

-PA ——— Environment Digest

*An Update on
Environmental
Issues in
Pennsylvania*

Edited By David E. Hess, Crisci Associates

June 16, 2008

[PA Environment Digest Video Blog](#)

Bills Including Fair Share for Clean Water Plan See Action in Senate, House



Both the Senate and House took important, bipartisan steps this week to move or introduced legislation that contains elements of the [PA Fair Share for Clean Water Plan](#) to provide financial relief for sewer system ratepayers and farmers under federal and state mandates to reduce nutrient discharges.

The Senate unanimously passed [Senate Bill 2](#) (Earll-R-Erie), the H2O Water Infrastructure Funding Program, that provides \$800 million in gaming revenues to fund drinking water, wastewater, flood protection and dam repair projects. The bill includes a priority for wastewater systems facing mandates, like nutrient reductions, imposed after January 1, 2007.

Sen. Earll said many areas of the state, such as the sprawling Chesapeake Bay watershed, are under federal and state mandates to clean up their water and that should be a priority for state funding.

Sen. Mary Jo White (R-Venango) praised the Senate's passage of Senate Bill 2, saying the legislation includes at least \$100 million for flood protection and mitigation projects, but does not include Gov. Rendell's call for a new tax on insurance premiums for home and business owners. Instead, Senate Bill 2 relies upon revenue currently dedicated to the Gaming Economic Development and Tourism Fund.

Under the leadership of Majority Chair Rep. Dwight Evans (D-Philadelphia), the House Appropriations Committee amended the General Fund budget bill-- [House Bill 2380](#) (Evans-D-Philadelphia) – to include much of the funding for the Department of Agriculture as proposed in the Fair Share Plan and a \$2.3 million increase for county conservation districts over the line items proposed by Gov. Rendell. ([House Democrats' amendment](#))

Back in the Senate, the Environmental Resources and Energy Committee unanimously reported out [Senate Bill 1341](#) (Musto-D-Luzerne) after amending it to include a \$400 million bond issue voter referendum for water, wastewater and stormwater projects, including specifically nutrient reduction projects needed to meet federal and state Chesapeake Bay cleanup mandates.

"I am very pleased that the Committee took up this legislation and that it had bipartisan support," said Sen. Musto. "If enacted into law and approved by the voters, the \$400 million will go to improve drinking water and sewer systems throughout the Commonwealth. The funding is critical so that we can improve our clean water

PA Environment Digest – Crisci Associates

infrastructure and provide some assistance to ratepayers. This is particularly true in those communities that have problems with combined sewer overflows."

The Senate Appropriations Committee is scheduled to consider this bill on June 16.

Sen. Roger Madigan (R-Bradford) has introduced [Senate Bill 1449](#) that includes the recommendations of the Fair Share Plan for assisting farmers with nutrient reduction costs, including \$10 million in funding for the Department of Agriculture, an increase in the Resource Enhancement and Protection Act (REAP) farm conservation tax credit to \$35 million, a \$10 million increase in conservation district funding and a new \$15 million 50-50 cost share program to put farm conservation practices on the ground.

The Senate Agriculture and Rural Affairs Committee is scheduled to consider this legislation on June 17.

Previously introduced [House Bill 2441](#), sponsored by Rep. Scott Perry (R-Cumberland), includes many of the elements of the Fair Share Plan.

Related Story: [Committees To Consider Fair Share Farmer, Wastewater Bills](#)

Also this week, Senators Mike Brubaker (R-Lancaster) and Ray Musto (D-Luzerne) and Representatives Mike Sturla (D-Lancaster) and Art Hershey (R-Chester) invited House and Senate members to an exploratory meeting of a new Susquehanna Caucus to discuss issues of common concern in the watershed.

The primary topic of the meeting was federal and state nutrient mandates on wastewater system ratepayers and farmers and the PA Fair Share for Clean Water Plan.

There are 18 members of the Senate and 68 members of the House whose districts are all or partly in the Susquehanna River Watershed.

Two additional infrastructure bills were introduced in the House this week, but they do not specifically address upgrades to wastewater treatment plants that are unrelated to economic development projects or benefit farmers. They include:

- [House Bill 2621](#) (Evans-D-Philadelphia) establishes the Pipeline Replacement and Rehabilitation Program to fund improvements to natural gas, wastewater and drinking water pipes; and
- [House Bill 2638](#) (McCall-D-Carbon) a \$760 million infrastructure program administered by the Commonwealth Finance Agency for financing capital projects related to tourism development, independent institutions of higher education, hospital facilities, vital community assets (water, wastewater, et al) and economic development projects, funded with Gaming revenues.

The PA Fair Share for Clean Water Plan would invest \$170 million in 2008-09 in several ways to reduce the financial burden on ratepayers and farms:

- \$100 million to help wastewater plants finance required improvements;
- \$50 million in direct cost share aid to farmers to install conservation practices (\$35 for REAP farm tax credits and \$15 million in cost share grants);
- \$10 million to county conservation district to expand technical assistance to farmers;
- \$10 million to restore cuts to the Department of Agriculture budget in farm programs; and
- Proposes reforms to the state's nutrient credit trading program that will help to make it a viable alternative to provide for both environmental improvements to the Bay and sufficient future sewage capacity for new development.

Over the course of seven years the Fair Share for Clean Water Plan will invest up to \$890 million in upgrades to sewage treatment plants and agricultural practices for nutrient reduction efforts for the Chesapeake Bay and cleaning up streams statewide.

PA Environment Digest – Crisci Associates

For more information on the PA Fair Share for Clean Water Plan, visit www.PaFairSharePlan.org.

NewsClips: [Senate OKs Borrowing to Fix Dams, Water, Sewer Systems](#)
[PA Lawmakers Eye Huge Tab to Fix Aging Water, Sewer Plants](#)
[Lawmakers Like Measure Aiding Water, Sewer Needs](#)
[Editorial: Some Water Projects Need Not Wait for Task Force](#)
[Chesapeake Bay Cleanup Starts Here](#)
[Chesapeake Bay Groups Petition Rendell](#)
[Rendell Asked to Keep Commitment to Reduce Waterway Pollution](#)
[From Cows to Conservation, Farm Bill Will Affect Lancaster County](#)

Links: [Coalition Proposes Fair Share Clean Water Funding Plan, Original Announcement](#)
[16,000 Miles of Polluted Streams Add Urgency to Call for Clean Water Funding](#)
[CBF, Other Groups Ask State to Be a Partner in Chesapeake Bay Cleanup Plan](#)
[40,000 More Acres of Corn, Soybeans Increase Conservation Needs](#)
[Brubaker, Musto Say Senate Infrastructure Bill Should Be Expanded](#)
[New Federal Farm Bill Promises Aid, But PA Farmers Need \\$600 M for Cleanup](#)
[Rep. Perry, 37 Co-Sponsors Introduce Chesapeake Bay Nutrient Reduction Plan](#)
[New House Bill Opens Debate on How to Fund Nutrient Pollution Cleanup](#)
[Support for PA Fair Share For Clean Water Plan Grows, New Website Open](#)
[Task Force Hears Support for Fair Share Clean Water Plan – Video Blog](#)
[PA Fair Share Coalition Ask Gov. Rendell to Keep Commitment on Bay Cleanup](#)

Senate Committees To Consider Fair Share Farmer Assistance, Infrastructure Bills

Two more elements of the [PA Fair Share for Clean Water Plan](#) will be considered June 16 and 17 in the Senate Appropriations and Agriculture and Rural Affairs Committees.

The Senate Appropriations Committee meets June 16 to consider [Senate Bill 1341](#) (Musto-D-Luzerne) authorizing a \$400 million voter referendum to finance drinking water, wastewater and stormwater projects.

The bill includes a special provision to finance improvements to wastewater treatment plants to meet federal and state nutrient reduction mandates.

The Agriculture and Rural Affairs Committee meets June 17 to consider [Senate Bill 1449](#) (Madigan-R-Bradford) establishing the Fair Share Nutrient Reduction Assistance Program for Farmers.

The legislation includes an increase in the Resource Enhancement and Protection (REAP) farm conservation tax credit program to \$35 million, a new \$15 million 50-50 cost share program for farmers to install conservation practices, \$10 million for county conservation districts to provide farmers with technical assistance to install conservation measures and \$10 million to restore cuts made to the Department of Agriculture to help farmers.

Similar measures will be introduced in the House with bipartisan sponsorship.

Related Story: [Bills Including Fair Share Plan See Action in Senate, House](#)

The [PA Fair Share for Clean Water Plan](#) would invest \$170 million in 2008-09 in several ways to reduce the financial burden on ratepayers and farms:

- \$100 million to help wastewater plants finance required improvements;

PA Environment Digest – Crisci Associates

- \$50 million in direct cost share aid to farmers to install conservation practices (\$35 for REAP farm tax credits and \$15 million in cost share grants);
- \$10 million to county conservation district to expand technical assistance to farmers;
- \$10 million to restore cuts to the Department of Agriculture budget in farm programs; and
- Proposes reforms to the state’s nutrient credit trading program that will help to make it a viable alternative to provide for both environmental improvements to the Bay and sufficient future sewage capacity for new development.

