



# —PA — Environment Digest

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Edited By David E. Hess, Crisci Associates

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## **\$1.2 Billion Approved for Infrastructure Upgrades, Funding for Farmers Left Behind**

The General Assembly and Gov. Rendell this week gave final approval to more than \$1.2 billion in new funding for infrastructure improvements, including water and sewer system upgrades, but only managed to restore some of the cuts made to the Department of Agriculture and conservation district funding without adding anything to help farmers meet federal and state clean water mandates.

The more than 40 groups supporting the [PA Fair Share for Clean Water Plan](#) called for both funding wastewater infrastructure improvements and farmers meet nutrient and sediment reduction requirements and to allow for future growth.

### **Helping Sewer System Ratepayers**

Funding for wastewater plant upgrades were included in [Senate Bill 2](#) (Earll-R-Erie) that provides \$850 million in funding for drinking water and wastewater plant improvements, flood protection projects and high hazard dam repair. Without adding new funding, the Rendell Administration amended the bill to include up to \$35 million to repair state-owned dams.

Wastewater plant funding was also included in [Senate Bill 1341](#) (Musto-D-Luzerne) that authorizes a \$400 million bond issue referendum to fund drinking water and wastewater projects that is due to be on the ballot in November.

Wastewater plant upgrades to meet federal Clean Water Act nutrient reduction mandates in the Chesapeake Bay Watershed alone are estimated to be over \$1 billion.

[A list of wastewater plants](#) in Pennsylvania that must meet new nutrient reduction requirements.

### **No Help for Family Farmers**

While the General Assembly did restore some of many budget cuts proposed by Gov. Rendell in programs to help farmers design and install conservation practices in the Department of Agriculture and conservation district budgets, no additional funding was approved to help farmers install conservation practices to meet federal and state nutrient reduction mandates.

[County conservation district](#) funding remained at the 2006-07 level, representing a cut of \$200,000 annually over the last two years. Districts provide the technical assistance farmers need to plan, design and install conservation practices.



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Without increased funding, farmers will be unable to install the estimated \$600 million worth of farm conservation practices the Department of Environmental Protection estimates are needed just to meet the nutrient reduction requirements in the Chesapeake Bay Watershed alone.

In addition, the Commonwealth will be unable to match the more than \$440 million in new funding earmarked for the Chesapeake Bay Watershed states in the just passed [federal Farm Bill](#).

Budget line items in the Department of Agriculture for the Nutrient Management Fund, agricultural research, the Penn State Extension Service were cut or stayed the same in spite of the new clean water mandates on farmers.

Just getting these conservation district and Department of Agriculture line items to where they are now in the final budget took extraordinary work and support from individual members of the General Assembly, especially given the way this year's budget was negotiated.

The starting point for budget talks was the budget proposed by the Governor (and largely passed by the Senate) that made significant cuts in all line items. The Governor made matters more difficult by lowering those numbers even more with a 1.3 percent across-the-board line item budget cut.

That starting point forced legislators to “buy back” the line items they wanted from funds allocated to each Caucus or from cuts in other places.

So, just to get where these farm related numbers are now took thousands of phone calls, faxes and emails from members of the Fair Share Clean Water Plan Coalition's grassroots.

### **Nutrient Credit Trading**

In addition to funding, the Fair Share Plan called for the adoption of legislation to create a Nutrient Credit Trading Bank that would help make the current Nutrient Credit Trading Program run effectively.

The Senate intends to hold a hearing on [Senate Bill 1493](#), introduced by Sen. Pat Vance (R-Cumberland), which establishes the Nutrient Credit Bank Program, this summer.

The Credit Bank concept is also included in [House Bill 2654](#), introduced by Rep. Mike Hanna-D-Centre, and [House Bill 2441](#) (Perry-R-Cumberland).

Without funding to support farm conservation projects and a functioning Nutrient Credit Trading system, Pennsylvania has no hope of meeting federal and state nutrient and sediment reduction requirements.

In addition, because of the cap on nutrient discharges, the number of nutrient credits available to offset new growth will be significantly reduced without farm conservation projects generating those credits.

The budget again included a \$75 million film development tax credit and \$45 million to put laptops on the desks of high school seniors.

For more information, visit the [PA Fair Share for Clean Water Plan website](#).

Sen. Armstrong (R-Lancaster), Majority Chair of the Senate Appropriations Committee, [comments on necessity of state borrowing](#) for infrastructure improvements.

**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](#)  
[Bills Including Fair Share for Clean Water Plan See Action in Senate, House](#)  
[Agriculture Committees OK Fair Share Clean Water Plan for Farmers](#)  
[Spotlight- REAP Gives Eby Farm the Opportunity to Expand No-Till Farming](#)  
[Senate OKs Another Part of Fair Share Clean Water Plan, Budget Talks Continue](#)

### **\$650 Million Renewable Energy Program, BioFuels Mandate, Incentives OK'd**

The General Assembly this week gave final approval to a \$650 Renewable Energy Investment Program designed to encourage wind, solar and other alternative energy sources. Also given final approved were a biofuels mandate and a production incentive program.



"This is a responsible plan that provides immediate assistance to consumers to reduce energy use, as well as a long-term approach for developing and implementing alternative energy across Pennsylvania. And it does not impose any new taxes on the consumers we are ultimately trying to help," said Sen. Mary Jo White (R-Venango), Majority Chair of the Senate Environmental Resources and Energy Committee.

"Pennsylvania will now have a framework in place to expand and diversify our energy supply, and encourage steps that can reduce demand and increase efficiency, both in our homes and businesses," said Sen. White. "It's an historic step that will boost the use of alternative and renewable energy throughout the Commonwealth."

"The only way to secure our energy future is to take steps now that allow Pennsylvania to be more energy efficient and conserve our natural resources," Gov. Rendell said. "We cannot reduce our dependence on foreign oil unless we make better use of clean, renewable energy and invest in our own home-grown fuel resources as proposed in the PennSecurity Fuels Initiative.

"The legislation that has been passed as part of this year's budget is a first step in addressing those issues. We're making an unprecedented investment to spur development of advanced energy resources that will offer new options to consumers at a time when gasoline, diesel fuel, electricity and natural gas prices are going through the roof."

The energy initiatives were included in three separate bills.

The Renewable Energy Investment Program was included in [Special Session House Bill 1](#) (DePasquale-D-York) that would provide the Commonwealth Financing Authority with \$500 million in bond funding and \$150 million in General Fund revenues for a variety of renewable energy programs, including—

- \$165 million for alternative energy grants/loans;
- \$100 million for Consumer Solar Energy Projects administered by DEP;
- \$92.5 million for Consumer Energy Conservation Projects;
- \$80 million for solar energy production;

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- \$50 million for Alternative Energy Production Tax Credits;
- \$40 million to Ben Franklin Technology Development Authority to support early stage development of alternative energy and energy efficiency technologies;
- \$40 million for Low-Income Home Energy Assistance;
- \$25 million for small scale renewable energy projects, geothermal, wind or manufacturing projects;
- \$25 million for high performance, energy efficient buildings for individuals and small businesses;
- \$25 million for coal-fired power plant pollution control technology administered by DEP
- \$5 million for Home Energy Efficiency Loan Program; and
- \$2.5 million for Data Center Consolidation Projects.

[A more detailed summary is available online.](#)

Also given final approval was [House Bill 1202](#) (Gerber-D-Montgomery), the Biofuel Development and In-State Production Incentive Act establishing a per gallon content requirement for biodiesel and cellulosic ethanol based on in-state production.

The departments of Agriculture and Transportation are to certify whether there is sufficient transportation, distribution and other infrastructure to implement the mandates at least six months prior to the effective date of each level of the mandate. If there is insufficient infrastructure, the mandate can be delayed at least six months.

The legislation also directs the Department of Environmental Protection to conduct a study of the air quality impact of the biofuel mandates on Pennsylvania meeting ozone and other federal air pollution standards.

The Department of Agriculture, in consultation with DEP, may suspend or modify the mandate by several factors, including but not limited to substantially increased costs to consumers or insufficient quantity or distribution of biodiesel or cellulosic ethanol.

[A more detailed summary of the bill is available online.](#)

[Special Session Senate Bill 22](#) (Tomlinson-R-Bucks), providing for biodiesel production incentives of 75 cents per gallon for three years (\$5.3 million annually) and creating a nitrogen tire inflation system, was also passed by the Senate and House.

For more information, visit the [Senate Environmental Resources and Energy Committee website](#).

### Major Environmental Initiatives Adopted, But Budget Trends Are Not Good

The good news in this year's budget is the General Assembly approved a \$1.2 billion water infrastructure funding program and a \$650 million renewable energy program.

The General Assembly also approved a string of landmark legislation to create a Climate Change Action Plan for the Commonwealth, updated the state's Deep Mine Safety law for the first time in over 45 years, formally established the PA Center for Environmental Education in law, updated the county conservation district law and adopted the Great Lakes water resources Compact. (*See separate stories*)

The bad news is \$15 million of the Recycling Fund was transferred to the General Fund to balance the budget and \$28.2 million was taken away from the Environmental Stewardship Fund and watershed cleanup to pay debt service for the Growing Greener II bond issue.

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In prior years, monies from the Environmental Stewardship Fund were diverted not only to pay debt service, but \$50 million was used to fund the Hazardous Sites Cleanup Program. ([7/11/05 Pa Environment Digest](#))

Last year Gov. Rendell and legislative leaders were stopped from using \$40 million from DCNR's Keystone Recreation, Parks and Conservation Fund when they tried to use that to finance the Hazardous Sites Cleanup Program. ([7/15/07 Pa Environment Digest](#))

The General Assembly and the Governor also choose not to address the more than \$600 million needed by family farmers to meet federal and state nutrient and sediment reduction requirements. ([See separate article](#))

Just getting the environmental line items to where they are now in the final budget this year—for county conservation districts and in the Department of Agriculture budget—took extraordinary work and support from individual members of the General Assembly, especially given the way this year's budget was negotiated.

