

# — PA — Environment Digest

*An Update on  
Environmental  
Issues in  
Pennsylvania*

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Edited By David E. Hess, Crisci Associates

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[PA Environment Digest Video Blog](#)

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## Not Done Yet, But Budget Deal Details Coming Into Focus

You've heard the news reports about the budget deal announced late Monday, now representatives of the Senate, House and Gov. Rendell have been busy all week putting together the numbers and bill language that will actually put the agreement into writing. It's like watching an old Polaroid photo develop slowly into a finished picture. **NOTE: Watch This Space For Updates.**

The Senate and House are expected to be in session finishing all these details through the next few days, or maybe more. Here's what we know now...

The \$27.3 billion spending plan represents a 3.3 percent increase over the final 2006-07 budget, according to Senate Republicans or a 4.3 percent increase according to Gov. Rendell or a 5.3 percent increase according to one conservative think tank—take your pick.

Senate Republicans insisted that more than \$300 million in available funds be set aside in the event of unforeseen fiscal issues in 2007-08.

All of Gov. Rendell's seven proposed tax increases were rejected, including a sales tax hike, an electricity tax, a payroll tax on businesses to fund his health care initiative, the oil company gross receipts tax and a tax on trash collection.

While all sides came out of the agreement with items they were seeking, they each highlighted what they thought were their most important wins.

"We said from the beginning that we are not going to allow the governor to increase the tax burden on Pennsylvania families," said Senate President Pro Tempore Joe Scarnati (R-Jefferson). "It took a little longer than we wanted, but we finally convinced the administration that we would not back down on that core principle."

"We have made a good start on controlling state spending, and it is clear that we have more work to do next year," said Senate Appropriations Committee Chairman Gib Armstrong. "Pennsylvania taxpayers could no longer afford the excessive rate of growth in state spending that we have seen in recent years."

Gov. Rendell said he was able to keep funding for pre-kindergarten, laptop computers for high school classrooms, workforce development, reducing the waiting list for mental health/mental retardation services, expanding childcare programs and providing cost-of-living adjustments for human services workers throughout the state.

He called the transportation package "historic," although few details were available on what's actually in the plan, it would generally provide \$532 million for highway and bridge repairs and \$414 million for mass transit systems annually.

"With this agreement, there will about \$950 million a year for transportation in Harrisburg, Erie, Pittsburgh, Philadelphia, Wilkes-Barre, Altoona and everywhere else for

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the next 10 years,” the Governor said. “It’s the most significant amount of funding devoted to transportation needs in the history of the commonwealth and it should put transportation systems in good shape for the next 15 to 20 years.”

One huge issue Gov. Rendell had insisted on was action on his Energy Independence Initiative. But that was not to be and was pushed off until the fall when Gov. Rendell will call a special legislative session on energy issues starting September 17. There was, though, reported agreement in principle to fund a \$60 million alternative energy program within the existing 2007-08 budget framework.

“There are ideas for crafting a sound energy policy on both sides of the aisle, but using the budget deadline and the jobs of state employees to force legislation through the General Assembly is not appropriate,” said Senate Majority Leader Dominic Pileggi (R-Delaware). “We will now work to address this important issue in a more thoughtful way.”

Sen. Pileggi had suggested earmarking some of the increased revenue from the utilities gross receipts tax that will result from caps coming off electric rates in most parts of Pennsylvania in 2010 for alternative energy programs.

There was also an agreement to fund the state’s Hazardous Sites Cleanup Program for the next two years by taking \$40 million annually from the Keystone Recreation, Park and Conservation Fund (Key ’93). (*See separate article.*)

This move was opposed by environmental groups, saying legislators and the Governor were “robbing Peter to pay Paul” by diverting funds from one environmental program to another, although during the last year’s budget settlement \$75 million earmarked for the Keystone Fund was diverted to the General Fund to balance the budget and for the last two years HSCA was funded from another environmental fund – the Environmental Stewardship (Growing Greener) Fund.

The budget also includes provisions for taking about \$25 million in debt service payments for the Growing Greener II bond issue from the Environmental Stewardship (Growing Greener) Fund, taking money away from watershed restoration, mine reclamation, State Park and recreation projects.

The Senate and House both passed versions of the Resource Enhancement and Protection Act (REAP) that would give tax credits to farmers for installing conservation practices that they hope to reconcile in the time remaining before adjournment. (*See separate article.*)

There is no word yet on whether funding for the Pennsylvania Senior Environment Corps will be saved in the final budget.

“A deal forged in the heat of the July sun and with the guiding hand of our governor has been achieved,” said Rep. DeWeese (D-Greene), House Majority Leader. “While the final stamp of approval must be placed by the lawmakers, we have reached a gentleman’s agreement with our brethren in the Senate, and soon the budget crisis will be a memory. This is a common-sense document that genuinely improves our common wealth. This budget, like our initial effort, has no tax increases, leaves us with a healthy surplus of cash and sets us up for a brighter future.”

Will the budget deal hold together under the scrutiny of rank and file House and Senate members? Stay tuned for more...