Over the course of seven years the Fair Share for Clean Water Plan will invest up to \$890 million in upgrades to sewage treatment plants and agricultural practices for nutrient reduction efforts for the Chesapeake Bay and cleaning up streams statewide.

Governor’s Task Force Begins Reviewing Comments on Water Infrastructure Needs

The [Governor’s Sustainable Water Infrastructure Task Force](#) has started to review hundreds of public comments on ways Pennsylvania can address a \$20 billion funding shortfall facing the state’s drinking water and wastewater systems.

Comments and testimony were taken last month during a series of eight meetings in Allegheny, Clearfield, Dauphin, Luzerne, Montgomery, Northampton, Venango and York counties.

Department of Environmental Protection Secretary Kathleen A. McGinty said those attending the meetings represented a diverse array of the population and economy, but their remarks and concerns shared a common theme.

“Water treatment plant operators, engineers, municipal authority members, environmental groups, and concerned citizens all agreed that the health of our water infrastructure is tied to the health of Pennsylvania’s people and our economy,” said Secretary McGinty, who chairs the task force.

The task force has formed five work groups to focus on needs assessment, innovative measures, financial resources, financial sustainability, and legislative and regulatory remedies.

The workgroups will review public comments as they pertain to their particular areas of concern.

According to a federal Clean Water Needs Survey, Pennsylvania is facing nearly \$11 billion in unmet drinking water infrastructure needs and at least \$7.2 billion in unmet wastewater infrastructure needs.

The Task Force is due to report its findings on October 1.

For copies of comments, meeting agendas and other background information, visit the [Governor’s Sustainable Water Infrastructure Task Force webpage](#).

NewsClip: [Editorial: Some Water Projects Need Not Wait for Task Force](#)

Online Video Feature

DEP College Interns Help Map Lake Erie Shoreline With GPS

Watch this *Erie Times* story about how Department of Environmental Protection summer intern Andy Faivre trains new intern Sarah Lawlor on how to map the structures along the

Lake Erie shoreline using GPS systems, photographs, and other measurements to compile a database which will be used to monitor beach erosion.

Video Blog: [DEP Intern Maps Erie Shoreline](#)

[Read the full article from the *Erie Times*.](#)

On the Hill

On the Senate/House Agenda/Session Schedule/Bills Introduced

Here's what's coming up on the Senate and House agenda for next week, as well as the voting session schedule through June 30.

Session Schedule

The Senate and House will return to voting session on June 16.

House 2008 Session Days—

June 16, 17, 18, 23, 24, 25, 26, 27, 28, 29, and 30

Senate 2008 Session Days--

June 16, 17, 18, 23, 24, 25, 26, 27, 30

You can watch the [Senate Floor Session](#) and [House Floor Session](#) live online.

Calendars/Committees

The Senate and House published committee schedules for next week and floor Calendars for June 16--

Calendars

House (June 16): [Senate Bill 356](#) (M.White-R-Venango) establishing the PA Center for Environmental Education in law; [Senate Bill 1020](#) (Wonderling-R-Montgomery) updating the 1945 Conservation District Law; [House Resolution 546](#) (George-D-Clearfield) urging Congress to investigate gas and energy prices; [House Resolution 627](#) (George-D-Clearfield) urging federal government to provide more heating assistance funding; [House Bill 934](#) (Scavello-R-Monroe) authorizing counties to impose up to a \$4/ton solid waste management fee to support local recycling, anti-litter programs; [House Resolution 712](#) (Hutchinson-R-Venango) re-establishing the Forestry Task Force; [House Resolution 719](#) (George-D-Clearfield) endorsing request for federal funding for PA river basin commissions.

[Special Session House Bill 13](#) (Bennington-R-Mifflin) amends the Alternative Energy Portfolio Standards Act to provide for increased use of energy efficiency, extends the compliance period from 15 to 21 years and provides additional milestones for the use of alternative energy; [Special Session House Bill 17](#) (McIlvaine Smith-D-Montgomery)

PA Environment Digest – Crisci Associates

excluding purchase price of hybrid electric vehicles from sales and use tax; [Special Session House Resolution 6](#) (Thomas-D-Philadelphia) designating November 15 as “Pennsylvania GIS Day” and the week of November 11-17 as “National Geography Awareness Week.”

Senate (June 16): [Senate Bill 352](#) (Robbins-R-Mercer) providing for a Low-Income Energy Assistance Program allocation of funds; [Senate Bill 1050](#) (Baker-R-Luzerne) providing funding for waste tire removal and recycling; [Senate Bill 1408](#) (Wozniak-D-Cambria) and [Senate Bill 1409](#) (Wozniak) authorizing the use of nonstructural alternatives to address flooding problems; [House Bill 1705](#) (Harkins-D-Erie) adopting the Great Lakes Water Resources Compact; [House Bill 1742](#) (Pashinski-D-Luzerne) prevention of scrap material thefts; [House Bill 1329](#) (Kessler-D-Berks) further providing for appeals and challenges to zoning ordinances.

Committees

House: the Environmental Resources and Energy Committee to hear a presentation by DCNR Secretary Michael DiBerardinis on the agency’s [Carbon Management Plan](#) and is set to consider [House Bill 44](#) (Rubley-R-Chester) prohibiting the sale of mercury thermostats and [House Resolution 788](#) (Longiotti-D-Mercer) urging Congress to investigate the role of speculators related to rising oil prices; the Finance Committee meets to consider [House Bill 1676](#) (Levdansky-D-Allegheny) earmarking a portion of the Sales Tax to fund the Game and Fish and Boat Commissions; the House Republican Policy Committee holds a hearing on the status of utility (natural gas, electric) infrastructure in the Commonwealth.

Senate: the Appropriations Committee meets to consider [Senate Bill 1341](#) (Musto-D-Luzerne) authorizing a \$400 million voter referendum to finance drinking water, wastewater and stormwater projects, [Senate Bill 1062](#) (Wonderling-R-Montgomery) providing for the reimbursement of developers for reuse of brownfield sites; the Agriculture and Rural Affairs Committee meets to consider [Senate Bill 1449](#) (Madigan-R-Bradford) establishing the Fair Share Nutrient Reduction Assistance Program for Farmers; the Environmental Resources and Energy Committee holds a hearing on electronics waste recycling; the Urban Affairs Committee holds a hearing on [Senate Bill 1291](#) (Rhoades-R-Schuylkill) providing for neighborhood blight reclamation and revitalization.

Other: this month’s Environmental Issues Forum hosted by the Joint Air and Water Pollution Control and Conservation Committee features a presentation on services provided by the Pennsylvania Technical Assistance Program (PennTAP).

Bills Introduced

The following legislation of interest was introduced this week—

Fair Share Nutrient Reduction for Farmers: [Senate Bill 1449](#) (Madigan-R-Bradford) establishes the Fair Share Nutrient Reduction Program for Farmers Act to help farmers comply with nutrient reduction mandates.

PA Environment Digest – Crisci Associates

Electric Competition Moratorium: [House Bill 2610](#) (George-D-Clearfield) would establish the Electric Utility Competitive Bid Moratorium Act and set up a Competitive Bid Solicitation Task Force to recommend changes in electricity purchase bidding.

Pipeline Rehabilitation: [House Bill 2621](#) (Evans-D-Philadelphia) establishes the Pipeline Replacement and Rehabilitation Program to fund improvements to natural gas, wastewater and drinking water pipes.

Legacy Fund Infrastructure Proposal: [House Bill 2638](#) (McCall-D-Carbon) a \$760 million infrastructure program administered by the Commonwealth Finance Agency for financing capital projects related to tourism development, independent institutions of higher education, hospital facilities, vital community assets (water, wastewater, et al) and economic development projects, funded with Gaming revenues.

Electric Rate Impacts: [House Resolution 784](#) (Beyer-R-Lehigh) a concurrent resolution establishing a task force to make recommendations on providing meaningful mitigation of electric rate increases.

Oil Speculators: [House Resolution 788](#) (Longiotti-D-Mercer) urging Congress to investigate the role of speculators in the rise of oil prices.

On the Governor’s Desk

Gov. Rendell signed [House Bill 1281](#) (Freeman-D-Lehigh) requiring municipalities to protect the Appalachian Trail into law this week as Act 24.

Senate/House Bills Moving

These bills of interest saw action in the House and Senate this week—

Senate

Water Infrastructure: [Senate Bill 2](#) (Earll-R-Erie), the H2O Water Infrastructure Funding Program, providing \$800 million in gaming revenues to fund drinking water, wastewater, flood protection and dam repair projects, passed the Senate and now goes to the House for action.

Water Infrastructure II : [Senate Bill 1341](#) (Musto-D-Luzerne) authorizing a \$1 billion bond issue voter referendum for water, wastewater and stormwater projects was amended to reduce the amount of the referendum to \$400 million and reported from the Senate Environmental Resources and Energy Committee, then was re-referred to the Senate Appropriations Committee.

Legacy Sediments: [Senate Resolution 283](#) (Brubaker-R-Lancaster) recognizing the accomplishments of Franklin & Marshall Professors Robert Walter and Dorothy Merritts on their research into legacy sediments was adopted by the Senate.

PA Environment Digest – Crisci Associates

Tire Recycling: [Senate Bill 1050](#) (Baker-R-Luzerne) providing funding for waste tire removal and recycling was reported from the Senate Appropriations Committee and is on the Senate Calendar for action.