The starting point for budget talks was the budget proposed by the Governor (and largely passed by the Senate) that made significant cuts in all line items. The Governor made matters more difficult by lowering those numbers even more with a 1.3 percent across-the-board line item budget cut.

That starting point forced individual legislators to “buy back” the line items they wanted from funds allocated to each Caucus or from cuts in other places.

So just to get where these numbers are now took thousands of phone calls, faxes and emails from the 40 member organizations of the Fair Share Clean Water Plan Coalition's grassroots.

At the same time the final budget was adopted, both Senate Republicans and Democrats warned of a looming \$1- \$2 billion budget deficit in the new budget they just approved, if state revenues continue to decline.

That warning has ominous implications for environmental funding in 2009-10.

Funding for a variety of projects under the Growing Greener II bond issue has run out or will run out shortly and nearly all of the money in the Environmental Stewardship Fund, financed by a \$4 fee on each ton of municipal waste, will be earmarked to pay the debt service for that bond issue.

Here are some other highlights from this year's budget—

### **Department of Environmental Protection**

- \$2.9 million increase for community flood protection
- \$11.7 million for drinking water, wastewater projects
- \$940,000 decrease in Black Fly Spraying
- \$400,000 decrease to Delaware River Basin Commission
- \$200,000 decrease to Susquehanna River Basin Commission

### **Department of Conservation and Natural Resources**

- \$2.3 million infrastructure initiative mapping
- \$1.3 million decrease in Heritage Parks Program

[A summary of the budget is available online](#) and [an agency and line item summary spreadsheet is also available online](#)

## PEC Praises Final Passage of Climate Change Action Plan Legislation

The Pennsylvania Environmental Council this week praised passage of [Senate Bill 266](#), the Pennsylvania Climate Change Act, which requires the development of a Climate Change Action Plan for Pennsylvania.

The legislation was sponsored by Sen. Ted Erickson (R-Delaware/Chester) in the Senate and Rep. Greg Vitali (D-Delaware) in the House.

“This legislation will help Pennsylvania address both the significant challenges and the potential opportunities associated with climate change,” said John Walliser, Vice President for Legal and Governmental Affairs for PEC. “Climate change will affect our economy, environment, and our quality of life; we commend Senator Erickson, Representative Vitali, and the other sponsors of the legislation for taking leadership on this immediate, critical issue.”

In 2007 PEC released its [Climate Change Roadmap for Pennsylvania Report](#) that documented the sources and impact of greenhouse gas emissions from Pennsylvania. A diverse panel of 22 stakeholders helped develop 38 specific policy recommendations for reducing greenhouse gas emissions, one of which included developing an action plan required by the legislation passed this week.

Pennsylvania currently accounts for approximately 1 percent of worldwide emissions of greenhouse gases, placing it among the top 25 emitting nations in the world. According to a report from the Union of Concerned Scientists, the effects of climate change will result in significant new challenges for Pennsylvania’s economy, with its two leading industries – agriculture and recreation and tourism – being particularly affected.

“Both Senator Erickson and Representative Vitali took the lead on the need to fully evaluate what climate change will mean to Pennsylvania for the foreseeable future,” said Walliser. “Thanks to their cooperation on seeing this legislation through, Pennsylvania now stands ready to meet this challenge head-on and even find opportunities for further economic development.”

The General Assembly is also considering legislation that would implement other recommendations made in the Climate Change Roadmap, including steps to encourage the use of biofuels, promoting the development of renewable energy sources, and setting energy conservation standards for new buildings.

PEC’s [Climate Change Roadmap Report](#) is available online.

## Pennsylvania Adopts Historic Great Lakes Compact Legislation

The Pennsylvania General Assembly this week gave final approval to [House Bill 1705](#), legislation that will ratify the Great Lakes – St. Lawrence River Basin Water Resources Compact. The bill now goes to Gov. Rendell for his consideration.

House Bill 1705 was sponsored by Representatives Patrick Harkins (D-Erie), John Hornaman (D-Erie), Rep. Florindo Fabrizio (D-Erie) and many others in the House, and supported in the



Senate by Senators Jane Earll (R-Erie) and Mary Jo White (R-Venango) who represent all of the Lake Erie Watershed.

“This is a historic moment for Pennsylvania and for the Great Lakes,” said John Walliser, Vice President of Legal and Governmental Affairs for the Pennsylvania Environmental Council. “We commend the leadership of the General Assembly – particularly the Erie delegation including Representative Patrick Harkins, Senator Mary Jo White, Senator Jane Earll, and Representative John Hornaman – for protecting a vital environmental, economic, and recreational resource for our state.”

The Great Lakes Compact will 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.

PEC helped develop and support the legislation by working directly with representatives of the City and County of Erie, agriculture, business and industry, and environmental interests in the Lake Erie Watershed.

“Lake Erie is critical for the northwest communities and industries who depend on sound management of its water resources,” noted Walliser. “The Great Lakes are a finite resource already experiencing extraordinary demands, including those from other areas of the country and even other nations that are eyeing the Great Lakes to fuel their own economic 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.”

Pennsylvania was the last of eight Great Lakes states to adopt the Compact, which now must be ratified by the U.S. Congress to become law.

**NewsClips:** [PA Approves Great Lakes Compact](#)  
[PA On Course to OK Pact to Protect Great Lakes](#)  
[Great Lakes Compact Passes PA, Prepares to Head to Congress](#)

## Deep Mine Safety Legislation Given Final Approval

The General Assembly this week gave final approval to [Senate Bill 949](#) (Kasunic-D-Somerset) that provides the first comprehensive update to the Bituminous Coal Mine Safety Act in more than 45 years.

The changes are in part in response to the recommendations made in 2002 after the [Quecreek Mine Rescue](#) and the later Sago Mine accident in West Virginia.

Last year the General Assembly passed the [Mine Families First Act](#) to put into law the policies Gov. Schweiker adopted to keep mine families involved in accidents informed of the progress of rescue operations.

The measure would create a "Coal Mine Safety Board" to review and recommend new mine safety technologies, mandate emergency shelters in bituminous coal mines, require greater safety precautions, establish a more reliable mine mapping system, and institute tough new penalties against mining companies that fail to comply with the law.



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"Every day over 5,000 Pennsylvania miners go into the earth to mine coal," Sen. Kasunic said. "This bill will help the industry keep pace with the latest technology and safety practices."

"It has been more than 45 years since those who toil within the earth's recesses have had improvements made to the law which governs their daily safety," Rep. DeWeese (D-Greene) said. "I have been working to make sure the hard-working miners of the Commonwealth have the best mine safety law in the nation, and I am delighted to say today's House passage gets us to that goal."

"Today's vote comes following months of discussions among the House and Senate, Governor Ed Rendell, the United Mine Workers of America and the Pennsylvania Coal Association," Rep. DeWeese said. "It was humbling working toward the common goal of securing safer conditions for the people who risk their lives underground so that we all may have light above it."

"This overdue legislation brings Pennsylvania mine safety into the 21st century with a host of new measures to prevent, prepare for and respond to mining accidents and emergencies," said Sen. Mary Jo White (R-Venango) who chairs the Senate Environmental Resources and Energy Committee. "Pennsylvania can be proud of its first-rate mine safety program. This legislation will once again serve as a national standard, and I urge the House to approve this bill quickly."

Senator White commended Gov. Rendell and DEP Secretary Kathleen McGinty, as well Rep. Bill DeWeese, and Senators Musto (D-Luzerne) and Kasunic for their work on the bill. The senator expressed special appreciation to George Ellis of the Pennsylvania Coal Association, whose members showed continued willingness to find a reasonable compromise on the legislation.

"Today's vote is progress on the work we began, following the Quecreek Mine accident, to modernize our mine safety laws, create a framework to update mine safety regulations in the future, and hold mine operators responsible for the safety of their mines," Gov. Rendell said. "I thank all who participated in the process, including the mining companies, the miners, and the legislature for working through these serious and complicated issues to forge this groundbreaking agreement. I also want to recognize Governor Mark Schweiker for his brilliant leadership during and after the Quecreek crisis."

**NewsClips:** [Mine Safety Bill Set to Become Law](#)  
[Updated Mine Safety Bill Sails Through House](#)

**Video Blog:** [Quecreek Mine Rescue Fifth Anniversary Renews Call for Mine Safety Bill](#)

**Link:** [Quecreek Mine Rescue Foundation](#)

## Online Video Features

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**New York Times Features Legacy Sediment Researchers Merritts, Walter**



The *New York Times* this week did [a feature story](#) in its Science section on Franklin & Marshall College professors Dorothy Merritts and Robert Walter and the work they've done on the issue of legacy sediments.



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The research Merritts and Walter are doing documented a new source of sediment and nutrient pollution— streambanks cut through sediment that was trapped behind hundreds of mill dams built in the 18th and 19th centuries.

Their research led to changes in public policies related to protecting the Chesapeake Bay and to the development of a new best management practice on restoring streams to their original floodplains, eliminating the pollution caused by legacy sediment.

The article includes an online video of Professor Merritts in the field (or rather in a stream) doing her research.

**Online Video:** [Legacy Sediments, Floodplain Restoration](#)

## On the Hill

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

The Senate and House committee meeting schedules and floor Calendars (such as they are) are listed here--

### Session Schedule

See you in September! The House returns to voting session on September 15. The Senate returns to voting session on September 16.

