

# — PA — Environment Digest

*An Update on  
Environmental  
Issues in  
Pennsylvania*

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Edited By David E. Hess, Holston & Crisci

June 6, 2005

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## Growing Greener-- How to Spend It? How to Pay for It?

Legislation to implement the \$625 million Growing Greener bond issue passed by voters May 17 will be a topic of discussion when the Senate and House return June 6, in particular how to pay for it and how to spend the money.

[In an interview this week](#), Gov. Rendell repeated his belief the bond issue could be paid for without imposing new fees. He mentioned one option is extending the existing \$4/ton Growing Greener fee on municipal waste disposed in the state beyond its current 2012 expiration.

This option would follow the Green PA Plan House Republicans proposed and the House adopted which used the \$4/ton fee to finance a proposed \$800 million bond issue.

Gov. Rendell listed his priorities for funding as: the Hazardous Sites Cleanup Fund (which was not included as part of his original spending plan for the bond, but was included in the Green PA Plan), farmland and open space preservation, cleaning up acid mine drainage, infrastructure repairs for the Game and Fish & Boat Commissions and to fix up urban parks and trails.

The idea proposed by Senate Republicans to earmark some of the bond funds for counties to spend “is a mistake,” according to Gov. Rendell. He said while Philadelphia would make out well in a county program, other counties would not.

The primary author of the idea for county grants, Sen. Mary Jo White (R-Venango) chair of the Environmental Resources and Energy Committee, this week sent letters to every county commissioner in the state asking for their input into how to design a county-level Growing Greener Program.

With three weeks left in June and the budget to resolve, few people are talking about passing the implementing legislation before the General Assembly goes home for the summer. This is likely to be an issue for the Fall.

**NewsClip:** [Referendum Passes, But What's Next?](#)

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**What do these buildings have in common?  
Read the AIA Green Projects Award story.**

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### 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

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### On the Senate, House Agenda

The Senate and House have a variety of issues set for action, the first time they return to session in three weeks—PUC nominations, underground storage tanks, environmental education, farmland preservation, energy efficiency standards for appliances, funding infrastructure security improvements, flood reduction, to name just a few. Here's the rundown.

## In the Senate

**Senate Calendar:** On the Calendar for action is; [Senate Bill 410](#) (MJ White-R-Venango) establishing the Pennsylvania Center for Environmental Education in law.

**In Committee:** The Senate Environmental Resources and Energy Committee is scheduled to consider resolutions and bills: urging Congress to provide more funding to the states for leaking underground storage tanks, extending the sunset date for the small heating oil tank cleanup program; home energy assistance, funding infrastructure security projects, dormant oil and gas wells and forming a flood reduction task force; and the Senate Agriculture Committee is set to consider legislation expanding the state Farmland Preservation Program to land used for boarding, training or riding horses.

The Senate Consumer Protection and Professional Licensure Committee has scheduled a hearing to consider Governor’s nominees to the Public Utility Commission

## In the House

**In Committee:** House Consumer Affairs Committee to consider [House Bill 893](#) (Semmel-R-Berks) changing procedures for shutting off water and sewage services and [House Bill 1461](#) (McIlhinney-R-Chester) providing energy efficiency standards for certain appliances.

## Waugh & Wenger Unveil Major Agricultural Initiative, Manure Use Technologies

Senators Mike Waugh (R-York) and Noah Wenger (R-Lancaster) this week announced a comprehensive legislative package aimed at promoting agriculture in Pennsylvania.

The senators, who serve as chairman and vice chairman of the Senate Agriculture and Rural Affairs Committee, said their “Preserving the Pennsylvania Farmer” initiative includes a number of measures designed to preserve farmland, prevent sprawl, help farmers be more competitive and ensure that agriculture remains Pennsylvania’s top industry.

Wenger and Waugh said they plan to push for a number of initiatives to help farmers be productive and successful and to keep the agricultural industry strong in Pennsylvania. They include (click link for summary in PDF file):

- [Property tax rebates for agricultural preservation](#)
- [A realty transfer tax measure to preserve farmland](#)
- [An agricultural preservation enhancement and sprawl prevention program](#)
- [Elimination of the death tax](#)
- [Promoting new public/private partnerships to preserve farmland](#)
- [A “Farm to School” agricultural education and nutrition program](#)
- [Equine liability](#)
- [New methods for manure disposal](#)

The [Chesapeake Bay Foundation](#), which has been an advocate for major increases in funding for Pennsylvania farmers, applauded the initiative

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"This initiative lays out a series of aggressive elements to help ensure that Pennsylvania farms remain both economically viable and environmentally responsible," said Matt Ehrhart, CBF's Pennsylvania Executive Director.

"We simply cannot preserve family farmers and reduce pollution in our rivers and the Bay without new and additional monies for agricultural conservation practices," added Ehrhart.