Non-Structural Flood Control: [Senate Bill 1408](#) (Wozniak-D-Cambria) and [Senate Bill 1409](#) (Wozniak) authorizing the use of nonstructural alternatives to address flooding problems were reported from the Senate Environmental Resources and Energy Committee and are now on the Senate Calendar for action.

Great Lakes Compact: [House Bill 1705](#) (Harkins-D-Erie) adopting the Great Lakes Water Resources Compact was reported from the Senate Environmental Resources and Energy Committee and is now on the Senate Calendar for action.

Theft of Scrap Metals: [House Bill 1742](#) (Pashinski-D-Luzerne) prevention of scrap material thefts was amended and reported from the Senate Environmental Resources and Energy Committee and is now on the Senate Calendar for action.

House

PA Environmental Education Center: [Senate Bill 356](#) (M.White-R-Venango) establishing the PA Center for Environmental Education in law was reported from the House Appropriations Committee and is now on the House Calendar for action.

Conservation Districts: [Senate Bill 1020](#) (Wonderling-R-Montgomery) updating the 1945 Conservation District Law was reported from the House Appropriations Committee and is on the House Calendar for action.

Elk Fencing: The House Game and Fisheries Committee reported out [House Bill 2575](#) (Hanna-D-Centre) that authorizes elk deterrent fences and reimbursement for certain damages and was then referred to the House Rules Committee (which is normal this time of year).

Stormwater Planning: The House Local Government Committee amended and reported out [House Bill 2266](#) (Steil-R-Bucks) updating and expanding stormwater/watershed planning requirements. The bill was referred to the House Rules Committee.

Nonstructural Alternatives to Flooding: [House Bill 2539](#) (Seip-D-Schuylkill) and [House Bill 2546](#) (Conklin-D-Centre) authorizing nonstructural alternatives to control flooding was reported from the House Environmental Resources and Energy Committee and then referred to the House Rules Committee.

Funding Dam Repairs: [House Bill 2549](#) (Siptroth-D-Monroe) authorizing funding for unsafe high hazard dam repairs was reported from the House Environmental Resources and Energy Committee and then referred to the House Rules Committee.

Adopt-A-River: [House Bill 328](#) (Sturla-D-Lancaster) establishing the Adopt-A-River Program within DCNR was referred to the House Rules Committee.

House Committee Approves Bills on Flooding, Dam Repair Funding

The House Environmental Resources and Energy Committee reported out legislation promoting nonstructural alternatives to control flooding and authorize PennVEST to fund high hazard dam repair projects. The bills include:

- [House Bill 2539](#) (Seip-D-Schuylkill) and [House Bill 2546](#) (Conklin-D-Centre) authorizing nonstructural alternatives to control flooding; and
- [House Bill 2549](#) (Siptroth-D-Monroe) authorizing funding for unsafe high hazard dam repairs.

The bills were then referred to the House Rules Committee, which is normal this time of year.

Rep. Bud George (D-Clearfield) serves as Majority Chair of the Committee and Rep. Scott Hutchinson (R-Venango) serves as Minority Chair.

Senate Committees Approve Water Infrastructure Bills, Great Lakes Compact

The Senate Environmental Resources and Energy Committee this week approved legislation adopting the Great Lakes Compact, authorizing a \$400 million water infrastructure bond issue referendum, allowing non-structural solutions to flooding problems and to prevent the theft of scrap metals.

The bills include:

- [House Bill 1705](#) (Harkins-D-Erie) adopting the Great Lakes Water Resources Compact, which is now on the Senate Calendar for action;
- [Senate Bill 1341](#) (Musto-D-Luzerne) that asks voters to approve a \$400 million bond issue to help pay for wastewater plant upgrades, including specifically projects needed to meet the nutrient reduction mandates in the Chesapeake Bay Watershed, and later was referred to the Senate Appropriations Committee;
- [Senate Bill 1408](#) (Wozniak-D-Cambria) and [Senate Bill 1409](#) (Wozniak) authorizing the use of nonstructural alternatives to address flooding problems, both are now on the Senate Calendar for action; and
- [House Bill 1742](#) (Pashinski-D-Luzerne) prevention of scrap material thefts, which was amended and is now also on the Senate Calendar for action.

Part of the [PA Fair Share for Clean Water Plan](#) to reduce nutrients from wastewater treatment plants and farms calls for \$500 million in funding for treatment plants over the next seven years to help them meet this federal Clean Water Act mandate imposed by the Department of Environmental Protection.

Sen. Mary Jo White (R-Venango) serves as Majority Chair and Sen. Ray Musto (D-Luzerne) serves as Minority Chair of the Committee.

Carbon Sequestration, Mercury Thermostats, Oil Cost on House Committee Agenda

The House Environmental Resources and Energy Committee meets June 17 to hear a presentation by DCNR Secretary Michael DiBerardinis on the agency's [Carbon Management Plan](#).

The Committee is also set to consider legislation that would ban the sale of new thermostats containing mercury and a resolution urging Congress to investigate the role of speculators in the rising cost of oil. The bills include:

PA Environment Digest – Crisci Associates

- [House Bill 44](#) (Rubley-R-Chester) prohibiting the sale of mercury thermostats; and
- [House Resolution 788](#) (Longiotti-D-Mercer) urging Congress to investigate the role of speculators related to rising oil prices.

Rep. Bud George (D-Clearfield) serves as Majority Chair of the Committee and Rep. Scott Hutchinson (R-Venango) serves as Minority Chair.

Senate Committee Sets Hearing on Electronics Waste Recycling

The Senate Environmental Resources and Energy Committee will hold a public hearing June 18 on the issue of electronic waste recycling.

The Committee expects to hear testimony from the Department of Environmental Protection, Professional Recyclers of Pennsylvania, Dell, Inc., the Information Technology Industry Council, PA Retailers Association and Philips Electronics, on behalf of the Consumer Electronics Association.

Sen. Mary Jo White (R-Venango) serves as Majority Chair and Sen. Ray Musto (D-Luzerne) serves as Minority Chair of the Committee.

Environmental Issues Forum Features Presentation on PennTAP Assistance Program

The [Joint Legislative Air and Water Pollution Control and Conservation Committee](#) will hold its June 2008 Environmental Issues Forum on June 16, 2008 at 12 noon in Room 205, Matthew J. Ryan Building, Capitol Complex, Harrisburg.

Guest speakers will be PennTAP Program Director Wayne Figurelle, Special Initiatives Specialist Kevin Abbey and Clean Manufacturing Specialist Warren Weaver. PennTAP supports technology-based economic development by helping Pennsylvania companies improve their competitiveness by providing a limited amount of free technology assistance to help resolve specific technical needs.

The speakers will provide an overview of PennTAP, its role in the commonwealth's energy efficiency, energy conservation and alternative energy initiatives, including energy assessment plans, and provide information about the agency's environmental, health, safety and energy assistance programs.

Other News

Water Resources Education Network Announces \$90,000 in Education Projects

The [Water Resources Education Network](#) announced the award of more than \$90,000 in Source Water Protection and Nonpoint Source Pollution/Watershed Education Project Grants.

Funding for the grants is provided by the Department of Environmental Protection for activities that will either address nonpoint source pollution issues on a watershed basis or help protect sources of drinking water.

The following community coalitions from across the state were awarded funds to carry out education projects:

Source Water Protection Education Projects

PA Environment Digest – Crisci Associates

- **Clarion County Conservation District, Clarion County** -- \$3,020 to transform stormdrains throughout Clarion with stencils and markers and distribute doorhangers to encourage citizens to do their part in curbing stormwater pollution which can harm sources of drinking water like the Clarion River.
- **Greater Johnstown Water Authority, Cambria and Somerset Counties** -- \$5,000 to continue practicing good stewardship of its drinking water sources located throughout the Northfork, Dalton and Saltlick watersheds, with programming for elementary and middle school students about the actions they can take to protect their drinking water.
- **McKean County Conservation District, McKean and Potter Counties** -- \$5,000 to educate residents of McKean and Potter counties about the issue of pharmaceuticals in water supplies, survey health care establishments' current practices regarding pharmaceutical disposal, and explore the feasibility of collaborating with multiple agencies and municipalities in the Upper Allegheny watershed to conduct a household hazardous waste collection.
- **Municipal Authority of Boswell Borough, Somerset County** -- \$5,000 to devise a strategy and train emergency personnel to effectively respond to incidents in the wellhead protection area, post water supply area traffic signs at the boundaries of the wellhead protection area and design and distribute an educational brochure, placemats, "toolboxes" and fact sheets about the Boswell Wellhead protection plan and what residents of the Stoneycreek River watershed can do to protect their water supply.
- **Port Allegany Borough, McKean County**--\$3,400 to enhance emergency response personnel's ability to respond effectively to incidents where Pa. Route 6 and other major roads intersect the wellhead protection area, post water supply area traffic signs at the boundaries of the wellhead protection area, and design and distribute educational placemats and other print materials to promote the protection of the community's drinking water.
- **Reading Area Community College, Berks County** -- \$4,995 to conduct a college-wide, year long "Get Your Fill" campaign aimed at increasing understanding of the Reading Area Water Authority's role in providing safe drinking water to customers in the Maiden Creek/Lake Ontelaunee watershed and to motivate students about the steps they can take to protect their source water while at school and also after graduation.
- **Reading Area Water Authority, Berks County** -- \$5,000 to install 30 drinking water supply area signs on secondary roads throughout the Maiden Creek watershed to raise resident and visitor awareness of source water/drinking water areas and devise a comprehensive "spill response strategy" including education and training for all emergency personnel about the importance of fast response to hazardous substance spills.
- **Riverside Center for Innovation, Allegheny, Westmoreland, Greene, Clarion, Butler, Fayette, Armstrong and Washington Counties** -- \$5,000 to educate and increase awareness of source water protection strategies via three major events aimed at thirty-three drinking water suppliers in the Allegheny, Youghiogheny and Monongahela watersheds in eight southwest Pennsylvania counties.
- **Upper Leacock Township, Lancaster County** -- \$5,000 to facilitate the local emergency response team's efficiency by posting Water Supply Area Signs on all state roads intersecting the wellhead protection area and developing procedures for

PA Environment Digest – Crisci Associates

emergency responder personnel to handle hazardous waste spills that occur near wells located in a carbonate aquifer.