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

### Calendars/Committees

The Senate and House committee meeting schedules and floor Calendars as they left them for summer recess--

### Calendars

**House (Next Voting Day):** [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 Bill 44](#) (Rubley-R-Chester) banning the sale, installation and unsafe disposal of mercury thermostats; [House Resolution 546](#) (George-D-Clearfield) urging Congress to investigate gas and energy prices;; [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) 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.”

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**Senate:** All bills on the Calendar were tabled.

### Committees

Here are the Committee meeting sets for next week—

The House Game and Fisheries Committee will hear a presentation by Game Commission on oil, gas and mineral activities on State Game Lands in St. Mary's, Pa

### Bills Introduced

The following legislation of interest was introduced this week—

**Alternative Energy:** [Senate Bill 1506](#) (Kasunic-D-Somerset) amends the Alternative Energy Portfolio Standards Act to include advanced coal gasification as a Tier II energy source.

**Environmental Liability:** [House Bill 2677](#) (Marsico-R-Dauphin) amending the Lender Environmental Liability Protection Act to further provide for definitions and limitation of liability.

**Lifeguards:** [House Bill 2695](#) (Helm-R-Dauphin) providing for certification of lifeguards in State Parks.

**Live/Work Areas:** [House Bill 2701](#) (Argall-R-Schuylkill) establishing the Live Near Your Work Program to designate areas in the community to promote the relocation of employees closer to their workplaces.

**Gov's Energy Initiative:** [House Resolution 843](#) (George-D-Clearfield) authorizing the House Environmental Resources and Energy Committee to conduct an investigation into all aspects of the Governor's Energy Initiative.

### On the Governor's Desk

The following bills were given final approval by the Senate and House and are now on the Governor's desk for action--

**Deep Mine Safety:** [Senate Bill 949](#) (Kasunic-D-Somerset) update to the Bituminous Coal Mine Safety Act was amended by the Senate Rules Committee, passed by the Senate and concurred in by the House and is now on the Governor's desk. ([See separate article](#))

**NewsClips:** [Mine Safety Bill Set to Become Law](#)  
[Updated Mine Safety Bill Sails Through House](#)

**Great Lakes Compact:** [House Bill 1705](#) (Harkins-D-Erie) adopting the Great Lakes Compact regulating water withdrawals was given final approval by the Senate and now goes to the Governor for his action. ([See separate article](#))

**NewsClips:** [Editorial: PA Has Big Stake In Its Erie Coastline](#)

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**PA Environmental Ed Center:** [Senate Bill 356](#) (M.White-R-Venango) establishing the PA Center for Environmental Education in law was given final House approval, concurred in by the Senate and now goes to the Governor for his consideration.

**Water Infrastructure:** [Senate Bill 1341](#) (Musto-D-Luzerne) authorizing a \$400 million bond issue voter referendum for water, wastewater and stormwater projects and [Senate Bill 2](#) (Earll-R-Erie) providing \$850 million in funding for drinking water, wastewater, flood protection and high hazard dam repair projects (both part of the [PA Fair Share for Clean Water Plan](#)) were given final approval by the General Assembly and are now with the Governor for his action. (*See separate article*)

**NewsClips:** [Budget to Aid Water, Sewer, Bridge Projects](#)  
[Lawmakers See Opportunity to Fix Infrastructure Woes](#)  
[Water, Sewer Systems In Line for Cash Infusion](#)  
[Budget to Boost Infrastructure Investment](#)  
[Votes Near on \\$800 Million for Water, Sewer Projects](#)

**Climate Change Plan:** [Senate Bill 266](#) (Erickson-R-Delaware) requiring the development of a state climate change action plan was given final approval by the House without amendment so it goes directly to the Governor's desk. The bill is a Senate companion to [House Bill 110](#) (Vitali-D-Delaware) which passed the House last October. (*See separate article*)

**Renewable Energy:** [Special Session House Bill 1](#) (DePasquale-D-York) that would provide the Commonwealth Financing Authority with \$500 million in bond funding and \$150 million in General Fund revenues for a variety of renewable energy programs; [House Bill 1202](#) (Gerber-D-Montgomery) establishing a state mandate for biodiesel and cellulosic ethanol use based on in-state biofuel production capacity; [Special Session Senate Bill 22](#) (Tomlinson-R-Bucks) providing for biodiesel production incentives of 75 cents per gallon for three years (\$5.3 million annually) and creating a nitrogen tire inflation system grant program were all given final approval and sent to the Governor for his action. (*See separate article*)

**Conservation District Law Update:** [Senate Bill 1020](#) (Wonderling-R-Montgomery) updating the 1945 Conservation District Law was passed by the House and now goes to the Governor for action.

**Capital Budget Bill:** [House Bill 1589](#) (D.Evans-D-Philadelphia) the 2007-08 Capital Budget itemized project bill was reported out of the House Rules Committee and the House concurred in Senate amendments. The bill now goes to the Governor for consideration.

**Zoning Ordinances:** [House Bill 1329](#) (Kessler-D-Berks) and [House Bill 1330](#) (Kessler) further providing for appeals and challenges to zoning ordinances were passed by the Senate, concurred in by the House and the bills now go to the Governor for his action.

## Senate/House Bills Moving

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

### Senate

**PUC Nominations:** The Senate unanimously confirmed Gov. Rendell's two nominees for the Public Utility Commission—Robert Powelson and Wayne Gardner.

**River Basin Funding:** [Senate Resolution 344](#) (Brubaker-R-Lancaster) urging Congress to provide funding for river basin commissions was reported out of the Senate Environmental Resources and Energy Committee and adopted by the Senate.

**Nonstructural Alternatives to Flooding:** [House Bill 2539](#) (Seip-D-Schuylkill) and [House Bill 2546](#) (Conklin-D-Centre) authorizing nonstructural alternatives to control flooding were reported out of the Senate Environmental Resources and Energy Committee and were tabled.

**Neighborhoods:** [House Bill 1280](#) (Freeman-D-Lehigh) amending the Municipalities Planning Code to further define traditional neighborhood development was referred to the Senate Appropriations Committee.

**Historic Preservation Grants:** [House Bill 221](#) (Tangretti-D-Westmoreland) establishing an Historic Preservation Incentive Program was tabled.

**Electric Rate Cap Transition:** [Senate Bill 1134](#) (Tomlinson-R-Bucks) providing for a transition period after rate caps come off in 2010 was referred back to the Senate Consumer Protection and Professional Licensure Committee.

### House

**Renewable Energy Funding:** [Special Session Senate Bill 1](#) (MJ.White-R-Venango) establishing an Alternative Energy funding program was reported out of the House Environmental Resources and Energy Committee and referred to the House Appropriations Committee.

**Biofuels Incentives/Mandates:** [Special Session Senate Bill 36](#) (MJ. White-R-Venango) providing for a study and mandate for biodiesel was reported out of the House Environmental Resources and Energy Committee and referred to the House Appropriations Committee; [Special Session House Bill 3](#) (Gerber-D-Montgomery) providing for an ethanol and biodiesel mandate was reported from the House Environmental Resources and Energy Committee and referred to the House Rules Committee.

**Alternative Energy Portfolio:** [Special Session House Bill 62](#) (Depasquale-D-York) amending the Alternative Energy Portfolio Standards Act to include coal gasification and carbon sequestration projects in Tier II was reported out of the House Environmental Resources and Energy Committee and referred to the House Rules Committee.

**AEPS Energy Mandate:** [Special Session Senate Bill 64](#) (Waugh-R-York) amending the Alternative Energy Portfolio Standards Act to include paper making liquors as a Tier I alternative energy source was amended to increase the solar energy set aside in Tier I, reported out of the House Environmental Resources and Energy Committee, then referred to the House Appropriations Committee.

**Mercury Thermostats:** [House Bill 44](#) (Rubley-R-Chester) banning the sale, installation and unsafe disposal of mercury thermostats was reported from the House Rules Committee, referred to, amended and reported from the House Appropriations Committee and amended by the House on Second Consideration and is on the House Calendar for final action.

**Game Commission Board:** [House Bill 2381](#) (Hanna-D-Centre), which would prohibit former or current Game Commission employees or deputy conservation officers from serving on the board, was reported out of the House Game and Fisheries Committee.

"Outside interests have begun to dictate the board's decisions on hunting regulations and the management of state game lands," Rep. Hanna said. "Sportsmen and women have grown increasingly disappointed with the lack of other factors considered when making decisions."

"The current board does not consider the impact of their decisions on social and economic factors in the community," Rep. Hanna said. "A fresh perspective on wildlife management that will look at the issues from the people who are impacted most is needed."

**NewsClip:** [Lawmaker Would Cut Game Deputies' Powers](#)

**Elk Fence/Damage:** [House Bill 2575](#) (Hanna-D-Centre) providing for deterrent fences and payments for elk damage was given Second Consideration by the House and is now on the House Calendar for final action.

**Energy Assistance:** [House Resolution 627](#) (George-D-Clearfield) urging federal government to provide more heating assistance funding was adopted by the House.

### **Joint Conservation Committee Issues Report on Electronic Waste Recycling**

The [Joint Legislative Air and Water Pollution Control and Conservation Committee](#) this week issued a report this week on the issue of electronics waste recycling, including potential draft legislation on the topic.

The report provides an overview of the current status of legislative proposals related to e-waste regulation; a summary of the expert testimony heard during a Committee hearing last October, a summary of the types of e-waste programs that have been established in other states, a set of consensus point or recommendations for moving forward on e-waste recycling in Pennsylvania and draft legislation based on other states e-waste programs.