CBF particularly praised the Alternative Uses for Manure component of the new proposal. "While manure is an important and valuable source of nutrients essential to healthy ecosystems and crop production, excess manure on the landscape is threatening the quality of our local and downstream waters," noted Ehrhart.

Senator Waugh noted that Pennsylvania has been successful in preserving farmland, but the farming industry is facing many challenges. He said the average farmer is over 53 years old, and many family farms are struggling to make a profit.

Senator Wenger added that Pennsylvania needs to do more to encourage farmers to remain in agriculture and to keep family farmers strong and competitive. He said that agriculture in Pennsylvania is an "economic engine" and the proposals announced today would provide additional fuel to keep agriculture production and agriculture related businesses moving forward.

Waugh said his committee will seek public input on the initiatives proposed, as well as other measures to help enable farmers to make better business decisions.

"Today is just the beginning for our campaign to help preserve the strong tradition of farming in Pennsylvania," Waugh said. "We want to pull together all legitimate interested parties -- the Senate, the House of Representatives, the Administration, interest groups and individuals to collaboratively flesh out the proposals we have presented and listen to other, beneficial ideas. Working together, we can help to preserve the Pennsylvania farmer and keep agriculture strong in the Commonwealth."

CBF noted that in addition to finding alternative uses for excess manure, funding for additional programs such as improved livestock feed efficiency, renovation of barnyards bordering creeks and streams, and cover crops and rotational grazing are essential to providing relief to farmers as they strive to meet the state's water quality goals.

**NewsClip:** [Lawmakers Want to Save More Farms](#)

### **Senate Hearing Set on Rendell Nominees for Public Utility Commission**

The Senate Consumer Protection and Professional Licensure Committee has scheduled a hearing on Gov. Rendell three nominees to the Public Utility Commission this week. Here's a rundown on each of the candidates-

**James W. Cawley:** from Mechanicsburg, is a partner in the law firm of Rhoads and Sinon LLP in Harrisburg. He served as a PUC Commissioner from 1979 through 1985. Cawley has written extensive publications including co-authoring the Rate Case Handbook, "A Guide to Utility Ratemaking before the Pennsylvania Public Utility Commission" in 1983. Cawley holds a law degree from Notre Dame and a bachelor's degree in English from St. Bonaventure University. Cawley would replace Robert Bloom for a full, five-year term until April 1, 2010.

**Terrence J. Fitzpatrick:** of Hummelstown, currently serves at the Deputy General Counsel of the Majority Caucus in the Senate of Pennsylvania. He also served as PUC Chairman from 2003 to 2004. Fitzpatrick practiced public utility and environmental law. He holds a law degree from the University of Dayton and a bachelor's degree from East Stroudsburg University. Fitzpatrick would serve until April 1, 2008.

**Bill Shane:** from Indiana County, served as PUC Chairman from May 1987 through June 1990 where he started the PUC Telecommunications Infrastructure Study that resulted in Act 67. As Chairman, Shane also created the Telecommunications Relay Service for the deaf. During that time, Shane was also the driving force behind the Low Income Usage Reduction Program. Shane holds a law degree from the University of Pennsylvania and a degree in Economics from Harvard College. Shane would fulfill the unexpired term of Glen Thomas until April 1, 2006.

## **In Other News**

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### **Pennsylvania's 10 Years of Success in Addressing 'Brownfield' Sites**

As a result of an innovative agreement signed a decade ago by PPL Corporation and the Department of Environmental Protection, old industrial "brownfield" properties across the state now meet current environmental standards.

"This agreement was ahead of its time. It replaced confrontation with common sense, and litigation with action," said James M. Seif, PPL vice president for Corporate Relations.

Seif has seen the benefits of the agreement from both sides. When the agreement was signed in 1995, he was serving as Pennsylvania's secretary of Environmental Protection under Gov. Tom Ridge.

The original agreement included 134 sites. Properties were added over the years, and the agreement was expanded to include sites of the former Penn Fuel Gas Co. when PPL acquired that company in 1998.

Sites completed under the agreement include former power plants, electric substations, manufactured gas plants, locations where spills of oil containing PCBs (polychlorinated biphenyls) occurred, abandoned oil and natural gas wells and other utility operations.

PPL conducts scientific investigations of these sites, reports the findings to DEP and, where needed, develops and carries out cleanup plans with DEP's approval to address contamination.

"Some of the operations date back to the Civil War era. PPL is taking the responsibility to make sure they meet 21st-century environmental standards," Seif said.

"The agreement is consistent with PPL's environmental policy, which has at its core responsibility, stewardship and innovation," he added.

Of the 230 sites completed under the agreement that are not old oil or gas wells, about 220 have met all the requirements of the Pennsylvania Land Recycling and Remediation Standards Act. Properties that PPL has sold have been redeveloped for various uses, including a hotel, other commercial operations, industrial parks, recreation areas and parking lots.

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“Multi-site agreements expand the effectiveness of our award-winning land recycling program by facilitating the sustainable development of properties throughout Pennsylvania,” said Thomas Fidler, DEP deputy secretary for Air, Recycling and Radiation Protection.