**NewsClips:** [Rendell Plan Draws Fire From Environmentalists and Officials](#)  
[Editorial: Fix the Keystone Fund With Part of Surplus](#)  
[Groups Oppose Recreation Funds Shift](#)  
[Op-Ed: Save Our Parks](#)

[Big Cut Frees Dollars for Cleanup Programs](#)  
[Keystone Fund Cut Hang-Up for Budget](#)  
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[Editorial: Mass Transit Should Pay for Itself](#)  
[John Baer: During Impasse, Golf's On, Singing in Capitol](#)

### Senate, House Take Action on REAP Farm Conservation Program Legislation

Both the House and Senate passed slightly different versions of the Resource Enhancement and Protection Act (REAP) that would give farmers tax credits for installing conservation practices.

The Senate and House are now in the process of reconciling those differences.

[Senate Bill 97](#) (D.White-R-Indiana) was amended to add REAP to other tax credit programs being considered, passed by the House and is now in the Senate for action. [Senate Bill 690](#) (Waugh-R-York, O'Pake-D-Berks), also containing REAP, passed the Senate and went to the House for action.

Both versions of the program would set the initial cap on tax credits at \$10 million annually.

“The Pennsylvania Farm Bureau strongly supports REAP as a viable approach to increasing the return on the public's investment in environmental stewardship by encouraging the private sector to help finance needed best management practices on farms,” said Joel Rotz, State Governmental Relations Director for the PA Farm Bureau. “The state budget is about public priorities and we believe this should be one of those included.”

“Agriculture generates \$4.8 billion in farm production each year, with dairy farms leading the way,” said PA Executive Director of CBF, [Matthew Ehrhart](#). “By enacting REAP, the Governor and our legislators will be taking significant strides toward cleaning up our rivers and streams, providing cleaner drinking water, and creating healthier, more financially productive farms.”

A coalition of more than 65 farm, environmental, business and sportsmen's groups support REAP and recently called on the General Assembly and Gov. Rendell to take final action on the program.

#### **Video Blog:** [Coalition Urges Action on REAP](#)

“REAP will establish one of the most important programs to benefit agriculture and water quality in Pennsylvania's history,” said [Rep. Jerry Stern](#) (R-Blair). “This ground-



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breaking legislation will not only help our streams, but will also help the economic stability of our agricultural industry.”

“REAP will clean up the water that serves us all, without burdening our farmers with unmanageable debt,” said [Rep. Peter Daley](#) (D-Washington). “It uses proven market mechanisms to connect farmers with a need with taxpaying businesses who can help out. It is an efficient, innovative solution that uses less bureaucracy to get the same job done in less time.”

Rep. Stern and Rep. Daley are the primary sponsors of the House version of REAP-- [House Bill 100](#)

“As a member of the Chesapeake Bay Commission, I understand the need to clean up our rivers and streams and the role agriculture can play,” said Sen. Mike Waugh (R-York). “I also know farmers cannot do it on their own. REAP would give farmers a creative new tool that makes the private and public sectors real partners in achieving our water quality improvement goals.”

“Agriculture is Pennsylvania’s number one industry, but unfortunately we have lost farms and farmers over the last 10 years, 23 percent of dairy farms alone,” said [Sen. Michael O’Pake](#) (D-Berks). “The REAP proposal gives farmers, particularly dairy operations, much needed assistance to install farm conservation practices that not only reduce nutrients and sediment runoff, but increase farm productivity and reduce costs. That means more usable income for our farmers at this critical time.”

Sen. Waugh and Sen. O’Pake are the prime sponsors of the Senate version of REAP-- [Senate Bill 690](#).

REAP would provide transferable state tax credits to Pennsylvania farmers who proactively plan and implement highly effective conservation practices to reduce runoff. Businesses that sponsor such conservation projects will also be eligible for corresponding tax credits. REAP will improve water quality and strengthen our agricultural communities and the economy statewide.

The bill provides personal and business state tax credits ranging from 25 to 75 percent of the cost to install best management practices like barnyard improvements, riparian buffers, stream fencing and other practices. The development of manure management plans on farmlands, and forested buffers on non-farm lands, would also be eligible for credit. Each farmer enrolled in the program is eligible for up to \$150,000 in tax credits which can be extended over a period of 15 years.

To learn more, visit [CBF’s REAP webpage](#) and find Pennsylvania’s impaired waterways [on this webpage](#).

### **Environmental Groups Oppose Taking Keystone Fund Monies**

The Pennsylvania Alliance for Restoration and Conservation, a coalition of conservation, sportsmen and parks organizations, was joined by a bipartisan group of House members and representatives of libraries to oppose part of the budget agreement that would take \$40 million annually from the Keystone Recreation, Parks and Conservation Fund to support the Hazardous Sites Cleanup Fund over the next two years.

The transfer from the Keystone Fund is part of the budget agreed to by Senate and House leaders and Gov. Rendell.

Speakers at the press conference said the proposal was “robbing Peter to pay Paul” by diverting funds from one environmental program to another, although during the last

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year's budget settlement \$75 million earmarked for the Keystone Fund was diverted to the General Fund to balance the budget and for the last two years HSCA was funded by taking \$50 million from another environmental fund – the Environmental Stewardship Fund—taking a total of \$125 million from environmental programs.