- **Warren County Conservation District, Warren County** -- \$1,322 to purchase a Drinking Water & Wastewater Treatment EnviroScape Model to be used in local schools to demonstrate visually how source water can be impacted by human activities and what steps students and their parents can take to protect the source of their drinking water.

Nonpoint Source Pollution/Watershed Education Projects

- **Abrahams Creek Watershed Association, Luzerne County** -- \$3,342 to develop and distribute an informational brochure, produce a quarterly newsletter, set up a Web site and feature the expertise of local agencies to explain the several nonpoint source pollution issues facing the watershed, emphasizing the need for a comprehensive watershed management plan.
- **Bayfront Center for Maritime Studies, Erie County** -- \$3,200 to educate school students, outdoor organizations and civic groups, and visitors to Erie about nonpoint source pollution such as urban runoff and malfunctioning septic systems by using a historic wooden war canoe as a "mobile classroom", launching a professionally designed website, distributing related print information, and designing teacher education packets.
- **Earth Force, Inc. dba Lake Erie - Allegheny Earth Force, Erie County** -- \$5,000 to engage the youth of the area to write watershed protection articles for several local publications, make presentations at at least five public venues, and inspiring and recruiting watershed residents to become active in the International Coastal Cleanup and the Great PA Cleanup, thereby taking a leadership role in raising awareness about the nonpoint source pollution impacting the McDannell Run watershed.
- **Friends of the Nescopeck, Luzerne, Schuylkill, Columbia Counties** -- \$4,312 to design and distribute an eight-page full color newspaper insert alerting residents of Nescopeck Creek Watershed the effects of their activities on the health of the watershed and what they can do to minimize negative impacts; the insert will also encourage residents to support efforts to minimize abandoned mine drainage, manage stormwater properly, and respond appropriately to development pressures.
- **Hallstead Borough, Susquehanna County** -- \$3,140 to exhibit a working rainbarrel display on four well visited municipal properties; and hold a rain barrel workshop to instruct attendees of the North Susquehanna River Watershed Association how nonpoint source pollution such as stormwater runoff can be controlled on the homeowner's property with rain barrels and raingardens, and in the larger community though other best management practices such as green roofs and increasing the amount of pervious surfaces.
- **Jefferson County Conservation District, Jefferson County** -- \$3,100 to develop educational print materials, a display, and placemats aimed at educating residents of the County about steps they can take to reduce nonpoint source pollution and to make a presentation Township Supervisors Convention about the practices that municipal employees can adopt to reduce the impacts of NPS in the North Fork and other watersheds in Jefferson County.

PA Environment Digest – Crisci Associates

- **Jenkintown Environmental Advisory Committee (EAC), Montgomery County** -- \$2,530 to produce a quarterly flyer for borough residents identifying specific actions residents can take to protect the Tookany/Tacony-Frankford from the negative effects of nonpoint source pollution and hold a screening of some films related to protecting the environment.
- **Nether Providence Township, Delaware County** -- \$5,000 to install and promote two demonstration raingardens on municipal properties and produce and distribute printed materials to residents explaining how to install their own rain garden and other watershed protection activities they can that will protect the Crum Creek and Ridley Creek.
- **Pennsylvania Resources Council, Allegheny County** -- \$5,000 to deliver ten Watershed Awareness/Rain Barrel Workshops in Allegheny County with the goal of raising awareness and promoting action regarding issues such as nonpoint source pollution, combined sewer overflows and other sources of human impact plaguing the Allegheny, Monongahela and Ohio River Watersheds.
- **Perkiomen Watershed Conservancy, Montgomery, Bucks, Berks and Lehigh Counties** -- \$5,000 to educate Home Owner Associations in Limerick Township about the benefits of properly maintaining stormwater management facilities and develop a set of recommendations that can be distributed to and used by a municipality to encourage or compel HMOs to properly maintain stormwater basins, thereby improving water quality, adding critical habitat and saving the Home Owner Associations money.
- **Ridge & Valley Streamkeepers, Bedford County** -- \$3,500 to coordinate planting work crews and conduct a hands-on workshop to emphasize the benefits of forested buffers for the Sideling, Fifteen Mile, and Town Creeks, followed by a guided planting by the workshop attendees; a website will publicize the project and further educate visitors to the site and the region about steps they can take to minimize nonpoint source pollution of these watersheds.
- **Tobyhanna Creek/Tunkhannock Creek Watershed Association, Monroe County** - \$1,880 to produce and distribute a restaurant placemat aimed at residents of Kidder Township and the surrounding area with information about solutions to problems associated with urban runoff and acceptable effective alternatives pesticide application, thereby minimizing the negative impacts of these nonpoint sources of pollution.
- **Warrington Township, Bucks County** -- \$4,997 to 1) demonstrate The Healthy Yards Initiative by naturalizing a detention basin on the property of a public and highly visible business that sits next to the Little Neshaminy Creek and 2) conduct homeowner property assessments, recommending healthy yard practices like storm water management, improved wildlife habitats, removal of invasive species and planting native vegetation on residential properties within the Township. The project also includes a "Healthy Yard" poster or brochure contest for fifth grade students in the Township schools.

For more information, visit the [Water Resources Education Network website](#) or contact Sherene Hess, WREN Project Director, 724-465-4978 or send email to: sherenehess@yourinter.net .

PEC Praises Senate Committee Approval of Groundbreaking Great Lakes Compact

The [Pennsylvania Environmental Council](#) this week praised the Senate Environmental Resources and Energy Committee for approving legislation - [House Bill 1705](#) -- that would help establish comprehensive protections against new diversions of fresh water from Lake Erie and the other Great Lakes for use outside of the basin.

"This legislation is a critical step toward ensuring the long-term vitality of Lake Erie and northwestern Pennsylvania," John Walliser, Vice President of Legal and Governmental Affairs for PEC. "We commend Senators Mary Jo White, Ray Musto, and other members of the Committee for making sure our state helps protect this significant fresh water resource."

House Bill 1705, sponsored by Rep. Patrick Harkins (Erie County), would adopt the Great Lakes - St. Lawrence River Basin Water Resources Compact in Pennsylvania. The Great Lakes Compact, once adopted by all eight Great Lakes states and consented to by Congress, would establish the first comprehensive water management and protection program for 20 percent of the world's supply of fresh water.

The Great Lakes Compact was finalized in late 2005 after years of effort, receiving support from both Pennsylvania Governors Tom Ridge and Edward Rendell. Pennsylvania is one of the few remaining Great Lakes states to adopt the Great Lakes Compact; House Bill 1705 passed the House with unanimous support early this year.

"Lake Erie is a critical economic, environmental, and recreational asset for our state, particularly the northwest communities and industries who depend on sound management of its water resources," noted Walliser. "But we must remember that the Great Lakes are also a vulnerable, finite resource; one that other areas of the country and even other nations are eyeing to fuel their own economic and population growth. We are thankful the General Assembly and Governor Rendell are making sure Pennsylvania's interests in this tremendous regional asset are protected for the long-term."

Walliser urged the General Assembly to give final approval to the legislation so it can be on Gov. Rendell's desk for his signature before summer recess on June 30.



EPA Water Quality Trading Funding: Proposals Due September 9

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency is now accepting proposals for water quality trading or other market-based projects in the Ohio River and other watersheds through its [Targeted Watersheds Grants Program](#).

Projects must address reducing nitrogen, phosphorus, sediment, or other pollutant loadings that cause low oxygen levels in local waters and which enter the Mississippi River system. Projects must be located in one of the three Mississippi River sub-basins with the highest nutrient loads contributing to hypoxia in the Northern Gulf of Mexico: the Ohio River (which includes Western Pennsylvania), the Upper Mississippi River, or the Lower Mississippi River.

PA Environment Digest – Crisci Associates

Proposals must be nominated by the governor of the state in which the project resides. EPA will award up to \$4.2 million to support approximately 15 to 25 outstanding proposals.

Wyoming Valley RiverFest and Sojourn Set to Kick Off June 20-22

June is Rivers Month and what better way to celebrate than to join in the [Wyoming Valley RiverFest and Sojourn](#)! Discover the beauty, splendor and cultural significance of the North Branch of the Susquehanna River.