The agreement signed with PPL in 1995 was the first of its kind, Fidler noted, and has been the model for agreements with other companies and the U.S. Department of Defense for other brownfield sites in the state.

“The PPL agreement has been successful because PPL has demonstrated an impressive environmental and community service commitment in its day-to-day operations,” Fidler added.

The regional administrator of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency added his support for the agreement.

“My congratulations to the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania and PPL on the 10th anniversary of their agreement to help revitalize former industrial sites, transforming them from community problems into community assets,” said Donald S. Welsh, EPA Region 3 administrator.

For more information on PPL environmental activities, visit [PPL’s Project Earth webpage](#).

**NewsClip:** [Corning Plant Cleanup to Facilitate Redevelopment](#)

### **How to Stay Cool and Comfortable AND Save Energy, Money at Home**

High temperatures are on the way, but that doesn't have to mean high energy bills this summer. [EPA's Energy Star program](#) has advice on smart ways to keep cool with energy-efficient products and practices.

The average family spends \$1,500 a year on energy bills, nearly half of which goes to heating and cooling. To help protect against high energy bills, EPA encourages the following:

- Look for the Energy Star on products such as ceiling fans, programmable thermostats, and room air conditioners;
- Schedule an annual checkup for your central air conditioner with a licensed contractor, and check or replace its air filter once a month;
- Replace an old or broken-down central air conditioner or heat pump with new, high efficiency equipment. Homeowners can save as much as 20 percent on annual energy costs if this new equipment is properly sized and installed, alongside properly sealed and insulated ducts;
- Seal up gaps and cracks in your home "envelope" (basement, attic, around doors and windows). Add insulation if needed. This will help reduce energy bills throughout the winter, too; and
- Get informed. For more on year-round improvements to make your home more energy efficient, review the [EPA's Guide to Energy-Efficient Heating and Cooling](#) on the Energy Star Web site or call 1-888-STAR-YES for a free copy.

If just half of all American homes were cooled with Energy Star qualified products, the change would prevent nearly 70 billion pounds of greenhouse gas emissions, equivalent to the emissions of nearly 6 million cars.

Visit the [Heat / Cool Smartly webpage](#) for more information.

## Last Call -Energy Efficiency, P2 Assessment Grants Available Only Thru June 30

There is still time for small business owners to take advantage of \$500,000 in [site assessment grants](#) from the Department of Environmental Protection, but the program closes on June 30.

Funds for this program have been redirected by DEP to the Small Business Advantage Program.

Site assessments help business owners finance assessments to evaluate their manufacturing processes, operational procedures, energy consumption, raw material use and waste streams.

Check the PA Environment Digest's [Professional Services Directory](#) for professionals that can help you with site assessments.

Visit the [Site Assessment Grant Program](#) for more information.

## Are You A Budding Green Builder? GBA Looking to Form Green Builders Group

The [Green Building Alliance](#) is looking for Pittsburgh-area students and young professionals who are interested in establishing a local [Emerging Green Builders](#) group in the region.

EGB, a program of the [U.S. Green Building Council](#), seeks to promote the integration of future leaders into the green building movement. With one of the strongest such movements in the country, Pittsburgh is an ideal location to create such a network and develop opportunities for involvement.

Check out [Emerging Green Builders](#) online or send email to: [Ryan Snow](#) at the Green Building Alliance.

## Two PA Projects Win American Institute of Architect's Green Project Awards

Two of the eight [Green Project Awards](#) from the American Institute of Architects' Committee on the Environment were for projects in Pennsylvania— the [Bear Run Interpretive Center](#) and the [Pittsburgh Glass Center](#).

The COTE Green Project awards are given for architectural and green design solutions that protect and enhance the environment. This year's winners include a number of high-performance and environmentally-friendly facilities for arts, cultural, and environmental/science purposes.

Here's a description of the award winning projects—

### The Barn at Fallingwater, Mill Run, Fayette County

Bohlin Cywinski Jackson, Pittsburgh

The Barn at Fallingwater, or the [Bear Run interpretive Center](#) as it is know locally, is an adaptive reuse of a 19th century heavy-timber bank barn and its 20th century addition, framed in dimension lumber. It serves as an interpretive portal for the [Western Pennsylvania Conservancy's](#) 5,000-acre Bear Run nature reserve, immediately adjacent to Frank Lloyd Wright's



Fallingwater.

From its inception, the design was driven by the Conservancy's desire to vividly articulate the lessons of good stewardship of both the natural environment and the artifacts of the cultural landscape.

The renovation focused on preserving those features that convey its cultural heritage while adapting the structure for a new function.

The grand upper level of the original bank barn is used as a seasonal area for exhibits, lectures, and other social functions. The one-story 20th century addition now houses a multipurpose exhibit, conference, and distance-learning area.

