permanent closure of Route 82 was passed by the Birdsboro Council members in April, 2003.

The unique natural resource the Township wants to protect is known as the [Hopewell Big Woods](#). The Hopewell Big Woods consists of nearly 73,000 acres, the largest relatively intact forest in the Highlands Region. It is also designated as a Critical Treasure of the Highlands Region, indicating it is one of the most important natural resource areas within the region. The Highlands Region includes more than three million acres that cut across Connecticut, New York, New Jersey and Pennsylvania.

The Congress passed the Highlands Conservation Act which was signed into law by President Bush in November 2004, in a national effort to recognize and protect the natural resources in the Highlands Region. This Act approved \$100 million in federal funding for conservation activities in the Highlands over the next 10 years.

Conservation groups, government agencies and citizens have formed the Hopewell Big Woods Partnership at the local level to help focus technical and financial resources to the area. Dr. James Thorne, Director of Science and Education for Natural Lands Trust located in Media, Pennsylvania, is the Coordinator of the Partnership. “We are happy to learn that Robeson Township has made the decision to join the Hopewell Big Woods Partnership, and we welcome the participation of Robeson Township in our efforts.” Support for the Hopewell Big Woods Partnership is provided by the Pennsylvania Department of Conservation and Natural Resources and the William Penn Foundation.

The Hay Creek Watershed Association is a non-profit conservation organization dedicated to protecting, preserving, and restoring Hay Creek and its watershed through advocacy, education, and community involvement.

Department of Agriculture Sponsors Conservation Training Seminar

The State Conservation Commission’s 2005 Agricultural Conservation Technical Training (ACTT) Boot Camp was held this week at Fort Indiantown Gap.

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Designed to provide technical conservation training, participants can choose either an engineering or field crop production/soil management (agronomy) track. Topics presented include: conservation economics; soil quality; designing waterways and diversions; and stream restoration. Participants also had an opportunity to visit area farms.

The program is sponsored by the state Departments of Agriculture and Environmental Protection; the State Conservation Commission; Natural Resource and Conservation Service; and the Pennsylvania Association of Conservation Districts.

The camp is intended to support technicians for county conservation districts, U.S. Department of Agriculture's Natural Resources Conservation Service and other cooperating agency personnel working on the Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program.

Landmark Clean Air Interstate Rule Took Effect This Week

The federal [Clean Air Interstate Rule](#) took effect this week that will result in the largest pollution reductions and health benefits of any air rule in more than a decade.

CAIR will permanently cap emissions of sulfur dioxide (SO₂) and nitrogen oxides (NO_x) in the eastern United States and reduce SO₂ emissions in 28 eastern states and the District of Columbia by more than 70 percent and NO_x emissions by more than 60 percent from 2003 levels.

This will result in more than \$100 billion in health and visibility benefits per year by 2015 and will substantially reduce premature mortality in the eastern United States, and these benefits will continue to grow each year with further implementation.

CAIR mandates the largest reduction in air pollution since the reductions set by the Acid Rain Program under the Clean Air Act Amendments of 1990. Under CAIR, states will achieve the required emissions reductions using one of two options for compliance: 1) require power plants to participate in an EPA-administered interstate cap and trade system that caps emissions in two stages, or 2) meet an individual state air emission limits through measures of the state's choosing. By addressing air pollutants in a cost effective fashion, EPA and the states will protect public health and the environment without interfering with the steady flow of affordable energy for American consumers and businesses.

For more information go to the [Clean Air Interstate Rule webpage](#).

Learn How to Preserve Plants from Penn State Expert

Dave Mortensen, professor of weed ecology, demonstrates [how to preserve and record the biodiversity of Pennsylvania](#) plants, fields, and pastures in this online feature from Research Penn State.