Members of the Wyoming Valley Watershed Coalition have partnered to create a program that includes opportunities to canoe or kayak on the Susquehanna, explore the riverside trails and parks, and learn more about the wildlife, water quality, history and heritage of the watershed.

Spend one or two days paddling on the beautiful and historic Susquehanna viewing bald eagles, egrets, peregrine falcons, river otters, Campbell's Ledge, the historic Battle of Wyoming site, remnants of the North Branch Canal, the Knox Mine Disaster site and much more.

Day 1 - June 21 kayak or canoe from Apple Tree Boat Launch in Harding to Wilkes-Barre's Nesbitt Park (4 hours on the water).

Day 2 - June 22 - Kayak or Canoe from Wilkes-Barre's Nesbitt Park to Hunlock Creek (4 hours on the water). Shuttle Buses leave Nesbitt Park, Wilkes-Barre at 7:45 a.m. on June 21 and take Sojourners to Harding.

On June 22 a shuttle will transport paddlers from Hunlock Creek to Nesbitt Park at 2:00 p.m. following the trip.

Free Camping is available in Nesbitt Park on Saturday evening for Sojourners.

For more information, [download the brochure](#), or to register for the sojourn contact [Susquehanna River Adventures](#) at 570-328-4001 or [Endless Mountain Outfitters](#) at 570-746-9140.

Friends of the Wissahickon Dedicates First Bio-Composting Toilet in Fairmount Park

The [Friends of the Wissahickon](#) celebrated the opening of the first bio-composting toilet in Fairmount Park this week with a Toilet Paper Ribbon Cutting followed by a toast with prune juice.

The toilet is located in the WPA structure on Forbidden Drive near the Kitchen's Lane entrance to Wissahickon Valley Park.

Pictured in the photo are: (Front Row) Richard Berman (FOW); Max (cutting "ribbon") and Jonah Fine (Chestnut Hill); Ethan Larrabee and Des O'Donovan (Mt. Airy); (Back Row) Ed Stainton (FOW); Chris Palmer (FPC); and Maura McCarthy (FOW Ex. Director).



“The composting toilet will serve as a proto-type for future composting toilets in the park,” says Chris Palmer, Director of Operations and Landscape Management for the

[Fairmount Park Commission](#). FOW's Structures Crew worked with the Fairmount Park Historic Trust, Fairmount Park staff, and Bio-Sun Systems to renovate the historic structure and install the composting toilet.

The project was funded in part by a grant from REI, supplier of specialty outdoor gear and clothing.

Giant Food Store Customers Help Keep Pennsylvania Beautiful



The purchase of reusable grocery bags by customers of [Giant Food Stores](#) has generated over \$42,000 for the anti-litter and beautification activities of [Keep Pennsylvania Beautiful](#) thanks to a special Earth Day promotion.

In honor of Earth Day, Giant Food Stores encouraged its customers throughout Pennsylvania to go green. As a result, more than 141,000 reusable grocery bags were sold at Giant locations during April and Giant made the commitment to donate five cents from each bag sold in April to Keep Pennsylvania Beautiful.

From the reusable bag sales and the donation of the park benches, Giant's contribution to Keep Pennsylvania Beautiful totaled \$42,472.

In addition, Giant donated 94 park benches made from recycled plastic shopping bags for local Keep Pennsylvania Beautiful beautification projects in Dauphin, Cumberland, Perry, Lancaster, York, Lehigh, Northampton, Chester, and Franklin counties.

"Our customers answered the call to go green in April and we hope they continue doing their part to help the environment every month throughout the year," said Denny Hopkins, vice president for advertising and marketing, Giant Food Stores. "We will continue to sell reusable bags and encourage customers to recycle their plastic grocery bags by bringing them back to the store. Since 1997, more than 1,300 park benches have been donated to a variety of organizations including fire departments, churches, schools, parks, playgrounds and libraries to help beautify local communities."

Keep Pennsylvania Beautiful is an organization that promotes and protects the state's natural and community environments through education, preventing litter, beautifying Pennsylvania and minimizing the negative impacts of waste.

Giant Food Stores, LLC, one of the leading supermarket chains in the U.S., currently operates stores in Pennsylvania, Maryland, Virginia, and West Virginia under the names of Giant Food Stores, Martin's Food Markets and FoodSource.

As a company, Giant is proud to work with hundreds of local organizations in the communities it serves and has a long-standing commitment to eradicate hunger and improve the quality of life for children.

William Gumbert Receives PA CleanWays Sue Wiseman Scholarship

[PA CleanWays](#) announced this week that William Gumbert from California Area High School, Washington County was chosen as the \$1,000 Sue Wiseman Scholarship recipient.

PA Environment Digest – Crisci Associates

Pictured in the photo are Susan Carmichael of PA CleaWays who presented the award to William.

William received the highest cumulative score among 19 applicants for the reclamation of a dumpsite located along Allenport Hollow Creek which he transformed into a quarter mile long wildlife educational nature trail.

After cleaning up over 20 tons of trash and debris, 500 tires, and 10 tons of scrap metal, William built bridges, trailhead signs, picnic areas, as well as informational signs about the trail, native wildlife, and the impacts of illegal dumping.

William worked with local businesses, family, friends, fellow Boy Scouts and Cub Scouts, Allenport residents, government agencies, and nonprofit organizations to achieve his goal.

When asked if this project has changed his environmental views, William responded, “I have learned not to become complacent about garbage. Garbage is not a natural part of our landscape. We have become desensitized to seeing litter along our highways and garbage dumped over hillsides and the shores of our waterways. We all need to get involved and make a difference in our world one piece of trash at a time.”

William plans to attend the Pennsylvania College of Technology in Williamsport to study Heavy Equipment Operation and Diesel Technology.

Applicants were judged on initiative and self-motivation, ability to demonstrate leadership, commitment to the environment, use of local resources, partnerships formed, and the project’s ability to educate the public.

PA CleanWays extends many thanks to our judging team: Sue Wiseman, founder of PA CleanWays; Tim Savisky, PA CleanWays board member and professor of biology at the University of Pittsburgh at Greensburg; and Shannon Reiter, PA CleanWays President.

The Sue Wiseman Scholarship is an annual \$1,000 award that honors youth who have demonstrated outstanding commitment and dedication to reducing littering and illegal dumping.

The scholarship is open to Pennsylvania youth, ages 16-21, who have initiated and carried out a personal project that addresses littering, illegal dumping, recycling, proper disposal, beautification, or education. Applications and project requirements are due May 1, of each year. Application forms are available electronically at www.pacleanways.org.

The scholarship is named for Sue Wiseman, whose own commitment and dedication to a cleaner environment led to the founding of PA CleanWays, a statewide nonprofit organization that helps people who are ready to take action against littering and illegal dumping in their communities.

Since 1990, PA CleanWays has been dedicated to empowering people to resolve and prevent these destructive problems. PA CleanWays community-based approach has resulted in the removal of 9,900 tons of trash and 344,343 tires with the help of more than 41,500 volunteers.



Farm Scale Composting Field Day Set at Rodale Institute on August 12

The [Rodale Institute](#) and the Department of Environmental Protection will sponsor a [Field Day on Farm Scale Composting](#) on August 12 to review current practices for on-farm composting at the Institute's facility near Kutztown, Pa.

Participants will learn about the newest generation of compost technology based on soil biology and nutrient management and the latest information on current permitted farms and [DEP Compost Infrastructure Grant](#) opportunities from Patti Olenick, DEP. They will also benefit from a presentation by Christine Ziegler, Rodale's research manager.

After lunch in the pavilion, participants will climb aboard the tractor-pulled wagon for a tour of the farm stopping along the way to see the various research projects and end up at the commercial composting site for a discussion of composting practices, research, equipment, challenges and successes.

Participants will end the day with a guided opportunity to work hands-on with the permit forms.

The Rodale Institute offers farmers, consumers and policy makers the fruits of 60 years of sustainable farming experience and research, including the longest running research trial comparing organic and conventional farming practices in the U.S.

Non-Profit and Transit Groups Promote Options to Driving Alone in Central PA

[Commuter Services of South Central Pennsylvania](#) and its transit partners are encouraging the region's more than 800,000 commuters to "Dump the Pump" and save gasoline – and money – by using options such as transit, carpools, vanpools and telecommuting.

June 19, is "Dump the Pump Day," an annual event sponsored by the American Public Transportation Association to "Save your money. Save the planet." Transit use in the United States saves an estimated 1.4 billion gallons of gasoline a year or 4 million gallons a day of that non-renewable resource, reports APTA.

"If you are still commuting alone, plan now to try an alternative at least on that day," urged Brandy Heilman, program director of Commuter Services. "Better yet, 'dump the pump' more often by using a commuting option for one or more days a week."

In Central Pennsylvania:

- County of Lebanon Transit is offering a week of free rides from June 16 through June 20;
- York's Rabbittransit is doing promotional activities throughout the month; and
- Red Rose Transit Authority in Lancaster is asking riders to provide testimonials by email or mail on how the service has benefited them. RRTA then will draw from among these submissions and award a free year of bus service.