The existing, glazed dairy block walls, glass block windows, and site-built roof trusses are exposed. Salvaged fir, new sunflower-seed composite panels, and sound-absorptive straw panels complement the palette of original materials while underscoring the structure's connection to farming.

A zero-discharge wastewater reclamation system, gray-water flushing, and low-flow fixtures reduce potable water use. A ground-source heat-pump system, day-lighting, and electric light sensors minimize energy use.

### **Pittsburgh Glass Center, Pittsburgh**

Davis Gardner Gannon Pope Architecture/Bruce Lindsey, Pittsburgh



The [Pittsburgh Glass Center](#) is an art studio and nonprofit organization dedicated to teaching, creating, and promoting glass art. It includes state-of-the-art studios in hot glass, flame-working, and cold-working.

A neighborhood revitalization project in Pittsburgh's historic Friendship area, the Center is housed in a building that has previously been home to a food co-operative, a mattress distributor, and an automobile showroom.

The design process included meetings and charrettes with all project stakeholders, including the general public. The building includes day-lighting and control of the quality of the light. It also includes extensive natural ventilation, as air-conditioning is prohibitively expensive and prohibitive for a glassmaking environment. Heat from the glassmaking equipment is recovered. Thermal mass inside the building moderates temperature swings.

A reflective and emissive roof system reduces both internal heat loads and the building's contribution to the urban heat-island effect. The parking lot uses pervious limestone and is landscaped with indigenous plants; it doubles as an event courtyard and reduces heat build-up in summer months.

Alterations to the shell of the building were made to increase daylight and views and maximize opportunities for natural ventilation. As a result, most occupied spaces do not require artificial lighting during daytime hours. All new construction materials were evaluated and specified for recycled content and local manufacturing and harvesting.

(courtesy [Green Building Alliance](#))

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## **Industrial and Office Properties Green Development Award Noms Due June 20**

The National Association of Industrial and Office Properties is accepting nominations until June 20 for its [new Green Development Award](#).

The Green Development Award seeks to recognize outstanding achievement in the field of green development and the transformation of the built environment to green.

For more information, visit the [Green Development Award webpage](#).  
(courtesy [Green Building Alliance](#))

## **Green Communities Initiative Provides Funding, Technical Help**

The [Green Communities Initiative](#) program provides a package of tangible financial incentives and other resources to developers—both community-based organizations and private builders—who undertake green affordable housing projects integrating Green Communities criteria.

The [Initiative is a collaboration of partners](#) led by The Enterprise Foundation, The Enterprise Social Investment Corporation and the Natural Resources Defense Council, the Green Communities partners include a blue-chip roster of corporate, financial, and philanthropic organizations, with strong support from the U.S. Green Building Council and financial support from companies like [BP America](#).

Over a five-year period the Green Communities program will provide:

- [Green Grants](#): To assist in planning, designing and building green communities;
- [Low-Interest Loans](#): For predevelopment, site acquisition, and construction;
- [LIHTC Equity Investments](#): To fund rehabilitation and construction; and
- [Educational Conferences](#): A wide range of cross-cutting program conferences related to sustainable communities, multifamily housing economic development and smart-growth tactics and techniques for building green communities, including the [June 28 and 29 high performance building conference](#) in Washington, D.C.

For more information visit the [Green Communities Initiative](#) webpage.  
(courtesy [Green Building Alliance](#))

## **Recycling Performance Grant Applications Due September 30**

Applications for Recycling Performance Grants are now being accepted by the Department of Environmental Protection for materials recycled during calendar year 2004. ([PaB 3264](#)) The deadline is September 30.

Under the program, communities are reimbursed for the each ton of materials they recycle or market at the rate of \$5 per ton and an additional \$1 per ton for each percentage of material recycled in the community.

This year DEP will pay a bonus of \$10 per ton for materials recycled or marketed from nonresidential sources.

For more information visit the [Recycling Grant webpage](#) or send email to: [Todd Pejack](#), DEP.

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## When Will the Peregrine Falcons Fly?

The next step, literally, for the peregrine falcons living on the Rachel Carson Building in Harrisburg and the Cathedral of Learning in Pittsburgh may be a big one—taking that first tentative flight off the ledge.

You can follow their progress live through the [Falconcam's video in Harrisburg](#) and the [Pittsburgh falconcam](#).

## Second Breeding Bird Atlas Survey Documents Important Changes

More than 1,400 volunteers have already signed up to participate in the most extensive nesting bird survey ever attempted in the state, the [2nd Pennsylvania Breeding Bird Atlas](#) - a five-year project being directed and coordinated jointly by the Pennsylvania Game Commission and Carnegie Museum of Natural History. But, more help is needed.

The coordinators are looking for volunteers to help record information about the myriad species that nest in the Commonwealth's forests, fields and wetlands.