The budget also includes provisions for taking about \$25 million in debt service payments for the Growing Greener II bond issue from the Environmental Stewardship (Growing Greener) Fund, taking money away from watershed restoration, mine reclamation, State Park and recreation projects.

A bipartisan group of legislators, including Representatives Harper (R-Montgomery), Gerber (D-Montgomery), Ross (R-Chester), McIlvaine-Smith (D-Montgomery), Rubley (R-Chester), Quigley (R-Montgomery), Mensch (R-Montgomery), O'Neill (R-Bucks), Vitali (D-Delaware), Moyer (R-Montgomery), Quinn (R-Bucks), McIlhattan (R-Clarion), Hornaman (D-Erie), M. O'Brien (D-Philadelphia), Leach (D-Montgomery), Scavello (R-Monroe), DePasquale (D-York), Surra (D-Elk), Killian (R-Chester), W. Keller (D-Philadelphia), Freeman (D-Lehigh), Mackereth (R-York), McGeehen (D-Philadelphia) and Curry (D-Montgomery) participated in the press conference.

“The Keystone Fund provides critical funding for local parks, recreation projects, and for conserving what is left of our open space and natural heritage,” said Brian Hill, President and CEO of the Pennsylvania Environmental Council and co-chair of PARC.

“We know that it is vitally important to find funding for HSCA,” continued Hill. “But it should not be at the expense of another crucial conservation program. There are several alternatives for funding HSCA already under consideration in the General Assembly; the PARC Coalition strongly believes that one of these proposed new funding mechanisms should be utilized.”

Hill added, “Each year we find ourselves fighting off proposals to rob Peter to pay Paul when it comes to protecting and conserving the environment. The citizens of Pennsylvania have been clear in their support of providing more funding for conservation, not less.”

Hill concluded, “At a time when the state is developing a response to climate change, we should not cut the Keystone Fund, a nationally recognized conservation program. Forests, farms and open space store carbon and offset global warming. Protecting these lands is in the Commonwealth's best interest.”

**Video Blog:** [Brian Hill Speaks Out Against Transfer from Keystone Fund](#)

“Costs for local park and recreation projects increase every day, and the cost of preserving open space escalates as development pressure increases,” said Andy Loza, Executive Director of the Pennsylvania Land Trust Association. “If funding is taken away from Keystone, it will mean fewer local athletic fields, fewer park improvements and thousands of acres of land lost to development. That is simply unacceptable to us and to the people of Pennsylvania.”

Several legislators proposed alternatives to the transfer include Rep. Ross (R-Chester) who suggested funding HSCA by setting aside revenue from the Capital Stock and Franchise Tax and later the Corporate Net Income Tax and Rep. McIlvaine-Smith (D-Montgomery) supported Gov. Rendell's proposal to raise the fee on municipal waste disposed in Pennsylvania by \$2.25/ton.

**NewsClips:** [Rendell Plan Draws Fire From Environmentalists and Officials](#)  
[Editorial: Fix the Keystone Fund With Part of Surplus](#)

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[Groups Oppose Recreation Funds Shift](#)  
[Realtors Oppose Raiding Keystone Fund](#)  
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[Land Conservation Funds at Risk](#)  
[Big Cut Frees Dollars for Cleanup Programs](#)  
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[Editorial: Budget Cuts Money for Parks](#)

**Links:** [Environmental Groups Ask for Restoration of Growing Greener Fund](#)  
[90% Strongly Support Clean Water, 95% Link With Economic Competitiveness](#)  
[Groups Concerned About State Environmental Funding, Federal Cuts](#)  
[More Environmental Groups Express Concern About Environmental Funding](#)  
[Environmental Funding Needs Highlighted by Chesapeake Bay Foundation](#)

### Session Schedule

The Senate announced its fall session schedule:

September 17, 18, 19, 24, 25, 26  
October 1, 2, 3, 15, 16, 17, 22, 23, 24, 29, 30  
November 13, 14, 15, 19, 20, 27, 28  
December 3, 4, 5, 10, 11, 12

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### On the Hill

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- Bills on the Governor's Desk
- Senate/House Bills Moving
- PA Conservation Districts Endorse Bill Updating District Law
- Senate Takes Steps to Make State Statues Available Online

### Other News

- Federal Farm Bill Includes Increase in Conservation Funding for Chesapeake Bay
- Conservation Districts Receive Education, Pollution Prevention Grants
- Pennsylvania Celebrates July as Lake Awareness Month
- Rodale Institute to Host Organic No-Till Farming Field Day July 20
- Harrisburg Chamber Helps Preserve Cumberland County Farm
- 2007 Statewide Conference on Abandoned Mine Reclamation Set for July 20-21
- COALS Cleans Up Future Giants Despair Park in Luzerne County
- Gov. Rendell Names Members of Outdoor Conference Task Force
- Game Commission Seeks Citizen Advisory Committee Volunteers
- DCNR Seeking Members for Recreational Trails Advisory Board
- Largest Recycled Glass Sand Mound in Pennsylvania Proposed
- Pennsylvania's Climate May Feel Like Alabama According to New Climate Report

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

## On the Hill

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

The Senate and House are scheduled to be in voting session the next few days because of unresolved budget issues, so Calendars and Committee schedules are in a state of “flux.” Here’s what we know as of the close of business July 13...