Heilman noted that the [PA Commuter Services website](#) offers: a calculator to show commuters how much they are spending; links to the region's transit agencies (RRTA, Capital Area Transit, COLT and rabbittransit); an online, confidential ridematching database linking commuters to carpool and vanpool partners; information about Commuter Services' free emergency ride home reimbursement program; and tips for employers and commuters to encourage use of options other than driving alone.

To help promote "Dump the Pump," Commuter Services has commissioned billboard placements during June along the region's major highways to help get the word

out to commuters – especially those who are still commuting alone in their personal vehicle – and their employers, directing people to the [PA Commuter Services website](#).

NewsClip: [Area Transit to Participate in Dump the Pump](#)

Pollution Prevention Saves Bloomsburg Floral Greenhouse \$106,000 Annually

[Dillon Floral Corp.](#) of Bloomsburg, Columbia County, installed a new wood-fired heating system at their facility that will replace an existing inefficient oil heating system and save over \$106,000 annually.

The [Small Business Pollution Prevention Assistance Account](#) loan program provides funding for a variety of pollution prevention projects, including the Dillon project.

The new system will be fueled by wood waste and will help the business save money by reducing the amount of heating oil consumed. With the new system, the company will save over 145,152 gallons of heating oil annually as well as reducing their air emissions.

The company projects an annual savings of \$106,049 and a simple payback of approximately 6.6 years.

Dillon Floral also received a \$206,691 Energy Harvest grant for the wood-fired greenhouse heating system.

Preventing pollution saves raw material costs, waste disposal costs, handling costs and sometimes regulatory costs (such as permits and emission fees). As a result, companies are beginning to recognize that pollution prevention and energy efficiency make good business sense and that pollution control (such as the handling, treating and disposing of waste) should be a last resort.

Pollution prevention practices also may reduce potential liability, reduce health and safety risks and lower future regulatory costs by helping a business become exempt from regulations. The savings realized can go directly to the company's bottom line, making it more competitive and more productive.

In order to help small businesses implement pollution prevention and energy efficiency projects, DEP and the Department of Community and Economic Development administer the PPAA loan program. Since the inception of the loan program in 1999, DEP has received 179 loan applications totaling more than \$8.9 million.

The loan program is available to any small business owner whose pollution prevention/energy efficiency project is located in Pennsylvania. The business must have 100 or fewer full-time employees and be a separate legal business entity.

The loan must be used to purchase or upgrade equipment, or to implement a process change, that reduces or reuses raw materials on-site, reduces the production of waste at the source or significantly reduces energy consumption. Equipment and processes that focus on recycling or pollution control (scrubbers, filters, dust collectors, etc.) are ineligible for the loan.

The project must have a payback period less than or equal to the term of the loan and the expected benefits must extend beyond the term of the loan. The maximum loan amount is \$100,000 with a 2 percent fixed interest rate and a maximum term of ten years.

For more information, visit the [Small Business Pollution Prevention Assistance Account](#) loan program webpage or contact Gene DelVecchio at 717 772-8951 or send email to: gdelvecchi@state.pa.us .

Electric Utilities, Electric Grid Managers Highlight Reliability For Summer Months

The Energy Association of Pennsylvania, the Electric Power Generation Association, PJM Interconnection and Pennsylvania One Call System Inc. this week advised the Public Utility Commission that they are expecting normal demands for electricity during the summer months while maintaining enough power for emergencies.

The presenters discussed forecasted load and capacity; inspection practices; environmental considerations; plant additions and retirements; and the effect of electric line contacts on electric reliability.

PJM, based in Pennsylvania, is the electricity grid operator for 13 states and the District of Columbia. PJM predicts that customers will drive the net peak demand this summer to 137,950 megawatts, compared to the all-time peak of 144,644 megawatts on Aug. 2, 2006. PJM expects to have a total reserve margin, the extra power on hand to meet unanticipated demand of 23.8 percent.

The Energy Association of Pennsylvania member companies serve over 8 million electric and natural gas customers in the Commonwealth. EAP provided updates on how Pennsylvania electric distribution companies are working to improve reliability by using existing operations more efficiently and by continuing efforts to enhance overall load management through the Smart Grid.

You can view the presentations by selecting the links below:

- [Energy Association of Pennsylvania](#);
- [PA One Call System Inc.](#);
- [PJM Interconnection](#);
- [Electric Power Generation Association](#); and
- [PUC's Bureau of Conservation, Economics and Energy Planning](#).

Bucks County Receives Supplemental EPA Brownfields Grant

Bucks County was one of 16 state and local governments receiving supplemental brownfield revitalization grants from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency to help return problem properties to productive use.

Bucks County received a \$200,000 grant from a total of more than \$6.3 million being awarded to brownfields cleanup revolving loan funds.

“Thanks to these brownfields grants, EPA is planting the seeds for environmental and economic success,” said EPA Administrator Stephen L. Johnson. “These brownfields grants will help nurture problem properties into sources of local pride.”

Since 1997, grant recipients have executed 135 loans and awarded 26 subgrants to support brownfields cleanup totaling more than \$68 million. The loan funds have leveraged more than \$1.7 billion in public and private cleanup and redevelopment investment.

More information, visit the EPA [Brownfields Cleanup Revolving Loan Fund webpage](#).

DCNR Grant Helps Conserve Land in Lower Susquehanna Greenway

To foster open space preservation, protect the watershed and promote outdoor recreation and heritage tourism in the Lower Susquehanna River watershed, Department of

PA Environment Digest – Crisci Associates

Conservation and Natural Resources Secretary Michael DiBerardinis this week presented a \$1.4 million grant for the preservation of three land tracts.

The funds were presented to the [Farm & Natural Lands Trust of York County](#) for payment toward the acquisition of two properties, totaling approximately 59 acres, in Hellam and Lower Windsor townships, and Wrightsville Borough, York County. Earmarked for passive recreation and preservation of open space, the properties are linked by the Mason-Dixon Trail.

The DCNR grant is matched by the donation of a third 2.25-acre property that is known as Historic Pleasant Garden and is also in Lower Windsor Township.

All three properties, along with the Highpoint Scenic Vista and Recreation Area, will be part of the new Susquehanna Heritage Park under development along the river.

"Preservation of these three properties is a great example of people working together toward a shared goal — this is exactly what our Community Conservation Partnerships grants are designed to promote," said Secretary DiBerardinis. "Here we have private land owners; county, township and borough officials; organizations; and a land trust all united to protect open spaces and create recreational and heritage tourism opportunities in York County."

Land trust representatives and local officials joined the DCNR secretary at a ceremony hosted by the Lancaster-York Heritage Region at the Highpoint Scenic Vista & Recreation Area.

"The Farm and Natural Lands Trust of York County is pleased to be able to play a part in the preservation of these properties," said Michael Goodling, president of the organization. "Preserving our special places through acquisitions and conservation easements will enhance the quality of life for our residents and will also benefit future generations.

"I want to thank the private landowners in this partnership who have made a commitment to preserving this inspiring and significant landscape through their cooperation and donation of land valued at various levels. Without DCNR and the commitment of these private landowners — County Line Quarry, Grove Enterprise LLC and John and Kathryn Zimmerman — these transactions would not be taking place."

Specifically, the grant aids in preservation of:

- **Wilton Riverside Lands** — This 44-acre parcel is adjacent to the Susquehanna River and includes a portion of the Mason-Dixon Trail. The site connects to other portions of the Susquehanna Heritage Park by the trail and is located along the Lower Susquehanna Greenway;
- **Oscar Leibhart site** — Roughly 15 acres, this parcel is a National Register of Historic Places archeological site. It is part of one of the last known villages of the Susquehannock Indians dating to the late 1600s. The site is adjacent to Safe Harbor Water Power Corporation's Klines Run Park and will also be connected by the Mason-Dixon Trail to other parts of the Susquehanna Heritage Park;
- **Pleasant Garden** — A renovated home constructed in the 1730s on 2.25 acres now serves as the office of the Lancaster-York Heritage Region, one of 12 state-designated heritage areas. The facility will be used to provide recreational and educational opportunities relative to the cultural and environmental resources of the Susquehanna River Greenway. The property was donated by John and Kathryn Zimmerman to the Lancaster-York Heritage Region in support of the Susquehanna Heritage Park.

PA Environment Digest – Crisci Associates

Secretary DiBerardinis said the grant presentation comes just six months after he announced Gov. Rendell's pledge to invest \$2 million to help protect 3,500 acres of open space in Lancaster and York counties for outdoor recreation, wildlife habitat and heritage development.

At that time, Secretary DiBerardinis said the money would help the [Lancaster County Conservancy](#) purchase the lands along the Lower Susquehanna River from PPL Corp. The company intends to donate the money to the new owners as part of a sustainable endowment fund that will be used to manage and improve public access to the lands.

The grant presentation was the highlight of a two-day visit to the Lower Susquehanna during which the secretary toured the river by kayak and pontoon boat; inspected utility companies' lands along the waterway; and addressed area government, business and conservation leaders.

Secretary DiBerardinis commended the strong partnerships demonstrated by many, including the Farm and Natural Lands Trust of York County; Lancaster-York Heritage Region; Archaeological Conservancy; Mason Dixon Trail System; Hellam and Lower Windsor townships; and Wrightsville Borough.

Funding for the grant comes from the Keystone Fund, a DCNR account generated from a portion of the realty transfer tax.