Two approaches to e-waste recycling were outlined in the report: producer responsibility where manufacturers pay for collection, transportation, recycling and Advance Recovery Fee where consumers pay a fee at retail when they purchase electronics. Recyclers are then reimbursed by the state.

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The Committee made a series of recommendations in the report—

- Any new legislative effort should continue to allow partnerships on e-waste recycling to benefit non-profit organizations;
- Focus should be on computer components since they can render profit;
- Encourage relationship between private sector computer manufactures and retailers and place the burden on manufactures to use less toxic materials that are easier to recycle;
- System should comply with federal, state and local laws;
- Fee should not be imposed on consumers but program should still be convenient to them.(free mail in disposal, staffed collection sites, periodic collection events, etc...);
- Retailers required to sell goods from participating manufactures;
- Manufactures must establish a free program to recycle their own computer products;
- Program needs to allow manufactures flexibility in design and implementation of e-waste recycling program while simultaneously requiring robust collection and reporting of information on results achieved;
- Manufactures need to establish “orphan waste” program to collect old computer components made by companies that no longer exist in the Commonwealth;
- Manufactures must submit programs to the Department of Environmental Protection;
- DEP should publish list of “approved manufacturers” and maintain a website with this list;
- DEP should report to General Assembly annually and should be responsible for enforcing the law and educating the public about the benefits of the program.

A critical element to the legislation, the Committee noted, is each manufacturer has to determine how it will comply with the legislation. Failure to comply will lead to fines and penalties.

E-waste is fastest growing U.S. waste and without change the disposal rates will increase. Although government should play a role in e-waste recycling, the system should not require new government programs or bureaucracies.

Although e-waste is currently on the state level agenda, the report said, a federal program could provide uniformity and preemption could occur if a national program was created that meets the intent of this legislation.

[A copy of the report is available online.](#)

The Joint Committee chair is Rep. Scott Hutchinson (R-Venango) and the vice-chair is Sen. Ray Musto (D-Luzerne).

## Other News

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### Ohio River Watershed Celebration Set for September 25

Circle this date on your fall calendar—September 25. That’s the date of this year’s always thrilling, always educational Ohio River Watershed Celebration.

Some new and exciting things are planned for this year’s riverboat cruise, including two Gateway Clipper Fleet vessels sailing the three rivers of Pittsburgh. One will be specially geared towards children K-12 with activities, games and educational program. The other will be geared to adults.

Last year over 800 individuals participated in the 2007 Ohio River Celebration, including watershed professionals, environmentalists, educators, students, folks in

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watershed groups, government officials, individuals in private business and industry and interested citizens joined together and enjoyed a beautiful warm and sunny autumn afternoon.

There will be educational poster displays, informative and interesting speakers on a wide variety of watershed topics, excellent networking opportunities, guided narration of points of interest seen along the riverbanks, beautiful scenery, great giveaways and much more.

Registration will begin soon! For more information contact Tom Grote by sending [tfgrote@verizon.net](mailto:tfgrote@verizon.net).

**Video Blog Feature:** [2007 Ohio River Watershed Celebration](#)

### Conservation Districts Awarded Over \$53,000 for Water Pollution Control Projects

The [PA Association of Conservation Districts, Inc.](#) this week announced the award of \$53,000 in Nonpoint Source Pollution Prevention Educational Mini-Grants to 24 county conservation districts.

PACD awarded grants up to \$2,500 for projects throughout the state that promote water pollution control. Funding for the grants is provided through the Department of Environmental Protection under Section 319 of the Clean Water Act, administered by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.

The Mini-Grant awards include:

- **Berks Conservation District:** Nitrogen & BMP Education Program for Farmers (\$1,500) One-on-one education with local farmers on nutrient application timing and methods, as well as no-till farming.
- **Bucks Conservation District:** Riparian Buffer Maintenance for Streamside Property Owners (\$2,000) Through a partnership with Delaware Valley College, faculty and students prepare educational materials pertaining to property streamside (riparian buffer) management for homeowners. The materials will be distributed along with an offer for free property evaluations that will include an educational component.
- **Cameron Conservation District:** Agriculture Workshop on Erosion & Sedimentation and Nutrient Management (\$675) Workshop on agriculture-related erosion and sedimentation problems and what best management practices (BMPs) can reduce this impact on streams and rivers.
- **Cameron Conservation District:** Chapter 102 Erosion and Sedimentation Workshop (\$675) Workshop focuses on Chapter 102 regulations and how they enhance and improve the County's abundant natural resources through the use of proper BMPs.
- **Chester Conservation District:** Rain Barrel Workshop (\$2,000) Workshop covers stormwater issues relevant to nonpoint source (NPs) pollution and the benefits of using a rain barrel. Participants will construct and install a rain barrel.
- **Crawford Conservation District:** Pymatuning Clean Water Festival (\$2,000) Festival serves as an interactive learning area geared toward educating the public on water quality, NPs pollution, and watershed conservation issues.
- **Dauphin Conservation District:** Municipal Planning Workshop & BMP Tour (\$2,000) Workshop provides a review of issues and regulations related to stormwater runoff as well as an educational tour of 16 different functioning BMPs.

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- **Elk Conservation District:** Watershed Awareness Booth (\$1,000) Booth displays educational material on local watersheds and NPs pollution, where it is in the county, and what we can each do to remediate it.
- **Erie Conservation District:** No-till Field Day (\$1,250) Field day focuses on the importance of no-till farming on protecting the environment, particularly local water quality as it pertains to the impacts of NPs pollution.
- **Erie Conservation District:** No-till Meeting (\$1,250) No-till meeting is a partnership of northwest PA counties for farmers. Meeting focuses on utilizing no-till and cover crops to reduce soil loss and NPs pollution from runoff.
- **Greene Conservation District:** Conservation Farmer Tour & Articles (\$1,500) Project involves a farm tour and newspaper articles that draw attention to local farms that can be visited where agricultural BMPs are in place and have been successfully carried out.
- **Indiana Conservation District:** Fundamentals of Successful Farming: Rotational Grazing Workshops (\$2,000) Field days provide education for Amish dairy farming community about rotational grazing with an emphasis on environmental stewardship in dairy production.
- **Jefferson Conservation District:** Project Grass Conference & Farm Tours (\$2,000) Grazing conference focuses on rotational grazing in an effort to decrease NPs pollution in watersheds by better utilizing land and water resources.
- **Jefferson Conservation District:** Watershed Festival (\$1,250) Festival promotes county-wide conservation efforts to correct and avoid NPs pollution. Educates stakeholders on how to become involved in locally-led environmental efforts.
- **Lancaster Conservation District:** Lancaster/Lebanon Watershed Forum (\$2,000) Educational forum and networking opportunity to increase knowledge of participants on NPs pollution and to fuel continued involvement in watershed conservation.
- **Lancaster Conservation District:** Rain Barrels in Urban Environments (\$2,000) Workshop provides stormwater education and distributes rain barrels. Goal of project is to reduce the amount of stormwater runoff emanating from the urban environment.
- **Lawrence Conservation District:** Guidance for Proper Installation of Best Management Practices (\$1,650) Produce a PowerPoint presentation that details, step-by-step, proper installation of BMPs. Hold a local educational workshop using the presentation as a learning tool.
- **Luzerne Conservation District:** Watershed Workshops (\$2,000) Workshops address means of reducing NPs pollution and stormwater runoff. Include demonstrations on how to keep sediment and nutrient pollution out of local waterways.
- **McKean Conservation District:** Clean Water Campaign (\$2,000) Campaign shows that individuals can make a difference, even if they don't live next to a stream. Focus is on negative impacts of NPs pollution on water resources and health.
- **Montgomery Conservation District:** Rain Barrel Workshop (\$2,000) Workshop educates residents on proper management of stormwater to enhance and improve water quality by reducing NPs pollution generated on their property.
- **Northumberland Conservation District:** Twilight Meetings (\$750) Meetings educate farmers about conservation and how to improve their practices including through the installation of agricultural BMPs.



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- **Pike Conservation District:** Pike/Wayne Rain Barrel Workshop (\$2,000) Program for homeowners on importance of stormwater management. Focus is on NPs pollution, how it affects the watershed, and how to reduce it by installing a rain barrel.
- **Pike Conservation District:** Pike/Wayne/Monroe Stormwater/Flood Summit (\$2,000) Summit targets local decision-makers to inform and educate them on the importance of stormwater and floodplain management and implications for reducing water pollution.
- **Potter Conservation District:** Agricultural E&S Nutrient and Sediment Reduction Clinic (\$2,000) Program promotes understanding of how to reduce NPs pollution through erosion and sedimentation (E&S) controls and how the reduction of erosion benefits watersheds.
- **Somerset Conservation District:** Watershed Summit & Tour (\$2,000) Summit and Tour focuses on the Casselman River Watershed, historically impacted by severe point and nonpoint source mine drainage. Tour highlights restoration efforts and educates participants on actions they can continue to take.
- **Venango Conservation District:** Conservationist Newsletter (\$2,000) Newsletter promotes understanding of the importance of conservation and the impact that conservation practices have on NPs pollution. Newsletter features actions to take.
- **Venango Conservation District:** Rain Barrel Education Project (\$2,000) Workshops provide stormwater management education and cover the construction of rain barrels. Educational brochures will also be developed and distributed.
- **Warren Conservation District:** Conservation Tour (\$2,000) Tour educates area residents about agriculture and conservation, the prevention or control of NPs pollution, BMPs on area farms, and riparian restoration projects.
- **Warren Conservation District:** Rotational Grazing as Nutrient Management Tool (\$2,000) Tours cover rotational grazing as a nutrient management tool, and strategies for transitioning from a barn and concrete management system to a grass-based system. Focus is on reducing NPs pollution.
- **Wayne Conservation District:** Contractor's Workshop (\$1,125) Workshop addresses NPs Pollution through E&S education and stormwater, including the use of BMPs. Also touches on oil and gas site preparation and remediation.
- **Wayne Conservation District:** Loggers & Stone Harvesters Workshop (\$1,275) Workshop addresses NPs Pollution through E&S education, including the use of BMPs and issues relevant to Chapter 102 and 105 regulations.
- **Westmoreland Conservation District:** We All Live Downstream: Conservation Tour of Sewickley Creek Watershed (\$2,000) Tour includes sites where BMPs are being used to improve the quality of the Sewickley Creek watershed. Relevant NPs education will be provided at each site.