The second Atlas started last spring and will continue through summer 2008. Participants sign up to search for or report on nesting birds in specific 10-square mile geographic grids of Pennsylvania's nearly 45,000 square miles. Every individual who decides to help with the survey can choose his or her level of involvement. Whether a birder provides one or 100 entries, every record adds measurably to the Atlas' ambitious goals.

Since second Atlas survey work started one year ago, more than 70,000 bird sightings - representing an amazing 189 species - have been logged on the [Atlas website](#) and more than 165 species have already been confirmed nesting in the state. In the first Atlas, 210 species were observed and 180 were confirmed to be nesting at the end of the six-year project.

Two new species already documented in new Atlas surveys that weren't recorded in the 1980s effort are the Sandhill crane and the Eurasian collared dove. Atlas workers also have reported some 30 'species of special concern' including least bittern, sedge wren, black tern, Swainson's thrush, dickcissel, yellow-bellied flycatcher, bald eagle, peregrine falcon, osprey and black-crowned night heron.

Other rare and unusual species observed in the second survey's first year included the clay-colored sparrow, chuck-will's-widow, ruddy duck, ring-necked duck and bufflehead.

Atlas survey coordinators stress that volunteers can provide any level of assistance and that they can contribute in any or all of the survey's planned five years. Every single breeding bird observation, whether a common species, such as a robin, mourning dove or house sparrow seen by beginning "backyard" birdwatchers or a real rarity, such as a sandpiper or loggerhead shrike, documented by an expert and avid birder, will improve the Atlas and measurably add to our knowledge of the occurrence, status and distribution of Pennsylvania's birdlife.

Additional funding for the Atlas has been provided by the state Department of Conservation and Natural Resources' Wild Resource Conservation Fund. In-kind and other assistance is being provided by: DCNR's bureaus of Forestry and State Parks; Pennsylvania Audubon, Pennsylvania Society for Ornithology; Penn State Cooperative

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Wetlands Center; Penn State Institutes of the Environment; Penn State School of Forest Resources; Powdermill Nature Reserve; National Parks Service; and Cornell Laboratory of Ornithology.

### **Chesapeake Bay Program Launches Newsletter on Restoration Activities**

The [Chesapeake Bay Program](#) this week launched "[Chesapeake Currents](#)," a new monthly e-newsletter highlighting articles and stories featured on the Bay Program's home page.

Articles focus on Chesapeake Bay health and restoration issues, as well as promoting simple ways for people to experience the Bay and take part in its restoration.

To sign up for the newsletter, visit the [Chesapeake Currents signup webpage](#).

### **Come On Out and Enjoy The Slippery Rock Watershed Festival**

Join the celebration and exploration as the Slippery Rock Watershed Coalition, the Jennings Environmental Education Center and the Boyers Sportsman's Club team up to sponsor their first community watershed festival on June 11 from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

There will be activities, programs and information for every age. All activities and events will take place within the headwaters area of the Slippery Rock Creek and will highlight the beauty and history of the Slippery Rock Creek and it's on-going recovery from the effects of abandoned mine drainage. Entertaining and educational children's activities will be conducted at all locations throughout the day! Food and refreshments will be available for purchase.

All activities and events are free and open to the public. For more information about the Slippery Rock Watershed Festival or to receive a free brochure contact Stream Restoration Incorporated at 724-776-0161; [sri@streamrestorationinc.org](mailto:sri@streamrestorationinc.org) or Jennings Environmental Education Center at 724-794-6011; [jenningsp@state.pa.us](mailto:jenningsp@state.pa.us) .

**Attachment:** [Festival Brochure - PDF](#)

### **Brian Hill Returns to PEC, Janet Sweeney Heads Northeast Regional Office**

The Pennsylvania Environmental Council this week announced that Brian Hill has rejoined the organization and Janet Sweeney was named to head-up PEC's Northeast Regional Office.

Hill served most recently as an Executive Policy Specialist in the Governor's Policy Office, but prior to that headed PEC's French Creek Project. He will be working with all of PEC's regional offices on program and public policy issues.

The Council's Northeast Regional Office also has a new director and vice president, Janet Sweeney. Janet was formerly the vice president of the Northeast Pennsylvania Alliance.

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## Fish & Boat Commission Looking for a Few Good.... People

The Fish and Boat Commission is looking for individuals interested in a career as a [Waterways Conservation Officer](#) (WCO).

WCOs perform specialized work in fisheries conservation and watercraft safety under the jurisdiction of the Commission, blending law enforcement and public relations skills. Typical duties include patrolling by foot, car and boat to detect violators; apprehending violators; issuing warnings and or citations; serving warrants; presenting evidence at hearings and court proceedings; investigating water pollution incidents; investigating boating accidents; and stocking fish. Appearing in public to conduct classes or provide information is also required. Officers work long hours, including holidays and weekends.

Applications for a qualifying examination for the position of WCO Trainee will be accepted between July 8 and August 19. All written testing must be completed by October 14.

For more information visit the [Waterways Conservation Officer](#) webpage.