#### House

**Calendar:** [House Bill 1201](#) (George-D-Clearfield) making changes to Title 66 (Utility Code) consistent with Gov. Rendell’s Energy Independence Proposal, including the proposed system benefit charge; [House Bill 1320](#) (Siproth-D-Monroe) establishing a program within DEP for the disposal of home-generated medical sharps; [House Bill 1649](#) (Barrar-R-Chester) requiring the fluoridation of public water supplies; [House Resolution 112](#) (Mann-D-Lehigh) directing DEP to implement policies that encourage electronic waste recycling; [House Resolution 122](#) (George-D-Clearfield) petitioning the President and Congress to increase funding for the Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program; [House Resolution 268](#) (Rohrer-R-Berks) directing the Legislative Budget and Finance Committee to study Game Commission forestry and mineral development policies; [House Resolution 180](#) (Yudichak-D-Luzerne) establishing a commission to study the Commonwealth’s fragmented system of local governments

#### Senate

**Calendar:** [House Bill 1530](#) (Dermody-D-Allegheny) providing for electric supplier long term contracts was amended to narrow the focus to help major companies in Western Pennsylvania.

**Committees:** Rules Committee meets to consider [House Bill 1295](#) (Hanna-D-Clinton) restoring the State System of Higher Education allocation from the Keystone Recreation, Park and Conservation Fund for fiscal year 2006-07 and including other budget implementing language for fiscal year 2007-08 and [Senate Bill 97](#) (D.White-R-Indiana) was amended to add REAP farm conservation tax credit program to other tax credit programs being considered; Environmental Resources and Energy Committee meets to consider [House Bill 1203](#) (Hornaman-D-Erie) making changes to the Alternative Energy Portfolio Standards Act consistent with the Governor’s Energy Independence Initiative.

#### Bills Introduced

Several more environmental bills were introduced this week...

**Coal Bed Methane:** [House Bill 1735](#) (Yewcic-D-Cambria) providing for the coordination of rights between coal and oil gas mineral interests and coal bed methane extractors.

**Ballast Water:** [House Bill 1736](#) (M.O'Brien-D-Philadelphia) amending the Clean Streams Law regulating ballast water from vessels in Lake Erie.

### On the Governor's Desk

The following bills reached the Governor's Desk so far this week...

**Deer Management:** [House Bill 881](#) (Haluska-D-Cambria) expands the authority of the Game Commission to issue permits to individuals to protect agricultural crops and making other changes to the Game Code was signed into law by the Governor as Act 26.

**Nuclear Plant Fees:** [House Bill 496](#) (George-D-Clearfield) that would increase fees on nuclear power plants and for transportation escorts was concurred in by the House and was signed into law by the Governor as Act 31.

Under the bill, nuclear power plant fees collected by the Pennsylvania Emergency Management Agency will fund interagency coordination and county emergency preparedness. The new amendments to Act 147 also allow the Pennsylvania State Police to escort certain large shipments of radioactive material and waste transported through the state.

Among those fees included or amended in Act 147 are:

- A one-time fee of \$100,000 per site to DEP from any entity that holds, or has applied for, a nuclear power reactor operating license from the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission, and an increased annual fee of \$400,000 to \$550,000 per site;
- A one-time fee of \$150,000 per site to PEMA from any entity that holds or has applied for a nuclear power reactor operating license from the NRC, and an increased annual fee from \$200,000 to \$350,000 per site;
- Fees to DEP, PEMA and PSP that cover oversight and escort expenses incurred by the commonwealth to ship spent nuclear fuel and other large quantity radioactive materials through the state; and
- Continued fees under Act 147 that allow DEP and the Environmental Quality Board to regulate radiation sources users (e.g., x-ray or radioactive materials).

After 2009, two working groups of DEP and PEMA personnel, with representatives of the state's nuclear facilities, shall review program expenses and issue a report to the General Assembly recommending any fee changes deemed appropriate.

### Senate/House Bills Moving

Here's a summary of Senate and House bills moving this week as of the close of business July 13. Some of the descriptions show just how fast legislation moves in and out of committee this time of year...

#### Senate

**REAP Farm Conservation Tax Credit:** [Senate Bill 97](#) (D.White-R-Indiana) was amended to add the Resource Enhancement and Protection Act (REAP) that provides tax credits for installation of farm conservation practices, passed the House and is now in the



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Senate for action. [Senate Bill 690](#) (Waugh-R-York, O’Pake-D-Berks) also containing REAP, passed the Senate and went to the House for action.

**Quecreek Rescue Anniversary:** [Senate Resolution 151](#) (Kasunic-D-Somerset) commemorating the 5th anniversary of the Quecreek Mine Rescue was adopted by the Senate.