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

### **\$54,000 to Safeguard Clean Water Thru County Conservation Districts**

The [PA Association of Conservation Districts, Inc.](#) this week awarded \$54,000 in Chesapeake Bay Educational Mini-Grants to 22 county conservation districts.

PACD awarded grants up to \$2,500 for projects throughout the state that promote clean water. Funding for the grants is provided through the Department of Environmental Protection's Chesapeake Bay Program.

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The projects include:

- **Berks Conservation District:** No-Till Workshops (\$2,000) Workshops focus on no-till farming and cover crop installation to improve overall health of the local watershed.
- **Blair Conservation District:** Public Water Festival (\$1,250) Water festival provides education on clean water. Project also involves the development of educational materials and displays.
- **Bradford Conservation District:** Nutrient Management Field Day (\$2,000) Field day aims to improve the knowledge and capabilities of practicing and future farmers in managing nutrient and soil resources for maximum benefit to the farming community and the environment.
- **Cambria Conservation District:** No-Till Field Day (\$1,650) Field day highlights no-till, cover crops, and plots that show the benefits of conservation practices from environmental and farm profitability perspectives.
- **Centre Conservation District:** Agriculture Workshops & Pasture Walks (\$2,000) Workshops provide education and encouragement for farmers to install stream-bank fencing, and to implement rotational grazing and cover crop/no-till systems.
- **Clearfield Conservation District:** Horses & Watershed Health (\$1,445) Workshop provides education for horse owners on environmentally beneficial practices they can implement in order to improve water quality.
- **Cumberland Conservation District:** Promoting Stormwater Management by Using Rain Barrels (\$2,000) Project provides educational information about water conservation and stormwater management. Free rain barrels are constructed by local Vo-Ag and science students.
- **Cumberland Conservation District:** What You Need to Know about your Well Water and NPS Pollution (\$2,000) Workshop focuses on ground water quality and protection including septic system management as well as the effect of nonpoint source (NPs) pollution on drinking water.
- **Dauphin Conservation District:** Forested Riparian Buffer Education and Demonstration Project (\$2,000) Forested riparian buffer is constructed along the Swatara Creek to serve as a NPS educational and demonstration project available for guided or self-guided tours.
- **Franklin Conservation District:** Rain Barrel Workshops & Distribution (\$1,825) Workshops cover stormwater issues relevant to reducing NPs pollution and the concept "We All Live Downstream" - rain barrels are distributed to attendees.
- **Lackawanna Conservation District:** Stormwater Reduction with Rain Barrels (\$2,000) Seminar focuses on impacts of stormwater, strategies for reducing stormwater runoff and watershed function as it relates to NPs pollution.
- **Lancaster Conservation District:** Watersheds: Making the Connection (\$1,745) Interactive educational display at Cherry Crest Farm Maize Maze allows visitors to investigate nonpoint and point source pollution in the Chesapeake Bay Watershed.
- **Lebanon Conservation District:** Horse Pasture Management (\$1,815) Workshop focuses on properly maintained pastures, how they are good for the horses that graze them, the soil, and nearby streams.
- **Lycoming Conservation District:** Lycoming/ Tioga Floodplain and Riparian Protection Summit (\$2,000) Project brings together municipalities to explain stream

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dynamics and how riparian and floodplain management can help with flooding and NPs pollution reduction.

- **Lycoming Conservation District:** Rain Barrel Workshops (\$2,000) Workshops address the importance of installing rain barrels as a means to decrease the harmful effects of stormwater runoff.
- **Lycoming Conservation District:** Urban Nutrient Management Workshops (\$2,000) Workshops for homeowners on using soil samples as a tool to protect local waterways.
- **Mifflin Conservation District:** Agriculture in the 21st Century Conference (\$2,000) Conference focuses on NPs pollution reduction, best management practices (BMPs), and everyday actions we can each take to make a difference in our local watersheds.
- **Northumberland Conservation District:** Tri-County Stormwater/Flood Summit Workshop (\$2,000) Meeting covers stormwater management techniques that reduce NPs pollution. Participants will receive a "toolbox" of educational resources.
- **Northumberland Conservation District:** Twilight Meetings (\$750) Meetings educate farmers about conservation and how to improve their practices including the installation of agricultural BMPs.
- **Northumberland Conservation District:** Winter Conference (\$1,500) Conference works to create an awareness of watersheds and the NPS pollution present in them. Promotes wise use of our natural resources to improve local watersheds.
- **Perry Conservation District:** Aerial Seeding Field Day (\$2,000) Field day includes an aerial seeding demonstration/presentation and education on nutrient management, no-till farming, and benefits of cover crops.
- **Snyder Conservation District:** Farmers Winter Meeting (\$1,850) Meeting covers topics related to the reduction of nutrient, sediment, and chemical pollution in our surface and ground waters originating from farms.
- **Snyder Conservation District:** No-Till Informational Meetings (\$1,000) Meetings to exchange no-till experiences among farmers. Content includes education on NPs pollution reduction and implications for the Chesapeake Bay.
- **Snyder Conservation District:** Women in Agriculture Forum (\$1,250) Meeting geared towards women in the agricultural community. Topics include BMPs and environmental issues that affect the water quality in our streams.
- **Sullivan Conservation District:** Rain Barrel Workshop for Homes and Businesses (\$1,525) Project educates individuals on doing their part in conservation and NPs pollution prevention by raising awareness of quantity and quality issues with storm water runoff.
- **Sullivan Conservation District:** Sullivan/Bradford Floodplain and Riparian Protection Summit (\$2,000) Project brings together municipalities to explain stream dynamics and how riparian and floodplain management can help with flooding and NPs pollution reduction.
- **Susquehanna Conservation District:** Dealing with Your Streamside Property (\$1,500) Workshop for homeowners on how they can effectively deal with living along side a stream and the responsibilities that come with it to protect local water quality.
- **Susquehanna Conservation District:** Heavy Equipment Contractors Workshop (\$1,050) Workshop to educate and update contractors and municipalities regarding BMPs for erosion and sediment control and waterway management.

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- **Union Conservation District:** Stormwater Runoff Reduction (\$2,000) Stormwater workshops with free rain barrel distribution program and display that focuses on reducing stormwater runoff and improving infiltration.
- **Wyoming Conservation District:** Conservation Tour (\$2,000) Tour demonstrates what steps can be taken to reduce NPs pollution. Tour encourages participants to take action based on what they have learned.
- **Wyoming Conservation District:** Wyoming/Susquehanna Floodplain and Riparian Protection Summit (\$2,000) Project brings together municipalities to explain stream dynamics and how riparian and floodplain management can help with flooding and NPs pollution reduction.

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

### USDA Holds Chesapeake Bay Listening Session In Annapolis July 14

On July 14, USDA's Natural Resources Conservation Service will hold a [public listening session](#) on the Chesapeake Bay provisions of the 2008 Farm Bill.

Stakeholders and the public are encouraged to bring their ideas about practices, programs, and geographic areas they see as priorities under these provisions.

The Food, Conservation, and Energy Act of 2008 (2008 Farm Bill) contains new funding for conservation program assistance targeted for the Chesapeake Bay Watershed, utilizing established conservation programs and practices.

The session begins at 10:00 a.m. in the Lowes Annapolis Hotel, Ballrooms A&B. The hotel's address is 126 West Street, Annapolis, Maryland, 21401. Telephone: 410-263-7777.

For additional information, please visit the [listening session webpage](#) or contact Molly McDonough at 717-237-2208.

### Native Eastern Brook Trout Added to PA Wildlife Action Plan



The Fish and Boat Commission formally added naturally reproducing eastern brook trout to the [Pennsylvania Wildlife Action Plan](#), the document that prescribes conservation measures for species and their critical habitats before they become more costly to protect and restore.

“The Pennsylvania Wildlife Action Plan is the guiding document for protection, management and recovery of species of concern,” said Doug Austen, PFBC Executive Director. “A major theme of state wildlife action plans is to ‘Keep Common Species Common,’ and by amending our plan to include wild eastern brook trout, we are recognizing their needs and their habitats.”

The amendment, which was recently approved by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, provides goals and objectives for managing the species. Although wild eastern brook trout are doing well in Pennsylvania, their habitat continues to be degraded by pollution, poor land-use practices, acidic precipitation and sedimentation.

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A 2006 report by the [Eastern Brook Trout Joint Venture](#), a partnership of the National Fish Habitat Initiative, found that populations of the fish have been eliminated or greatly reduced throughout more than 70 percent of their historic habitat in Pennsylvania.

“This amendment specifically identifies goals and objectives to improve our understanding of the status of wild eastern brook trout and approaches for protection, management, and restoration,” Austen said. “The proposed amendment received overwhelming support during the public comment period when we were considering the addition.”

Austen emphasized that the designation does not prohibit anglers from catching and releasing or harvesting eastern brook trout, which is the Commonwealth’s state fish.