## Double Feature

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### Reclaimed Water Offers Solutions to Water Quality, Water Demand Problems

Rapid growth in an area with a high quality streams and dwindling water supplies is a recipe for environmental and economic problems. But in State College, the [University Area Joint Authority](#) and other partners are looking to reclaimed water to be part of the solution.

"Concerns about the impact the UAJA wastewater discharge was having on the temperature and water quality of Spring Creek, particularly in low-flow conditions, lead to a comprehensive sewage study of the area by the Centre Region Planning Agency," explained Brian Book, Manager of the [Herbert, Rowland & Grubic, Inc.](#) office in State College.

In 1997 the sewage and water quality studies concluded that the High Quality section of Spring Creek would not be degraded so long as flows did not exceed 6.0 million gallons per day (mgd).

However, projections showed growth would increase the discharge by up to 9.0 million more gallons a day by 2020 and increase of slightly more than 3.0 mgd.

"UAJA developed a multi-step strategy for dealing with this problem," said Book. "They attacked inflow and infiltration to eliminate rain water and other clean water entering their system and installed advanced nutrient removal technology on their treatment plant. They also started an aggressive [water conservation education](#) program and worked with large apartment building owners to install water saving devices."



Advanced Water Treatment Building Under Construction

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The result of these initial efforts was to keep the discharge from growing as fast as it was originally projected. The studies projected the discharge to be right at 6 million gallons a day by this year, instead it now stands at 5.4 million gallons, inspite of significant growth in the area.

But clearly another strategy was needed.

In 1997 UAJA began a public discussion of 14 different wastewater treatment options.

"The special protection designation of Spring Creek meant we had to find treatment options that did not degrade the water quality of the stream." said Book.

"UAJA began looking seriously at reclaimed water as one of the potential solutions."

This discussion was not without controversy, Book said, as the public questioned each of the alternatives and their potential environmental impacts.

When reclaimed water was selected to explore further, Herbert, Rowland & Grubic [developed a proposal](#) using micro-filtration, reverse osmosis and ultra-violet treatment technology to produce a wastewater discharge that was equivalent to potable water.

This ultra-clean water would then be piped four miles upstream in the Slab Cabin Run watershed, a small tributary to Spring Creek, discharged into one of two 20 to 25 acre wetlands for additional natural treatment and then allowed to flow down the Run and into Spring Creek. The water would travel four miles before it reaches the original UAJA wastewater discharge.

"We really took a belts and suspenders approach to designing this project to produce the cleanest possible water," said Book. "Nothing like this had ever been done in Pennsylvania before."

"Water reclamation technologies like these are already in use in the Disney theme parks in Florida, in Orange County, California and communities in Oregon and Washington as well at the New England Patriots Stadium," said Book. "Communities in Georgia and Virginia are also considering them."

"UAJA began with a demonstration area that included different water treatment technologies and a wetland area," said Book. "While we were able to prove that the reliable technology could be installed and operated to produce ultra-pure reclaimed water, we were concerned that the water would be too aggressive, so we developed a method to "re-buffer" the water."

After the results of the initial demonstration, the full scale proposal was developed that will ultimately treat and discharge 3 million gallons a day of reclaimed water.

Phase I that treats 750,000 gallons a day was just completed in May and about one-third of the pipeline to Slab Cabin Run has been constructed. Phase II, due to be completed in 2008, will raise that amount another 750,000 gallons. The final phase is scheduled to be completed in 2012.

"The route of the pipeline to Slab Cabin Run provides a unique opportunity to have businesses along the way use the reclaimed water, rather than regular public water, for their processes further reducing demand for groundwater," said Book.

Preliminary studies have indicated that a number of existing commercial establishments are willing or interested in using the reclaimed water, this includes

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concrete production, a commercial laundry, several public and municipal car washes, and an agricultural businesses.

Initial water users along the route now plan to reuse approximately 147,000 gallons per day (gpd), on average, and the Authority is currently trying to accelerate a reclaimed water service extension to allow the use of 600,000 gpd for summer golf course irrigation.

"Because of our work, reclaimed water is now considered by the Department of Environmental Protection as an acceptable technology for use when special protection watersheds are involved," said Book.

In addition to creating a potential revenue source and providing a feasible alternative to meet water quality regulations, Book said the project creates an economic development opportunity.

"The water treatment technologies we're using are producing water to the same strict standards used by semi-conductor manufacturers and other water quality sensitive industries," explained Book. "It would be a great offshoot of this project if high tech businesses are attracted to this area because of the clean water we're producing."

For more information, visit the [HRG project webpage](#) and the [UAJA website](#). Contact Brian Book of HRG at 814-238-7117 or send email to: [bbook@hrg-inc.com](mailto:bbook@hrg-inc.com).