**Alternative Energy Standards:** [House Bill 1203](#) (Hornaman-D-Erie) making changes to the Alternative Energy Portfolio Standards Act consistent with the Governor’s Energy Independence Initiative was amended to include the contents of [Senate Bill 715](#) (Musto-D-Luzerne) and reported from the Senate Environmental Resources and Energy Committee, referred again to, amended, and reported from the Senate Environmental Resources and Energy Committee a second time.

**Electric Distribution:** [House Bill 1530](#) (Dermody-D-Allegheny) providing for electric supplier long term contracts was amended to narrow the focus to help major companies in Western Pennsylvania, passed by the House, referred to, amended and reported from the Senate Consumer Protection and Professional Licensure Committee and is now on the Senate Calendar for action. **NewsClip:** [House Approves Long-Term Power Deals](#)

### House

**Appeal of Land Use Plans:** [House Bill 1329](#) (Kessler-D-Berks) further providing for the jurisdiction of common pleas court in reviewing challenges to land development ordinances and [House Bill 1330](#) (Kessler-D-Berks) also providing for appeals from land use resolutions and maps were reported out of the House Appropriations Committee, passed by the House and now go to the Senate for action.

### PA Conservation Districts Endorse Bill Updating District Law

The [Pennsylvania Association of Conservation Districts](#), this week announced its endorsement and support of [Senate Bill 1020](#) (Wonderling-R-Montgomery) which recodifies and updates Act 217, the law creating Pennsylvania’s conservation districts.

Act 217, first enacted in 1945, was enacted to enhance conservation of Pennsylvania’s natural resources.

Since 1945 numerous environmental changes have occurred throughout the Commonwealth. During the last 60 years the conservation district role in local communities has evolved as well. Many natural resource programs have changed, others have been created, and still more have been expanded to meet our citizen’s growing needs.

Throughout the last half century, however, one constant has been the presence of conservation districts and their willingness to assist local communities and citizens with their environmental concerns.

Today, conservation districts are such an integral part of the local natural resource protection agenda that Sen. Wonderling and the PACD have realized the need to again update Act 217, matching the growing responsibilities of conservation districts with the implementing law.

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“This bill includes changes sought by PACD such as ensuring sufficient staff at the State Conservation Commission level, providing training and state assistance to conservation district staff, and updating the process for local conservation district board members to be appointed,” said Victor Cappucci, President of PACD. “It is an honor to support Sen. Wonderling in his efforts to assist conservation districts by introducing Senate Bill 1020 and allowing conservation districts to make even greater strides toward conservation stewardship. I would like to publicly thank Senator Wonderling for his leadership and willingness to make the Conservation District Law a legislative priority.”

Senate Bill 1020 designates conservation districts as the primary local government unit responsible for the conservation of natural resources in the Commonwealth. It specifically states that districts are responsible for implementing programs, projects and activities to quantify, prevent and control non-point sources of pollution.

An important provision incorporated into Senate Bill 1020 delineates the roles and responsibilities of the Department of Agriculture and the Department of Environmental Protection in assisting the State Conservation Commission to fulfill its duties. The goal is to establish an improved system facilitating cooperation and coordination between the agencies to eliminate overlapping functions. A single point of contact will be established for the support, funding, administration and oversight of conservation districts.

For more information on conservation districts, visit the [Pennsylvania Association of Conservation Districts website](#).

### Senate Takes Steps to Make State Statues Available Online

As part of its effort to make state government more transparent, the Senate changed its rules to require the placement of Pennsylvania’s acts and statutes on the Internet, according to Sen. Jake Corman (R-Centre), the Senate's Majority Policy Chairman.

"Starting on July 13th, the public will for the first time be able to search Pennsylvania's laws online," Sen. Corman said.

"Until this change, Pennsylvania was one of very few states that did not have its statutes available on-line for the public," Sen. Corman said. "State residents should have the ability to view and print laws online – it is one way to make government more accountable. Having this information on-line provides quicker, easier access for constituents seeking legislative information, in addition to contributing to a more open state government. I was proud to lead this effort on behalf of Pennsylvania's citizens."

Sen. Corman said the Senate currently has rules in place to put the following information on the [Senate’s website](#):

- Amendments to the Internet before they can be offered on the Senate floor.
- Senate floor votes on the Internet as soon as possible, always within 24 hours.
- Senate’s Legislative Journal—which includes the full text of all floor debates—within 45 days after the date of the session.

## Other News

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### **Federal Farm Bill Includes Increase in Conservation Funding for Chesapeake Bay**

The 2007 federal Farm Bill, which will be considered by the House Agriculture Committee next week, includes unprecedented, targeted conservation funding for the Chesapeake Bay Region. That funding is critical to the health of local farms, and water quality in rivers, streams and the Chesapeake Bay.

The [Chesapeake Bay Foundation](#) thanks Congressmen Chris Van Hollen (D-MD), Tim Holden (D-PA), and Bob Goodlatte (R-VA), the ranking Republican on the Committee, for standing fast to help the region's farm families implement proven technologies that will protect agriculture and improve the health of our waterways," CBF's Federal Affairs Director Doug Siglin said. "The region's farmers have repeatedly demonstrated their willingness to implement conservation measures, but they can't foot the bill alone."