Landowners Reminded DMAP Deer Management Applications Due July 1

Eligible landowners interested in enrolling in the Game Commission's [Deer Management Assistance Program \(DMAP\)](#) have until July 1 to submit an application for the 2008-09 hunting seasons to the appropriate Regional Office.

Eligible lands for DMAP are: public lands; private lands where no fee is charged for hunting; and hunting club lands owned in fee title so long as the club was established prior to January 1, 2000, and they provide a club charter and list of current members to the agency. Private hunting clubs are no longer required to own a minimum of 1,000 contiguous acres before being eligible.

Coupons for DMAP antlerless deer harvest permits may be issued to landowners at a rate of one coupon for every five acres in agricultural operations or one coupon for every 50 acres for all other land uses. Management plans will be required only when a DMAP applicant requests more than the standard rate for issuance of DMAP harvest permits.

Landowners must designate their boundaries in a manner approved by the Game Commission. Landowners will receive one coupon for each DMAP permit allocated for their property, and they may give up to two DMAP coupons per DMAP area to a licensed hunter, who will then apply to the Game Commission for DMAP harvest permits.

Landowners may not charge or accept any remuneration for a DMAP coupon. Hunters may possess up to two DMAP permits for a specific DMAP property in any given license year.

DMAP permit allotments will be made separate from the general antlerless deer license allocations, and will be \$10 for residents and \$35 for nonresidents.

Hunters looking to get a head start on the 2008-09 deer seasons now can begin reviewing a listing of public properties enrolled in DMAP, as well as those private lands seeking additional hunter participation, which is available on the [agency's website](#).

PA Environment Digest – Crisci Associates

Those without access to the Internet can obtain listings by mailing a self-addressed, stamped envelope, along with a letter indicating their county of interest, to the [Game Commission Region Office](#) responsible for that particular county.

Game Commission Sponsors Teacher Workshops in Southwest

The Game Commission will sponsor teacher workshops in June and July entitled, Wild About Bears and Wonders of Wetlands in Southwestern PA. The details include:

Wild About Bears: This Southwest Region exclusive workshop focuses on one of the area's most notable residents, the Black Bear.

Participants learn about bear biology and habits on the first day and hone their skills on the activity filled second day. One of the highlights of this workshop is setting culvert traps for bear research and participating in data collection with a live Black Bear (if the bears cooperate).

Participants receive the Project Wild Activity Book, the "Wild About Bears" Curriculum Book, PGC Teacher Packet, plus a host of other teacher aids for use in the classroom. Registration is through the local Intermediate Units and ACT 48 hours or academic credit is available.

Due to the success of this workshop two sessions are offered:

- June 18 -19 – Held at the PGC SW Regional Office in Bolivar, Pa. Registration: Westmoreland Intermediate Unit #7, 724-836-2460; and
- June 25 – 26 - Held at the PGC SW Regional Office in Bolivar, Pa. Registration: Intermediate Unit #1, 724-938-3241.

Wonders of Wetlands: The two-day Wonders of Wetlands workshop is an activity-based event focusing on the wetlands and waters of our nation. Here teachers are invited to learn about and experience local wetlands in new and exciting ways.

Participating teachers learn about the flora and fauna of wetlands and how humans and animals both interact with or depend on them for survival. In addition to learning about wetlands participants share in wetland hikes, observations, and plant and wildlife identification.

Participants receive the Wonders of Wetlands activity book, PGC Teacher Packet, plus a host of other teacher aids for use in the classroom. Registration is through the local Intermediate Unit and ACT 48 hours or academic credit is available.

This workshop will be held July 7 – 8 - Held at State Game Lands 223 headquarters building at Kirby, Pa. Registration: Intermediate Unit #1, 724-938-3241.

Spotlight

Reducing Demand Can Lower Electric Bills, Lessen Chance of Blackouts

A 5 percent reduction in electricity use will lower the market price of electricity, cut consumers' bills and lessen strain on the grid when demand shoots up this summer, say energy experts in [Penn State's College of Earth and Mineral Sciences](#).

Because electricity is almost universally used for cooling, demand for electric power soars during summer months, and utilities must bring into service reserve generators

or "peakers" to meet consumers' demand. But while these peakers can be dispatched quickly to provide needed electricity, they do not operate very efficiently.

"The electricity produced during peaks in demand is far more expensive than the electricity generated from the coal-fired plants and nuclear power plants which operate around the clock," said Seth Blumsack, an assistant professor of energy policy, College of Earth and Mineral Sciences. "It is important to realize that using 5 percent less electricity does not mean that people need to be sitting around in the dark. Most folks can easily reduce their energy bills without major sacrifices in lifestyle."

As energy prices keep rising, even small reductions in demand can lower electric bills. In Pennsylvania, which is moving toward market-based electricity pricing, demand reduction could offset some of the increases consumers will see when rate caps expire. In addition, reducing demand during peak times also lowers the risk of blackouts, Blumsack said.

A Pennsylvania study estimated that reducing demand by 5 percent relative to 2008 levels would save residential customers 1.5 cents per kilowatt-hour (kWh); commercial customers, 1.4 cents kWh; and industrial customers, 0.9 cents kWh, Blumsack said. In the absence of rate caps or freezes, rate payers in other states could see similar savings providing generation occurred through a similar mix of fuels as used in Pennsylvania.

Peakers are small plants that typically run on natural gas or diesel oil and produce between 5 and 50 megawatts. For comparison, baseload plants produce upwards of 1,000 MW. A MW of electricity is equivalent to the electricity for between 800 and 1,000 homes, depending upon their size.

While the efficiency of cooling systems has improved, many residential consumers and small business owners continue to rely upon inefficient air conditioning systems. Their use on hot summer days can spike demand for electricity as much as 20 percent to 30 percent over winter peak demand. Because peakers are more expensive to operate, consumers end up with higher electricity bills.

Data for a 2005 summer day from the PJM system, which dispatches generating plants through the Mid-Atlantic and parts of the Midwest, indicated early-afternoon demand pushed the market price for electricity to three times its price just eight hours earlier.

Reducing the need for peak generation also has environmental benefits as many peakers have high emissions of greenhouse gases and other pollutants.

"Policies which support reducing demand by 5 percent are a cost-effective and needed first step in addressing rising electric rates, the nation's aging electric power infrastructure and accumulating carbon dioxide emissions," said Amy Glasmeier, professor of geography and co-author with Blumsack of "Reducing Demand, Promoting Efficiency Key to Defusing Electric Rate Increases."

As part of their analysis, Blumsack and Glasmeier recommend policies which would result in a 5-percent reduction and which would provide incentives for the construction of new peaking generators.

New peaking generation can be 30 percent more efficient than existing plants. For more information, go to the [Penn State Social Science Research Institute website](#).

Grants & Awards

This section gives you a heads up on upcoming deadlines for grants and financial assistance as well as nominations for awards and other recognition programs. **NEW** means from last week—

- **June 16**— [Rachel Carson Sense of Wonder Contest](#)
- **June 20**— [DEP Section 902 Recycling Development Grants](#)
- **June 20**—[DEP PA Energy Harvest Grants](#)
- **June 20**— [DEP Biofuels Subsidy Grants](#)
- **June 20**—[PEDA Innovative, Advanced Renewable Energy Grants](#)
- **June 20**—[PEDA Duquesne Energy Efficiency, Renewable Energy Grants](#)
- **June 30**—[DEP Energy Use Reduction Grants](#)
- **June 30**—[Dept. of Agriculture Healthy Farms, Healthy Schools Grants](#)
- **June 30**—[DCNR Wild Resources Conservation Grants](#)
- **June 30**—[Appalachian Renewable Energy, Energy Efficiency Grants](#)
- [RC&D Grants for Improving Livestock Operations](#)
- **July 7**— [DEP Coastal Zone Land Acquisition Grant Proposal](#)
- **July 18**— [DEP Composting Infrastructure Development Grants](#)
- **August 4**— [Start Submitting REAP Farm Conservation Tax Credit Applications](#)
- **August 29**—[DEP Local Government Greenhouse Gas Reduction Grants](#)
- **September 9**—**NEW**. [EPA Water Quality Trading Funding Proposals](#)
- **September 20**— [Fish & Boat Commission Boating Facilities Grants](#)
- **September 24**— [Coca-Cola, NRC Recycling Bin Grants](#)
- **October 15**—[PPL Project Earth Environmental Education Grants](#)
- **October 31**—[PA Resources Council Lens On Litter Photo Contest](#)

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

Quick Clips

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

[Editorial: How Nature Can Be Used as Teaching Tool](#)

[Meat Community Sustainable Agriculture](#)

[State Targets Growing Feral Swine Population](#)

[Cliff Trees Trade Height for Survival](#)

[Tent Caterpillar Populations in NE PA May Shrink](#)

[Baby Birds Take Wing With New Feathers](#)

[Falcon Population Rises Thanks to State Efforts](#)

[DEP Finds First West Nile Positive Mosquito of 2008 Season](#)

[Adult Shellfish Join Newly Hatched Babies in Effort to Restock Waterways](#)

[PA Mandates Zoning in Municipalities Along Appalachian Trail](#)

[A Greener Nature- State Game Lands](#)

[Allegheny Port Authority Transit Ridership Drops Despite Jump in Gas](#)