**Video:** [UAJA Reclaimed Water Project Overview](#) (update of video: startup date for phase I is August 2005 and the total cost of the project is \$45 million) Quicktime File (large)

**Attachment:** [Reuse Without Water Shortage – Book, Wert, Siegfried - PDF](#)

### Equipment Rental Program Helps Promote No-Till Farming, Other Programs

Richard Hershberger is a busy guy this time of year. For six weeks every Spring, he works six and sometimes seven days a week managing a unique program for the [Bedford County Conservation District](#) that loans out corn planters, drills and lime spreaders to help farmers plant crops using no-till methods.

"Don't drum up any more business for us!" Hershberger says. "It's non-stop this time of year, but it has real benefits for farmers, the environment and the District."

This is the sixteenth year the District is running the program that has spread the benefits of no-till farming by renting the planting and other equipment to farmers that might not otherwise try this environment-friendly farming technique.

"Farmers can realize big-time fuel savings, increase organic matter and water retention in their soil and decrease erosion with no-till," said Hershberger, an Agricultural



Technician Jared Shippey greasing drill.

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Conservation Technician with the District since 1990. "This year farmers are especially attracted to the fuel savings."

Hershberger will loan out the equipment over 300 times this year to farmers that will use no-till methods on over 5,000 acres of farmland.

"It's not really economically feasible for farm equipment dealers to offer this service, so the district stepped up," said Hershberger. "We involve the dealers in buying the original equipment and in repair and maintenance."

Jim Eshelman, who has served on the Bedford County Conservation District board for nearly 30 years, originally came up with the program because he and other members of the board at the time were big proponents of no-till.

It was simple idea-- provide the specialized no-till equipment at a reasonable fee and more farms would adopt the practice.

In the early days a retired farmer was hired to promote the program and deliver the equipment, but the program steadily grew. It started with one corn planter, but now the program has six corn planters and four no-till drills.

The District also rents out four liquid manure spreaders and two pumps farmers use to empty manure holding facilities to promote better manure management and two damp lime spreaders to promote better soil health.

"The other benefit of the program I see is it gets us out to 200 farms a year we might not otherwise get to," said Hershberger. "We talk to them about other District programs like planting cover crops and erosion control."

The District credits the program with getting farmers to take advantage of streambank fencing, Project Grass, nutrient management planning and other programs that have both environmental and economic benefits for farmers.

Bedford and Fulton counties received a Growing Greener grant and other financial support to promote no-till practices and planting cover crops to reduce agricultural land runoff and erosion.

"Every year we've outdone the last," said Hershberger. "And we expect it will continue because there are lots of benefits to farmers and the environment."

For more background read a copy of the Equipment Rental Manual attached to this article or contact Richard Hershberger at 814-623-7900 x 112 or by email to: [rhershberger@earthlink.net](mailto:rhershberger@earthlink.net) (but, I'd wait until after planting season.)

**Attachment:** [Bedford County Conservation District Equipment Rental Manual - PDF](#)

### **Taking Positive Action**

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#### **Dennis Tubbs, PA CleanWays Show the Way for Others to Follow**

Last week the [Pennsylvania Environmental Council](#) announced the winners of the [Western Pennsylvania Environmental Awards Program](#) which were included in the last *Digest*. But, the finalists selected in that program also deserve recognition of their good work.

The *Digest* will publish articles on two of the finalists over the next two weeks to help inspire others to take positive action to improve Pennsylvania's environment.

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The Western Pennsylvania Environmental Awards, sponsored by the Pennsylvania Environmental Council and [Dominion](#), celebrate the achievements of nonprofit organizations, businesses, schools, individuals, governments, and community groups that have made significant environmental contributions in the western Pennsylvania region.

### Dennis Tubbs, Pennsylvania Fish & Boat Commission

[Dennis Tubbs](#) represents what is possible when an individual chooses to share his knowledge and expertise with the public and make positive changes in attitudes towards the environment.

As an Aquatic Resources Specialist for the Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission, Denny continuously finds ways to educate, demonstrate, and facilitate the process of bringing the Three Rivers to the forefront as a place to experience, enjoy, and protect.

Some of Denny's many contributions to southwestern Pennsylvania include:

- Reaching thousands of children and adults through PFBC educational programs,
- Supporting Venture Outdoors programs,
- Public speaking at River Dialogues and DEP Riverboat Tours,
- Assisting in bringing the Bass Masters Classic to Pittsburgh,
- Providing fishing workshops for thousands of youth, and
- Raising awareness about the improved health and diversity of the Three Rivers.

Denny's vision and passion for educating and getting people onto the water results in positive experiences that in turn allow people to become ambassadors of aquatic resources.



**Dennis Tubbs**

### Pennsylvania CleanWays Westmoreland County



Now in its 15th year, [PA CleanWays Westmoreland County](#) has worked to clean up the environment, educate the public about the benefits of a clean environment, and institute programs that help keep Westmoreland County free of trash and litter.

Their programs include volunteer cleanups of illegal dumpsites, road adoptions, education, “fugitive tire program,” county recycling coordination, residential paper recycling, hard-to-recycle collection events, and Christmas tree recycling.