Rep. Van Hollen, joined by many Representatives across the watershed, was instrumental in securing \$150 million in conservation funding dedicated to the Chesapeake Bay region, and will be working with Chairman Collin Peterson (D-MN), Rep. Goodlatte, and Rep. Holden when the legislation comes before the Committee next week.

Funding will be distributed as part of a comprehensive strategy that addresses problems on a watershed basis developed by Rep. Holden, Chairman of the Conservation Subcommittee.

The watersheds receiving the initial focus will be the Susquehanna and Patuxent. The Potomac and the Shenandoah have also been added at the request of Congressmen Van Hollen and Goodlatte.

Along with Van Hollen's \$150 million increase over five years specifically targeted for the Bay region, the legislation as drafted includes an additional \$250 million as the regional share of national conservation program increases over the life of the bill.

While the level of funding will not fully pay for the federal share of implementation of agricultural portions of the roadmap to restoration that Bay scientists have developed, CBF and those working to improve the health of local waterways applaud this increased funding.

For more information, visit the [Chesapeake Bay Foundation Farm Bill webpage](#).

### **Conservation Districts Receive Education, Pollution Prevention Grants**

The [Pennsylvania Association of Conservation Districts](#) this week announced the recipients of the 2007-2008 [Chesapeake Bay Educational and Nonpoint Source Pollution Prevention Mini-Grants](#).

PACD awarded \$50,000 in Chesapeake Bay Educational grants up to \$2,500 for 33 projects throughout the state that promote water quality. Funding for the grants is provided through the Department of Environmental Protection's Chesapeake Bay Program.

The association also awarded \$40,000 in Nonpoint Source Pollution Prevention grants for 22 projects throughout the state that promote pollution prevention. 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 projects awarded funding include:

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- Adams County Conservation District: Stormwater Reduction Rain Barrel Project;
- Adams County Conservation District: No-Till Workshop;
- Bradford County Conservation District: Community Stormwater Management Program;
- Bradford County Conservation District: Nutrient Management Field Day;
- Bradford County Conservation District: Flood Summit;
- Cambria County Conservation District: Field Application Record;
- Clinton County Conservation District: Rain Barrel Workshop;
- Cumberland County Conservation District: A Guide to Small Lot Development: Prevent Pollution and Improve Water Quality;
- Cumberland County Conservation District: Promoting Stormwater Management / Rain Barrels;
- Cumberland County Conservation District: Precision Feeding;
- Dauphin County Conservation District: Ag Newsletter;
- Dauphin County Conservation District: Municipal BMP Workshop;
- Fulton County Conservation District: Septic System Care and Maintenance Handbook;
- Fulton County Conservation District: Chapter 102 Education & Outreach for Municipal Officials;
- Jefferson County Conservation District: Watershed Festival;
- Juniata County Conservation District: Farmers' Winter Meeting / Excavator & Township Supervisor's Meeting;
- Lackawanna County Conservation District: Stormwater Reduction Rain Barrel Project;
- Lancaster County Conservation District: Watersheds: Making the Connection;
- Lancaster County Conservation District: Great Green America Festival;
- Lycoming County Conservation District: Flood Summit;
- Mifflin County Conservation District: Agriculture in the 21st Century;
- Northumberland County Conservation District: Winter Conference;
- Northumberland County Conservation District: Twilight Meetings;
- Snyder County Conservation District: Women in Ag Forum;
- Snyder County Conservation District: No-Till Idea Exchange;
- Snyder County Conservation District: Farmer's Winter Meeting;
- Snyder/Union County Conservation District: ACRE Compliance - Clean Streams Outreach;
- Somerset County Conservation District: No-Till / Cover Crop Field Day;
- Sullivan County Conservation District: Managing Stormwater at your Home;
- Susquehanna County Conservation District: Rain Barrel Workshop;
- Susquehanna County Conservation District: Heavy Equipment Contractors Workshop;
- Wyoming County Conservation District: Resources Management and Protection Tour; and
- York County Conservation District: This OLDS House - Managing your on-lot disposal system.

.For more information, visit the [Chesapeake Bay Educational and Nonpoint Source Pollution Prevention Mini-Grants webpage](#).

## Pennsylvania Celebrates July as Lake Awareness Month

[Pennsylvania Lake Management Society](#) worked with Gov. Rendell on a proclamation designating July as Pennsylvania Lakes Awareness Month.

Pennsylvania has at least 3,956 lakes and reservoirs located within its boundaries. At least 215 of these are publicly accessible lakes, with a variety of public uses ranging from water supply for municipal, industrial or agricultural uses to recreational pursuits ranging from fishing to swimming and boating. Other uses range from flood control to the purely aesthetic.

Lakes are valuable to the population living around and using them for recreational pursuits, but are often neglected by the general population concerned with water quality. The [North American Lake Management Society](#) also sponsors an annual event to draw attention to the importance of lakes and reservoirs, an annual Lakes Awareness Week.