Quick Clips

[Bike to Work Week May 16-20](#)

[Bethlehem Test Micro-Turbine Electric Generators](#)

[Op-Ed: Clarke Thomas: Keep on cleaning on](#)

[LACAWAC Sanctuary to Dedicate New Land Acquisition](#)
[Editorial: Energy Conservation and Efficiency Show the Way Out](#)
[Hybrid SUVs Bought By DEP](#)
[Onorato Backs Biodiesel Fuel Study](#)
[Students Roll Out Hybrid Vehicle for Contest](#)
[Minsi Trails Council dinner set record](#)
[Kiski Township Trail Ready for Use](#)
[Wilson council wants trail to be finished](#)
[Alliance Landfill Will Direct Cash Benefits Directly to Community](#)
[Lancaster Park Built on Brownfield Dedicated](#)

Watershed NewsClips

[Grants Awarded to Penn State Center for Watershed Stewardship](#)
[Jacks Run Coming Out of the Sewer](#)
[Environmental Groups Partner to Restore Watersheds – French, Pickering Creeks](#)
[Philadelphia Water Dept. Works to Improve Tookany Creek](#)
[Municipalities Participate in Dirt & Gravel Road Training](#)
[Enlow Fork Natural Areas – An Explosion of Color](#)
[Rivers reveal resources on sojourns](#)

Regulations

The Independent Regulatory Review Commission this week took action on revised final regulations on explosives storage and the Fish and Boat Commission published changes to wild trout streams.

The Independent Regulatory Review Commission approved a final regulation setting additional requirements for the storage of explosives by the Environmental Quality Board. The IRRC had previously disapproved the regulations necessitating changes by the EQB.

The Fish and Boat Commission published changes to the [list of Class A wild trout waters](#), and [streams removed from the list](#).

[Pennsylvania Bulletin – May 14, 2005](#)

Comment Deadlines: [Regulations](#) [Technical Guidance](#)

[Copies of Proposed Regulations](#)

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

Technical Guidance & Permits

The Department of Environmental Protection published notices this week relating to the Act 339 Sewage Operating Grant Program, reclamation bond rates for coal mining operations and on individuals certified to perform radon tests.

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The Department of Environmental Protection [published a notice this week](#) rescinding the technical guidance for processing Act 339 Sewage Treatment Plant Operation grants since the program has not been funded since 2002. (DEP ID: 381-5513-001) and a [revised bond rate guideline for calculating land reclamation bonds](#) for coal mining operations.

DEP also published changes to the list of firms and individuals certified to perform radon testing. ([PaB 2956](#))

[For copies of Draft Technical Guidance](#) [For copies of Final Technical Guidance](#)

Calendar of Upcoming Events

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

- **May 17** – Election Day! Growing Greener ballot question
- **May 18** – [Delaware River Basin Commission meeting](#) on TMDL development, update on water planning, flooding on the Delaware and other topics.
- **May 21** – [Water Quality Data to Information Workshop](#). Collegeville.
- **May 25** – [Spinning Green Energy Into Gold Conference](#). Mechanicsburg.
- **May 31** – DEP Energy Advisory Board meeting.
- **June 21** – House Environmental Resources & Energy Committee informational meeting on global climate change.
- **June 21** – Chesapeake Bay Found Sponsors [Advanced Public Outreach Workshop](#). Harrisburg.
- **June 6** – Senate Judiciary Committee hearing on [House Bill 213](#) (Godshall-R-Montgomery) providing penalties for ecoterrorism.

DEP Calendar of Events

Watershed Events

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

Environmental Education Workshop/Training Calendar

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

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

Helpful Web Links

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

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

Stories Invited

Send your stories about environmental issues, programs and positive actions to **PA Environment Digest** - DHess@HolstonCrisci.com or go to www.PaEnvironmentDigest.com .

PA Environment Digest is edited by David E. Hess, former Secretary Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection, and is published as a service to the clients of Holston & Crisci and the public. Holston & Crisci is a Harrisburg-based government and public affairs firm whose clients include Fortune 500 companies and non-profit organizations. For more information on Holston & Crisci call 717-234-1716.

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