The native range of the eastern brook trout extends along the Appalachians from Georgia to Maine and encompasses 17 states. With the addition by Pennsylvania, 13 of the 17 states have listed eastern brook trout in their Wildlife Action Plans.

Nationally, each state and U.S. territory was required by Congress in 2005 to complete a wildlife action plan in order to continue to receive funding from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service for State Wildlife Grants program.

Historically, since 2002, Pennsylvania has received approximately \$2 million annually. These funds are shared equally between the Fish and Boat Commission and the Game Commission to address species identified in the Wildlife Action Plan.

### DEP Requests Comments on Armstrong County TMDL Watershed Plan

The Department of Environmental Protection is asking for public comments on the proposed Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) Plan for Patterson Creek in Armstrong County.

Comments are due August 1.

Copies of the TMDL Plan are available on [DEP’s TMDL webpage](#). For more information contact Joe Boyland by sending email to [joboylan@state.pa.us](mailto:joboylan@state.pa.us).

### PennVEST Holds Public Hearing July 14 on State Water Revolving Fund Priorities

The [PA Infrastructure Investment Authority](#) will hold a hearing on July 14 in Harrisburg for the Fiscal Year 2009 Intended Use Plans for the Drinking Water and Clean Water State Revolving Fund priorities.

The DWSRF will be capitalized with approximately \$32.9 million of Federal FY 2008 funds and approximately \$6.58 million of State funds. The CWSRF will be capitalized with approximately \$26.9 million of Federal funds and approximately \$5.4 million of State funds.

For more information see the [full PA Bulletin notice](#).

### PA CleanWays Releases Illegal Dumpsite Surveys for 9 Counties



[PA CleanWays](#) has released [Illegal Dumpsite Surveys](#) for nine counties: Bedford, Berks, Crawford, Fulton, Lawrence, McKean, Schuylkill, Somerset, and Venango.

The surveys identified 891 illegal dumpsites that contained an estimated 3,067 tons of trash and debris in the

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nine counties. Here are the county by county results--

- **Bedford:** There were 128 dumpsites identified containing 869.75 tons of trash. Twenty percent of the sites were determined to be active and 90 percent of the sites were located in a rural area.
- **Berks:** There were 100 dumpsites identified, containing 184.75 tons of trash. Ninety one percent of the sites were determined to be active and 73 percent of the sites were located in a rural area.
- **Crawford:** There were 82 dumpsites identified containing 115.38 tons of trash. Forty six percent of the sites were determined to be active and 95 percent of the sites were located in a rural area.
- **Fulton:** There were 19 dumpsites identified in Fulton County containing 169 tons of trash. Eighty nine percent of the sites were determined to be active and 100 percent of the sites were located in a rural area.
- **Lawrence:** There were 31 dumpsites identified containing 111.50 tons of trash. Ninety seven percent of the sites were determined to be active and 68 percent of the sites were located in a rural area.
- **McKean:** There were 73 dumpsites identified in McKean County containing 165.50 tons of trash. Eighty-two percent of the sites were determined to be active and 100 percent of the sites were located in a rural area.
- **Schuylkill:** There were 74 dumpsites identified containing 522.88 tons of trash. Ninety-three percent of the sites were determined to be active and 96 percent of the sites were located in a rural area.
- **Somerset:** There were 210 dumpsites identified containing 542.50 tons of trash. Sixty one percent of the sites were determined to be active and 95 percent of the sites were located in a rural area.
- **Venango:** There was 174 dumpsites identified containing 386.38 tons of trash. Ninety percent of the sites were determined to be active and 98 percent of the sites were located in a rural area.

Since 2005, PA CleanWays has surveyed 24 counties locating over 2,600 dumpsites with a total estimated tonnage of 11,000 tons and expects to complete its county by county surveys by 2012.

“Locating dumpsites and assessing how big of a problem illegal dumping is in Pennsylvania is a vital step to addressing the solution,” says Shannon Reiter, President of PA CleanWays. “Once the sites are identified, assessed, and mapped, we can use the surveys to prioritize sites for cleanup and abatement, document problem materials within each dumpsite, develop plans for proper disposal, and provide a benchmark to measure cleanup progress. Additionally, constituents in these counties can begin addressing the problem through public policy, resource allocation, and community education.”

Funding for this latest round of surveys was provided through grants from the Department of Environmental Protection and the Richard King Mellon Foundation. PA CleanWays of Somerset County also contributed to the Somerset County survey.

“Illegal dumpsites are a blight on our communities. They impair our quality of life and diminish our economic competitiveness,” said Department of Environmental Protection Secretary Kathleen A. McGinty. “These surveys, which DEP is proud to support, are important tools for identifying the scope of the problem, encouraging public

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participation, and developing strategies to remove this waste from our land and waterways."

PA CleanWays' illegal dump surveys educate state, county, and local officials about the problem of illegal dumping and provide valuable data about the dumpsites and the community in which they reside to address the problem through cleanups, municipal waste collections, and recycling programs.

For more information, visit the [PA CleanWays website](#) or contact PA CleanWays Program Manager Todd Crouch at 877-772-3673 ext. 16 or send email to: [tcrouch@pacleanways.org](mailto:tcrouch@pacleanways.org).

### Summary of Comments on State Forest Management Plan Now Available

The Department of Conservation and Natural Resources has completed a summary and [response to public comments](#) made on changes to the Bureau of Forestry's master management plan.

The plan will chart the course of Pennsylvania's state forests for future generations.

"We heard from a variety of forest users during the comment period, with some of the most challenging issues discussed being the possibility of developing wind energy on state forestlands, leasing for oil and gas extraction and deer management," State Forester Dan Devlin said. "Hearing from the public gives us insight into their needs and concerns related to the forest, which allows us to adapt our management strategies."

DCNR received 292 written comments. About 340 people attended a series of nine public meetings on the plan this past fall.

The response document describes how the comments will be incorporated into the framework of the management plan.

While the first resource management plan almost 50 years ago focused on timber management, the new plan and its recent revisions take an ecosystem approach, with a goal of future forest health in order to provide an array of resources, uses, and values. A key component of the plan remains the expansion of the state's wild and natural areas by more than 13,000 acres.

As a result of the process, the following themes represent key areas for the bureau to focus on over the next five years:

- Provide better data and explanations of what is considered when making management decisions, including the tradeoffs and impacts those actions can have;
- Plan for and establish good communications efforts that involve stakeholders on emerging issues, such as invasive species and ecosystem management; and
- Improve scientific understandings of the economic, ecological and stakeholder impacts of management decisions, and crisis issues such as global warming and invasive species.

The [summary of comments and responses](#) is available online.

### Click a Mouse, Plant 5 Trees in a PA State Park for Free!

With just a click of your mouse, you can help to plant trees in Pennsylvania' State Parks, courtesy of the [Odwalla juice company](#) of Dinuba, California.

Odwalla, working with the [Pennsylvania Parks and Forests Foundation](#), will donate up to five trees per person who visit the special [Odwalla plant a tree website](#).

It's simple. Choose Pennsylvania as the state in which you want to plant trees and choose the number of trees you want to have planted (up to five)! For every tree selected, PPF will get a portion of the \$50,000 that Odwalla has committed for tree plantings.

Right now, Colorado is leading in the number of visits to the website. Let's try to be the state with the most visits. More trees mean nicer parks, cleaner air, and better habitat! Share this email with your email list, family, friends, coworkers, and colleagues, and ask them to share with others.

Thank you for helping to be a steward of our state parks and forests!

## International Recognition For Dark Skies at Cherry Springs State Park

[Cherry Springs State Park](#) has been designated as the second International Dark Sky Park by the [International Dark-Sky Association](#). The announcement was made this week at IDA's annual meeting in Tucson, Arizona.

This certification recognizes Cherry Springs State Park's exceptional commitment to dark sky protection and restoration on public lands. The IDSP program was established in 2006 by IDA, a Tucson based non-profit organization dedicated to preserving the nighttime environment. This Pennsylvania park has become a leader in night sky protection and appreciation, beckoning stargazers to seek out its celestial wonders.



*The Milky Way from Cherry Springs State Park  
Photo by: Dave Wymor*

Cherry Springs State Park is located far from cities and among the forested plateaus of North Central Pennsylvania. Cherry Springs is nearly as natural as it was two centuries ago.

The park is not only Pennsylvania's signature dark sky area, but offers one of the last best views of the starry sky in the Eastern United States. Cherry Springs State Park experiences almost no "light pollution"—the adverse effect of obtrusive light caused by improper outdoor lighting. It drowns out the view of stars, comets, meteors, aurora, and the Milky Way, but also impacts humans and the planet in other ways.

"If you've ever been annoyed at a neighbor's yard light or robbed of sleep by a glaring streetlight, you have experienced another side of light pollution," says Elizabeth Hospodarsky, executive director of the International Dark-Sky Association. "This errant light from near and far is a problem for nocturnal wildlife and has been identified as a substantial energy waste. The leadership demonstrated by The Pennsylvania Department of Conservation and Natural Resources and Cherry Springs shows that protecting the view of the cosmos also makes economic sense, preserves ecosystems, and maintains quality of life."

The state park has retrofitted all of their outdoor lights to be night sky friendly. Using readily available light fixtures that direct all light downward and combined with electricity saving 13-watt compact fluorescent lamps, there is more than enough light for visibility given the surrounding environment.

Some areas of the park are even designated as no-light zones to protect owls, bats, and a host of indigenous mammals; and to allow astronomer's and casual stargazer's eyes to become fully dark-adapted.