The [Pennsylvania Lake Management Society](#) is a citizens' group formed to promote understanding and management of lakes and reservoirs and their watersheds in Pennsylvania. The group provides support and technical advice to local lake property owners and groups through various means ranging from an annual conference to informational fact sheets and a website.

PALMS works with Department of Environmental Protection's Citizens' Volunteer Monitoring Program for the past six years in developing a lake monitoring program for local lake groups.

At least 33 Pennsylvania lakes have been monitored by 100 citizen volunteers following training by both DEP and PALMS instructors. PALMS has also assisted the CVMP program by presenting day-long hands-on training workshops in lake management techniques and equipment handling at different lake locations across the state.

Private lake groups interested in enrolling in the 2008 CVMP program should contact Cheryl Snyder, CVMP Coordinator in DEP's Bureau of Watershed Management at 717-772-5640.

PALMS is also a partner of the [Pennsylvania Consortium for Watershed Assistance](#) providing program management and scientific assistance in the area of lake management. The C-SAW program is funded by a Growing Greener grant to the Pocono Northeast Resource Conservation Trust for the PA Resource Conservation and Development Council.

The Lakes Awareness Month also overlaps with [The Great American Secchi Dip-In](#). This year's Dip-In is occurring from June 23 to July 15. The Dip-In is sponsored by the North American Lake Management Society and [U.S. EPA's Clean Lakes Program](#) and the Volunteer Monitoring Program. It organizes citizen volunteers in existing lake monitoring programs to measure water transparency with a Secchi disk.

The Dip-In is a chance for volunteers to think and contribute nationally by taking a measurement in their local environment. Collected data are compiled at Kent State University at the above website. Regional lake transparency trends are reported on a color map. The Dip-In website also collects data throughout the year. This data will be used to study seasonal variability.

For more information, visit the [Pennsylvania Lake Management Society website](#).

## **Rodale Institute to Host Organic No-Till Farming Field Day July 20**

The [Rodale Institute](#) will hold a one-day field day workshop titled, "[Organic No-Till: Reducing the Environmental and Economic Costs of Farming](#)" from 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m., July 20 at its Experimental Farm in Kutztown, Berks County.

The event will focus mainly on mechanical cover crop management for organic no-till, addressing the many benefits of this management system and the challenges encountered by farmers and researchers around the country.

Topics to be included will feature results from the first three years of a large-scale research project on no-till systems focused on building and testing a second generation of no-till rollers under various field conditions, in diverse geographic areas and with different crops/cover crop combinations.

The field day will bring together farmers and researchers from Pennsylvania, Maryland and California to share with participants their own experiences producing crops using no-till techniques. As always, the event will feature equipment demonstrations and a wagon tour of the Rodale Institute Experimental Farm.

There is no registration fee for this event. A brown bag lunch will be provided for \$15/person, pre-paid at least 48 hours prior to the event.

To register, call 610-683-6009 or [visit the registration webpage](#) and look at the [full agenda online](#).

## **Harrisburg Chamber Helps Preserve Cumberland County Farm**

The [Harrisburg Regional Chamber & CREDC](#) announced this week it is providing the financing to Scott & Richelle Trayer to purchase 105 acres of farmland in New Hopewell Township, Cumberland County. The Trayers are starting part-time farming operations on the property and preserving the land for agricultural use.

Dr. Trayer owns his own practice providing psychiatric patient care. His wife Richelle grew up on a working farm. Together, their desire is to help Richelle return to her roots and raise their children in an agricultural lifestyle has come to fruition. The purchase of this property will allow the family to achieve this dream.

The Trayers will begin part-time farming by raising beef cattle. Though the certification will take time, they have hopes to convert the herd into organic grass fed. They are also exploring raising sheep and goats, as well as producing honey, hay and soybeans.

Dr. Trayer stated, "I found the folks at CREDC to be very helpful. I felt that they were interested in all aspects of what we were hoping to accomplish when we bought the farm. They were with us through the entire process."

HRC/CREDC provided a Small Business First loan of \$200,000 through the First Industries program, in conjunction with Orrstown National Bank financing and other equity contributions.

The First Industries Fund is devoted to Pennsylvania's Agriculture and Tourism industries. This program provides grants, loans, and loan guarantees for projects relating to the promotion and development of agriculture and tourism within the Commonwealth. The program is administered by the Commonwealth Financing Authority and by the Department of Community and Economic Development.

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The Capital Region Economic Development Corporation, is the economic development arm of the Harrisburg Regional Chamber, and is the leading organization for promoting and performing economic development activities in Cumberland, Dauphin and Perry counties. The group offers a variety of programs and resources to help attract, retain and expand business in the region.

For more information, visit the [Harrisburg Regional Chamber & CREDC webpage](#).

### **2007 Statewide Conference on Abandoned Mine Reclamation Set for July 20-21**

There's still time to make plans to attend Pennsylvania's premier [conference on abandoned mine reclamation and acid mine drainage cleanup](#) to be held on State College on July 20-21.

Last year over 200 people gathered to learn more about the science, policy and new tools available to deal with Pennsylvania's number one water quality problem.