In 2004, PA CleanWays:

- Organized 7 volunteer cleanups that removed 94.5 tons of trash and 6,298 tires,
- Gave 27 presentations to more than 4,000 students and residents,
- Engaged 13 youth groups in the “Fugitive Tire Program,” collecting 4,700 tires,
- Worked with municipalities in establishing and improving recycling programs,
- Assisted in the clean up of a soon-to-be 5-mile rail trail, and



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- Collected 251 lead acid batteries, 272 freon appliances, 131 non-freon appliances, 162
- cubic yards of scrap metal, more than 2,000 Christmas trees, 41,230 pounds of household
- hazardous waste, 84,455 pounds of electronic equipment, and 2,561 tons of paper.

### Quick Clips

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[PNC Opens Eco-Friendly Branch](#)

[DEP Lights Up Wind Turbine at Moshannon District Mining Office](#)

[Recycling Deflates Tire Piles Across Commonwealth](#)

[Superfund Cleanup Working in Lancaster County](#)

[Energy Standards Pushed for Common Appliances](#)

[Hazleton Municipal Water System Mulls Wind Turbines](#)

[Living Roof at CMU Cuts Energy Costs](#)

[Green Roof Raises the Bar in East Whiteland](#)

[Students Hone Environmental Knowledge In Competition](#)

[Game Commission Investigates Eagle Killing in Clearfield County](#)

[DEP to Snuff Out Stubborn Mine Fire](#)

[Forum: How Smoky Was My City, How Green Now](#)

[Program in the Spirit of Rachel Carson](#)

[Centralia Mine Fire](#)

### Watershed NewsClips

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[Help Reauthorize the Abandoned Mine Reclamation Fee](#)

[Carmichaels Students Join Stream Team](#)

[Work Begins on Bowmans and Tunkhannock Creeks](#)

[Shaver's Creek, Millbrook Marsh EE Centers Honored](#)

[Swatara Sojourn Nets Tons of Trash](#)

[Arrival of Bassmaster Classic Adds Incentive for June 18 River Sweep](#)

[Acid Mine Drainage Can Be Turned Into Asset](#)

[An Outdoorsman With a Mission](#)

[Stormwater Basins go Back to Nature](#)

[Dr. Benhart Retires from Shippensburg University](#)

### Regulations

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No new proposed regulations were published this week.

[Pennsylvania Bulletin – June 4, 2005](#)

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

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

## **Technical Guidance & Permits**

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No new technical guidance was published this week.

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

## **Calendar of Upcoming Events**

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

- **June 6** – Senate Judiciary Committee hearing on [House Bill 213](#) (Godshall-R-Montgomery) providing penalties for ecoterrorism.
- **June 7** – Joint Legislative Budget & Finance Committee meeting on conservation districts report.
- **June 7** – Senate Consumer Protection and Professional Licensure Committee hearing to consider Governor’s nominees to the Public Utility Commission
- **June 7** – Senate Environmental Resources and Energy Committee to consider [Senate Resolution 123](#) (Boscola-D-Lehigh) urging the Governor to create a task force on flood reduction; [Senate Resolution 125](#) (MJ White-R, Musto-D) urging Congress to provide more funding to the states for leaking underground storage tanks; [Senate Bill 12](#) (Tomlinson-R-Bucks) providing home energy assistance to certain persons; [Senate Bill 594](#) (MJ White-R-Venango) relating to dormant oil and gas leases and court jurisdiction; [Senate Bill 722](#) (Musto-D-Luzerne) extending the sunset date for the small heating oil tank program; [House Bill 612](#) (Rubley-R-Chester) authorizing PennVEST water and sewage projects that improve system security.
- **June 7** – House Consumer Affairs Committee to consider [House Bill 893](#) (Sommel-R-Berks) changing procedures for shutting off water and sewage services and [House Bill 1461](#) (McIlhinney-R-Chester) providing energy efficiency standards for certain appliances.
- **June 8** – Senate Agriculture Committee to consider [House Bill 619](#) (Hershey-R-Chester) expands the state Farmland Preservation Program to land used for boarding, training or riding horses.
- **June 13** – [Joint Legislative Air and Water Pollution and Conservation Committee](#) Environmental Issues Forum on Philadelphia’s new [RecycleBank](#) incentive based recycling program.
- **June 21** – House Environmental Resources & Energy Committee informational meeting on global climate change.

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- **June 21** – [Environmental Quality Board](#) meeting.
- **June 21** – Chesapeake Bay Found Sponsors [Advanced Public Outreach Workshop](#). Harrisburg.
- **June 21-23-** [DEP Citizens Advisory Council Public Meetings](#) in Hazleton and Wilkes-Barre.

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

#### [Watershed Events](#)

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

#### [Environmental Education Workshop/Training Calendar](#)

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

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

## Helpful Web Links

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

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

## Stories Invited

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

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