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Once adapted to the dark night, it is possible to see thousands of faint stars that would be washed out from a suburban or city location. Experience in remote parks, such as Natural Bridges National Monument, and communities, such as Flagstaff, Arizona, have shown that the night sky can indeed be restored by using smarter outdoor lighting solutions.

This designation by IDA is the culmination of a novel effort that began in the late 1990s by amateur astronomers ecstatic that starry skies were still accessible in the East.

In 2000 the Department of Conservation and Natural Resources declared Cherry Springs a dark sky site in the Commonwealth. By 2002 the park was providing regular stargazing programs for visitors that proved very popular.

In 2003 Pennsylvania Parks and Forests Foundation recognized the importance of the night sky above Cherry Springs and aided in implementing a strategic vision for the park that included telescope pads, observatories for rent, and educational materials all designed to facilitate the enjoyment of the starry sky. The light pollution free sky is also a tourism draw and benefit to the local economy.

Cherry Springs State Park is part of the Pennsylvania Wilds tourism region, a 12-county region in northcentral and northwestern Pennsylvania offering visitors remote, authentic and rugged outdoor experiences. The region includes more than 2 million acres of public lands, including 29 state parks, eight state forests, thousands of miles of streams and trails, and the Allegheny National Forest. Visitors to the region enjoy boundless natural beauty, unlimited recreation, and old fashioned, small town charm.

“This designation is continued validation that this region has something special to offer to our visitors,” said DCNR Secretary Michael DiBerardinis. “We are proud of what we have protected, and hope our visitors will enjoy the remoteness of the Pennsylvania Wilds and Cherry Springs State Park for many years to come.”

Further information on Cherry Springs State Park is available here or by contacting park manager Chip Harrison at 814-435-5010. The IDA is working with several other parks towards IDSP certification; criteria is available on the IDA site.

*(This article was reprinted from the DCNR's [Resource online newsletter](#).)*

### **Televisions Now Accepted Free at Lancaster Authority HHW Facility**

On July 1 the [Lancaster County Solid Waste Management Authority](#) Household Hazardous Waste Facility began accepting televisions for recycling. No external speakers, VCR or DVD players, or other peripheral television equipment will be accepted at the HHW.

This free service is provided for Lancaster County residents.

The first 200 customers delivering a television to the HHW will receive a gift from LCSWMA. During the month of July HHW customers bringing televisions for recycling have the opportunity to enter a drawing to win a Toshiba 22” LCD HDTV/DVD Combo.

Jim Warner, LCSWMA’s Executive Director said, “Adding this new recycling service for Lancaster County residents demonstrates the Authority’s continued commitment to improving the environmental management of solid waste and recyclable materials whenever we identify an opportunity to do so.

The unique free drive-thru Household Hazardous Waste Facility is available for all Lancaster County residents to properly recycle and dispose an extensive list of potentially hazardous materials found in the home.”

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The HHW facility is open Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. and on Saturday from 8 a.m. to noon. In addition to televisions, the HHW facility also accepts free from residents: computers, cell phones, fluorescent bulbs (including compact bulbs), other devices that contain mercury (i.e. thermometers and thermostats), batteries, pesticides, herbicides, insecticides, household cleaners, paints and many more.

An Authority brochure called “[What’s So Special About Special Waste?](#)” provides information about household hazardous waste and other materials that require special handling.

### Center for Dirt and Gravel Road Holds Oil and Gas Drilling Issues Meeting July 16

The [PSU Center for Dirt and Gravel Road Studies](#) will hold a roundtable on oil and gas drilling issue on July 16 from 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. at the Centre County/Penn State Visitor Center, 800 East Park Ave., State College.

Pennsylvania is experiencing a modern “gold rush” with the renewed oil and gas exploration and recovery. If you are concerned with the effect this boom is having on existing roads, and the effect of new access roads, this roundtable is for you.

The Center has invited representatives of the Department of Environmental Protection, Allegheny National Forests, State Forest, Conservation Districts, Game Commission, PENNDOT, PSATS, oil and gas associations and producers, and others to attend.

The Center is receiving an increasing amount of calls voicing concern about the effect of oil and gas roads on the environment. The calls come from public and private entities alike, and usually fall into two categories: concern about the environmental impact of new access roads; and concern about the effect of hauling equipment on the condition of existing public roads.

The objectives of the roundtable are to: begin a dialog about road problems associate with oil and gas well roads; share ideas on what is working, and what is not and determine what actions or guidance are needed to address the problems.

This informal roundtable meeting will promote the open exchange and sharing of experiences and ideas. Please plan to attend with an open mind and a willingness to listen. The discussion will focus on the environmental effects of new access roads and the effect on existing roads. It will not deal with the effects of gas pads or the drilling operations themselves.

If you are interested in attending, please contact Kathy Moir at the Center for Dirt and Gravel Road Studies at Penn State by sending email to: [kam16@psu.edu](mailto:kam16@psu.edu) or call 814-863-9983.

### Program Offers Wind Energy Assessments to Public, Private Entities in PA

The [Saint Francis University Renewable Energy Center](#) in Loretto, Cambria County, has announced another application period for its popular statewide [Community Wind Project](#). Public and private entities can receive a wind energy assessment of their property at no upfront cost.

“Community wind” refers to mid to large-scale wind power projects owned by public or private entities for on-site



usage or sale to the grid. The key feature of community wind is local ownership and control which maximizes local benefit.

Projects can consist of one to several turbines and produce 100 kilowatts – 10 megawatts (enough power for 20 – 2,500 homes respectively).

The vision is wind turbines powering municipalities, water treatment facilities, schools, colleges, ski resorts, businesses, farmer cooperatives, and other public and private facilities.

Eligible sites have the following characteristics: high elevation typically over 2,000 feet of elevation is necessary for mid to large-scale turbines; close proximity to a large energy demand; and large acreage.

The Community Wind Project was established to support community wind development in Pennsylvania through site identification, upfront technical assistance and feasibility analysis, and project development consulting.

The Project owns and installs 168 feet tall meteorological towers on properties typically for 12 months. Over 500 applications from nearly every county in the Commonwealth have been received since the Project was launched in 2005. Testing towers have been installed in four counties—Blair, Cambria, Erie and Somerset.

Just 100 megawatts of locally-owned wind power could mean \$14 million in annual revenues to rural Pennsylvania communities. Currently there are approximately 250 megawatts of installed wind power in Pennsylvania though none is community-owned.

Wind power development is projected to reach 5,000 megawatts state-wide by 2030 and the Community Wind Project seeks to explore the viability of 10 – 20 percent of that development being locally-owned and controlled.

Those interested in small, residential-scale wind turbines should not apply to the Community Wind Project, however, they are encouraged to contact the Center for information about the Renewable Energy Installers Directory which has information about small wind system installers.

Founded in 2005, the Saint Francis University Renewable Energy Center promotes community and residential scale renewable energy in Pennsylvania. The Center's mission is to lead and educate communities, schools and businesses in the development of cost - effective and environmentally-sound energy alternatives. The Center is affiliated with the University's Small Business Development Center.

The center is funded by the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection, MetEd/Penelec Sustainable Energy Fund, Heinz Endowments and the US Department of Energy.

For more information or to apply, call 814-472-2872 or send email to: [renewable@francis.edu](mailto:renewable@francis.edu) or visit the [Center's website](#).

### **Going Green Event Set for August 2 at Grange Fairgrounds in Centre Hall**

G&R Excavating & Demolition and Forever Broadcasting present Central Pennsylvania's first "Going Green" event on August 2 at the Grange Fairgrounds from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. More than 100 businesses will showcase their environmentally friendly goods and services at the first ever Going Green event.

In addition, there will be demonstrations and seminars such as "how to build a compost area," "where can I take this...a guide to recycling everything in your house" and "driving green...things you can do to improve your fuel efficiency."

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The event is free to the public, with free parking available onsite.

Indoor and outdoor booths are available. Vendors may set up Friday afternoon or Saturday morning. Teardown is immediately following the event, though arrangements can be made for Sunday morning teardown if necessary.

A limited number of speaker/demonstration slots are still available. Event organizers will be handing out a minimum of 500 canvas grocery bags filled with green products.

For more information, contact event coordinator B.J. Clitherow at 814-880-7975 or send email to: [bjclitherow@foreverradio.com](mailto:bjclitherow@foreverradio.com).

### **Presentation on Energy Savings Ideas Set for July 17 in Pottstown**

Jim Crater, President of [Recycling Services, Inc.](#), will do a presentation on energy saving ideas at the Norco Fire Hall on Rt. 724 just south of Pottstown on July 17 from 7 to 9 p.m.

“I've been working at recycling, alternative energy and wise energy use for now more than 40 years and I get hundreds of emails and calls each week from homeowners and small (and large) business that just don't know what to do,” said Crater.

Crater's presentation will highlight practical, effective steps individuals and businesses and use to save energy.

For more information contact Jim Crater by sending email to: [JimCrater@aol.com](mailto:JimCrater@aol.com).

### **DEP CAC Elects 2008-09 Officers and EQB Representatives**

At its June 17 meeting, the [Citizens Advisory Council](#) to the Department of Environmental Protection held elections for officers and Environmental Quality Board representatives for the coming year.

Richard Manfredi of Hilltown, Bucks County, and Joyce Hatala of Fleetville, Lackawanna County, were elected chair and vice chair, respectively.

Manfredi, principal in Manfredi, LLC, a management and public affairs consulting company, has served on Council since 2002. He currently serves on the Water Committee and represents Council on the EQB.

Hatala operates Joyce Hatala Associates, which specializes in environmental grant writing and projects. She has been on Council since 2005 and serves on the Environmental Standards, Integrated Projects and Water committees.