[High Gas Prices Fuel Increase in Rail Ridership in Philadelphia](#)
[Clinton County Hopes Methane From Landfill Will Heat Prison](#)
[Editorial: Rising Gas Prices Taking Fresh Look at Mass Transit](#)
[Editorial: Bike Sharing](#)
[Editorial: More Questions Need Asked About Global Warming](#)
[Editorial: Regulators Say Power Grid Fees Unjustified](#)
[Oil and Gas Producers Sue U.S. Forest Service](#)
[DEP: Natural Gas Exploration Will Not Come At Natural Resources' Expense](#)
[Seeking Green Certification for Warehouse Space](#)
[Editorial: Stalling as the Planet Warms](#)
[Editorial: Fly Problem Not So Black Anymore](#)
[Kilbuck Landslide to Prompt Bill](#)
[Restricted Building Urged in Slide Areas](#)
[Kilbuck Township Landslide Task Force Report](#)
[Recycling Program Goes Green](#)
[Reading School District Recycling Plan Advances](#)
[Clearfield County Approves Grant for Swan Biomass Center of Excellence](#)
[Disposal of Nuclear Waste Nears Crisis Stage](#)
[Coal Miners Tell Court of Cut Corners](#)

Watershed NewsClips

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

[Abrahams Creek Watershed Association Gets Educational Grants](#)
[Officials Back Pickering Creek Quality Upgrade](#)
[Water Recovering From Acid Runoff](#)
[Mahanoy Creek Watershed Assn. Receives Grants](#)
[Sojourners Camp Before Launch in Schuylkill Haven](#)
[Laceyville Ready for Susquehanna Sojourn](#)
[142 Sojourners Leave Port Clinton for Schuylkill River](#)
[State Officials Tour River Region in York County](#)
[Snitz Creek Park Wetlands Proposed](#)
[Water Released From Upstate NY Reservoir to Cool Trout](#)
[Bacteria Discovered in Delaware Bay Shellfish](#)
[College Interns Survey Erie Shoreline \(Online Video\)](#)
[Editorial: Drilling Should Abide By Water Regulations](#)
[Rain Garden Workshop Shows How to Prevent Flooding](#)
[Proposed Floodplain Ordinance is Stricter](#)
[Bethlehem Plans to Tear Down Saucon Creek Dam](#)
[Editorial: Are Water Wars In Our Future?](#)
[Chesapeake Bay Cleanup Starts Here](#)
[Chesapeake Bay Groups Petition Rendell](#)
[Lawmakers Like Measure Aiding Water, Sewer Needs](#)
[Rendell Asked to Keep Commitment to Reduce Pollution in Waterways](#)
[From Cows to Conservation, Farm Bill Will Affect Lancaster County](#)
[Editorial: Some Water Projects Need Not Wait for Task Force](#)

Regulations

The Environmental Quality Board meets June 17 (details below) and the Game Commission [publishes proposed new rules](#) on taking more than one deer at a time and a proposal to expand the [DMAP deer management program](#).

The Environmental Quality Board [meets June 17 to consider](#) a final rulemaking on limiting volatile organic compounds from industrial coatings and a proposed bluff recession and setback from the Lake Erie shoreline.

[Pennsylvania Bulletin – June 14, 2008](#)

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

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

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

Technical Guidance & Permits

The Department of Environmental Protection published an updated list of available air emission reduction credits for nitrogen oxide, volatile organic compounds, carbon monoxide, lead, sulfur oxides and particulate matter ([Pa Bulletin page 3312](#)) and a list of organizations certified to perform radon-related activities. ([Pa Bulletin page 3321](#))

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

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

Calendar of Upcoming Events

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

- **NEW.** [Revised Schedule of meetings for DEP Solid Waste Advisory Committee, Recycling Fund Advisory Committee.](#)
- **June 16—NEW.** Senate Appropriations Committee meets to consider [Senate Bill 1341](#) (Musto-D-Luzerne) authorizing a \$400 million voter referendum to finance drinking water, wastewater and stormwater projects, [Senate Bill 1062](#) (Wonderling-R-Montgomery) providing for the reimbursement of developers for reuse of brownfield sites. Rules Committee Room. Off the Floor.
- **June 16—**Environmental Issues Forum, hosted by the [Joint Air and Water Pollution Control and Conservation Committee](#), presents a program on the services provided by

PA Environment Digest – Crisci Associates

the [Pennsylvania Technical Assistance Program](#) (PennTAP). Room 205 Ryan Building. Noon.

- **June 16**—**NEW**. House Finance Committee meets to consider [House Bill 1676](#) (Levdansky-D-Allegheny) earmarking a portion of the Sales Tax to fund the Game and Fish and Boat Commissions. G-50 Irvis Building. 12:00.
- **June 16**—**NEW**. House Republican Policy Committee hearing on the status of utility (natural gas, electric) infrastructure in the Commonwealth. Room 418 Capitol Building. 11:00.
- **June 17**—**NEW**. Senate Agriculture and Rural Affairs Committee meets to consider [Senate Bill 1449](#) (Madigan-R-Bradford) establishing the Fair Share Nutrient Reduction Assistance Program for Farmers. Room 8E-A East Wing. 12:00.
- **June 17**—**NEW**. House Environmental Resources and Energy Committee to hear a presentation by DCNR Secretary Michael DiBerardinis on the agency’s [Carbon Management Plan](#) and meets to consider [House Bill 44](#) (Rubley-R-Chester) prohibiting the sale of mercury thermostats, [House Resolution 788](#) (Longiotti-D-Mercer) urging Congress to investigate the role of speculators related to rising oil prices. Room G-50 Irvis Building. 9:00.
- **June 17**—**NEW**. Senate Urban Affairs Committee hearing on [Senate Bill 1291](#) (Rhoades-R-Schuylkill) providing for neighborhood blight reclamation and revitalization. Hearing Room 1, North Office Building. 10:00.
- **June 17**—[Environmental Quality Board](#) meeting. Room 105 Rachel Carson Building. 9:00.
- **June 18**—**NEW**. Senate Environmental Resources and Energy Committee hearing on electronics waste recycling. Room 8E-A East Wing. 9:00.
- **June 18**—**CANCELLED**. DEP [Agricultural Advisory Board](#) meeting. Next scheduled meeting is August 27.
- **June 18**—**NEW**. [DEP State Water Plan Statewide Committee](#), Subcommittee on Critical Water Planning Area meeting. 10th Floor Conference Room Rachel Carson Building. 10:00.
- **June 19**—**NEW Location**. [DEP Nonpoint Source Liaison Workgroup](#) meeting. Fish & Boat Commission, 1601 Elmerton Ave., Harrisburg. 10:00.
- **June 24**—DEP [Small Systems Technical Assistance Center Advisory Board](#) meeting. Room 105 Rachel Carson Building. 10:00.
- **June 25**—**NEW**. DCNR [Conservation and Natural Resources Advisory Council](#) meeting. Room 105 Rachel Carson Building. 10:00.
- **July 1**—**NEW**. House Labor Relations Committee meets to consider [House Bill 2445](#) (Eachus-D-Luzerne) providing for neighborhood blight reclamation and revitalization. Room 60 East Wing. 10:00.
- **July 9**—**CANCELLED**. DEP Water Resource Advisory Committee meeting. Rescheduled for July 22.
- **July 9**—DEP [Laboratory Accreditation Advisory Committee](#) meeting. Room 206 Bureau of Laboratories Building, 2575 Interstate Dr., Harrisburg. 10:00.
- **July 15**—House Agriculture and Rural Affairs Committee hearing on the Clean and Green Program. G-50 Irvis Building. 1:00.
- **July 22**—[Governor’s Sustainable Water Infrastructure Task Force](#) meeting. Room 105 Rachel Carson Building. 9:30.

PA Environment Digest – Crisci Associates

- **July 22**—DEP [Water Resource Advisory Committee](#) meeting. Room 105 Rachel Carson Building. 1:00.
- **August 7**—[Governor’s Sustainable Water Infrastructure Task Force](#) meeting. Room 105 Rachel Carson Building. 9:30.
- **September 3**—[Governor’s Sustainable Water Infrastructure Task Force](#) meeting. Room 105 Rachel Carson Building. 9:30.
- **September 18**—Joint Conservation Committee Sewage Management and Treatment Task Force. Penn Stater Conference Center, State College. 10:00.
- **September 23**—[Governor’s Sustainable Water Infrastructure Task Force](#) meeting. Room 105 Rachel Carson Building. 9:30.

[DEP Calendar of Events](#)

[Environmental Education Workshop/Training Calendar](#)

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

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

You can watch the [Senate Floor Session](#) and [House Floor Session](#) live online.

Stories Invited

Send your stories about environmental issues, programs and positive actions to **PA Environment Digest** - DHess@CrisciAssociates.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 Crisci Associates and the public. Crisci Associates is a Harrisburg-based government and public affairs firm whose clients include Fortune 500 companies and non-profit organizations. For more information on Crisci Associates call 717-234-1716. All rights reserved.

Supporting Member PA Outdoor Writers Assn./PA Trout Unlimited

PA Environment Digest is a supporting member of the [Pennsylvania Outdoor Writers Association](#), [Pennsylvania Trout Unlimited](#) and the [Doc Fritchey Chapter Trout Unlimited](#).