The following members were elected to serve on the EQB: Jolene Chinchilli (Elizabethtown, Lancaster County), Walter Heine (Newville, Cumberland County), Bernie Hoffnar (Six Mile Run, Bedford County), Richard Manfredi (Hilltown, Bucks County) and Dave Strong (Brockway, Jefferson County). EQB alternates are Cynthia Carrow (Sewickley, Allegheny County), Gail Conner (Newtown Square, Delaware County), Pat Lupo (Erie, Erie County), Bruce Tetkoskie (Lavelle, Schuylkill County) and Margaret Urban.

Officers and EQB representatives serve one-year terms.

The Council is a nonpartisan group of 18 citizen volunteers appointed by the Governor, Speaker of the House and the President Pro Tempore of the Senate. The Secretary of DEP also serves as a member. The Council is legislatively charged with reviewing all environmental laws of the Commonwealth, studying the work of DEP and making recommendations for improvement of all of the above.

For more information, visit [Council's website](#).

## Spotlight

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### Stoneycreek River Restored to Be Included in Whitewater Park



Twenty years ago the Stonycreek River ran orange with acid mine runoff; today it is the site of a 300-yard long whitewater park—the only one of its kind in Pennsylvania.

June 5 marked the dedication and grand opening ceremony of the \$850,000 Stonycreek Whitewater Park in Somerset County. Realizing the potential to promote outdoor recreation, improve residents' quality of life and attract visitors to the region, DCNR funded \$495,000 of the total

project cost with Keystone and Growing Greener funds.

“We've taken a natural resource that was once polluted and are now inviting people back to the river, something that many of us never believed would happen,” said Mike Quinn of Conemaugh Valley Conservancy.

What draws people back to the river is the construction of drops, pools, a slalom course for racing and a freestyle course with surfing waves. This specific section of the river was chosen because of its flow volume, stream gradient and channel width. These constructed and natural water features provide enough variety to appeal to novice or experienced water enthusiasts.

Improvements to the stream bank include the construction of put-in and take-out areas, gravel trails, and bank re-grading to include vegetated terraces.

“Pennsylvania has beautiful natural resources and DCNR is committed to making sure that as many people as possible are attracted to them, whether they get in a kayak or just sit along the river,” Quinn said.

So, those looking for a more relaxed experience can still enjoy Greenhouse Recreation Park, which caters to more than just whitewater activities. The nine-acre park offers a walking trail, volleyball court, picnic tables, benches, pavilions and open spaces. Plans to add restrooms and playground facilities are in place.

However, it is not just the park's “stone and mortar” that DCNR's funding dollars and project supporters like the Conemaugh Valley Conservancy are supporting—it's the potential for local stimulation.

Stonycreek Whitewater Park is “symbolic of how local natural resources can play a major role in bringing back a region's economy and quality of life,” said Cindy Adams Dunn, deputy secretary of DCNR.

“We see it as integral to the Laurel Highlands and Johnstown,” she added. Quinn agrees with the positive economic impact the park will continue to have on the community. According to him, multiple businesses within a ten-mile radius of the park are “faced with the daunting challenge of attracting young, educated employees who are capable of getting jobs almost anywhere they want.”

“Increasingly, what determines where these young people locate are recreational opportunities like whitewater park,” he said.

DCNR’s funding in the Laurel Highlands area stretches beyond this single project as two other projects include a feasibility study for Whitewater Trail and the development of Greenhouse Recreation Park. The Whitewater Trail Feasibility Study was covered in part with a \$20,000 Growing Greener grant extending the Jim Mayer Riverwalk Trail through multiple townships in Cambria and Somerset Counties.

This project merges with efforts in Greenhouse Recreation Park, which includes the whitewater section of the Stonycreek River. A \$236,000 Keystone grant funding went toward developing a portion of trail in Greenhouse Park connecting with the existing Jim Mayer Trail. Additionally, pavilions, an access road, parking, ADA accessibility and signs were added.

Projects like Stonycreek Whitewater Park that promote outdoor recreation and foster positive community growth are the focus of DCNR’s funding efforts in the Laurel Highlands.

**NewsClip:** [Stonycreek Whitewater Park Is For Water Enthusiasts](#)

*Written by Emily Weir who is currently serving as an intern in the DCNR Bureau of Recreation & Conservation’s planning, outreach and technical support division. This article was reprinted from the DCNR’s [Resource online newsletter](#).*

## Grants & Awards

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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 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 1**—[NFWF Delaware Estuary Watershed Grants Program](#)
- **August 1**—[NPS Rivers, Trails, and Conservation Assistance Grants](#)
- **August 4**— [Start Submitting REAP Farm Conservation Tax Credit Applications](#)
- **August 29**—[DEP Local Government Greenhouse Gas Reduction Grants](#)
- **First Come, First Served**-- [DEP \\$500 Hybrid Electric Vehicle Rebate](#)
- **September 9**— [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

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

[County's Protector Robert Sugarman Dies](#)  
[Op-Ed: Time to Jettison Throwaway Culture](#)  
[Save Money By Making Your Own Compost](#)  
[Forum: Five Days on Pittsburgh to Washington Bike Trail](#)  
[Environmental Group Tours Habitat for Wildlife Site](#)  
[Falcons Preparing to Leave the Nest in Allentown](#)  
[Bald Eagles Coming to Allegheny County](#)  
[Bald Eagles Thriving Throughout Pennsylvania](#)  
[Game Commission Tracking Local Geese](#)  
[Caterpillars Clear Forest of Trees](#)  
[Pittsburgh Accused of Abusing Its Trees](#)  
[Natural Gas Prices Predict Expensive Winter](#)  
[Lawmakers urged to Reinstate Natural Gas Levy](#)  
[Legislators Seek to Ease Jolt of Power Rates](#)  
[DEP Loan Helps Another Dentist Cut Waste, Energy Costs](#)  
[Hybrid Vehicles Too Hot To Keep In Stock](#)  
[Macoby Creek Hazardous Site Cleanup Begins](#)  
[Energy, Conservation Deal Readied for Votes](#)  
[Water, Sewer Systems In Line for Cash Infusion](#)

## Watershed NewsClips

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

[Group Aims to Treat Jeddo Tunnel Water](#)  
[Marsh Now Education Hub](#)  
[Meadville Completes Stormwater Project](#)  
[A Healing River - Delaware](#)  
[Paving of Parking Lot to Help Yellow Breeches](#)  
[Bottle Ship Travels the Susquehanna River](#)  
[Officials Consider Ordinances to Protect Resources](#)  
[Fish & Boat Commission Resource First](#)  
[Shad Tailspin Persists, No Plan In Works](#)  
[Editorial: Find Money for Water, Sewer Upgrades](#)  
[Water, Sewer Systems In Line for Cash Infusion](#)  
[Votes Near on \\$800 Million for Water, Sewer Projects](#)  
[Many Creeks Fail Quality Standards](#)  
[Op-Ed: Too Much Rain? Here's What to Do](#)

## Regulations

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No new regulations were published this week. [Pennsylvania Bulletin – July 5, 2008](#)

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

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

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

## Technical Guidance & Permits

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The Department of Conservation and Natural Resources is [proposing a land exchange](#) in Butler County.

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

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

## Calendar of Upcoming Events

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Upcoming conferences, meetings, workshops, plus links to other online calendars. Meetings are in Harrisburg unless otherwise noted. **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.](#)
- **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 9—**DEP Solar Work Group meeting. Second Floor Training Room, Rachel Carson Building, Harrisburg. 10:00. Contact: Libby Dodson, 717-772-8907 or send email to: [ldodson@state.pa.us](mailto:ldodson@state.pa.us).
- **July 10—NEW.** House Game and Fisheries Committee presentation by Game Commission on oil, gas and mineral activities on State Game Lands. Gunner's Restaurant, 33 S. St. Marys St., St. Mary's, Pa. 7:30.
- **July 10—NEW.** [DEP Air Quality Technical Advisory Committee](#) Ad-Hoc Subcommittee on Monitoring Technical Work Group meeting. 12th Floor Conference Room, Rachel Carson Building. 9:00.
- **July 15—**House Agriculture and Rural Affairs Committee hearing on the Clean and Green Program. G-50 Irvis Building. 1:00.
- **July 16—NEW.** [Delaware River Basin Commission meeting.](#) West Trenton, NJ.
- **July 17—**[DCNR Snowmobile and ATV Advisory Committee](#) meeting. Room 105 Rachel Carson Building. 9:00.
- **July 22—**[Governor's Sustainable Water Infrastructure Task Force](#) meeting. Room 105 Rachel Carson Building. 9:30.



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- **July 22**—House Tourism and Recreational Development Committee hearing on lifeguards at State Parks. Room 140. 1:00.
- **July 22**—DEP [Water Resource Advisory Committee](#) meeting. Room 105 Rachel Carson Building. 1:00.
- **July 24**—[DEP Mining and Reclamation Advisory Board](#) meeting. DEP Pottsville Office, 5 West Laurel Blvd., Pottsville. 1:00.
- **July 24**—**CANCELLED**. [DEP Air Quality Technical Advisory Committee](#) meeting. Next scheduled meeting is September 18.
- **August 7**—[Governor’s Sustainable Water Infrastructure Task Force](#) meeting. Room 105 Rachel Carson Building. 9:30.
- **August 7**—**NEW**. DEP Solar Work Group meeting. Second Floor Auditorium, Rachel Carson Building, Harrisburg. 10:00. Contact: Libby Dodson, 717-772-8907 or send email to: [ldodson@state.pa.us](mailto:ldodson@state.pa.us).
- **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**

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

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## **Supporting Member PA Outdoor Writers Assn./PA Trout Unlimited**

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