This year's conference focuses on the following topics:

- Highlights of the federal Abandoned Mine Reclamation Fund reauthorization, draft regulations and roundtable discussions;
- Operation, Maintenance and Replacement for AMD treatment systems specifics;
- Permitting Considerations for AML/AMD Projects; and
- Presentations from the makers of new and proven treatment technologies.

For more information, visit the [2007 Pennsylvania Statewide Conference on Abandoned Mine Reclamation website](#).

### **COALS Cleans Up Future Giants Despair Park in Luzerne County**

Work was recently completed on a cleanup of the future Giants Despair Park in Laurel Run Borough, Luzerne County, through the [Cleanup Our American Lands and Streams](#) or COALS program, sponsored by the Department of Environmental Protection and the [Pennsylvania Environmental Council](#).

More than 43 tons of illegally dumped trash and over 100 illegally dumped tires were removed by the contractor, Environmental Restorations Inc., through funding provided to PEC by DEP.

Waste containers, transport and disposal services for the trash were provided to the cleanup project free of charge by Waste Management and its local operations at Apex Waste Services, Dunmore, and Alliance Landfill, Taylor.

The tires, through an in-kind donation to the COALS Program, were transported by Luzerne County to a recycling site in Butler Township. The tires will be recycled as part of the Luzerne County Tire Recycling Program. Other local sponsors included Mericle Commercial Real Estate Services and Earth Conservancy.

Laurel Run Borough recently received over 30 acres of mine scarred land located at the bottom of Giants Despair, from Luzerne County. Laurel Run Borough plans to develop the future Giants Despair Park on this site once the illegally dumped trash and debris is removed and the area is reclaimed.

The area has historically been the site of illegal dumping for many years. The Borough has been removing some of the trash and debris, but due to the lack of equipment and funding the Borough was unable to remove all of the illegally dumped trash and tires.

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DEP and PEC were able to partner with Laurel Run Borough through the COALS program, and provide the necessary funding to remove and dispose of a significant amount of the remaining illegally dumped material. Additionally, DEP and PEC will be coordinating with Laurel Run Borough, a volunteer cleanup in the fall at this site to remove any remaining trash and debris.

Laurel Run Borough and local partners will be monitoring the site heavily to ensure that future dumping does not reoccur at the site. As part of the COALS program, DEP may choose to install surveillance cameras at the site if a need is identified. Any responsible party caught dumping at the site will be prosecuted to the fullest extent under the law.

COALS is a program to remove illegally dumped garbage and trash through a partnership among environmental groups, business and industry, including coal and waste companies, and local, county and state governments.

The program was piloted in Columbia and Northumberland counties and has expanded to Dauphin, Berks, Lackawanna, Luzerne, Schuylkill, and McKean counties. The program will be implemented statewide over the course of the next several years.

The COALS program is a multi-faceted initiative, which includes cleanups, developing recycling programs, education and outreach, surveillance and enforcement. The PEC and DEP have developed a coalition of committed partners, locally which consists of Earth Conservancy, Eastern Pennsylvania Coalition for Abandoned Mine Reclamation, Luzerne County, Mericle Commercial Real Estate Services, PPL, Pennsylvania American Water Company, and Waste Management.

Since the program's inception in 2005, 56 sites, 275 tons of municipal waste, 106 tons of tires and 220 pounds of hazardous waste have been cleaned up, but a tremendous amount of work remains. On average, there are over 200 illegal dumpsites in each county.

For general information, visit the [Cleanup Our American Lands and Streams webpage](#).

For more information on expanding COALS into your area, contact Julie McMonagle, Director of PEC's Northeast office at 570-718-6508 or send email to: [jmcmonagle@pecpa.org](mailto:jmcmonagle@pecpa.org).

Also visit the COALS Program webpage or contact Stephen Bartos, COALS Program Manager, 717-787-3103 or send email to: [sbartos@state.pa.us](mailto:sbartos@state.pa.us).

**Link:** [Young Volunteers Honored for Cleanup Efforts Under COALS Program](#)

### **Gov. Rendell Names Members of Outdoor Conference Task Force**

Gov. Rendell this week named 17 members to the task force that will develop key recommendations to help keep people connected to nature through a new [Outdoor Conference Task Force](#).

“Citizens on the task force represent the breadth organizations that have an interest in reversing trends that show our lifestyles are keeping us from spending time outdoors,” Gov. Rendell said. “They will be responsible for presenting recommendations to me and the General Assembly by the end of this year on how we can strengthen the bond between our citizens and our tremendous natural resources.”

The group will be led by co-chairs Doug Austen, executive director of the Fish and Boat Commission, and Caren Glotfelty, director of environmental programs for the Heinz Endowments. Other members of the task force will be:



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- Kathleen Paul, director, Pennsylvania Center for Environmental Education;
- Matt Ehrhart, Pennsylvania executive director, Chesapeake Bay Foundation;
- Bob Griffith, executive director, Pennsylvania Recreation and Park Society;
- Ben Moyer, journalist and author, Pennsylvania Outdoor Writers Association;
- H. Eric Martin, owner, Wilderness Voyageurs;
- Gary San Julien, professor of wildlife resources, Pennsylvania State University;
- Richard Butler, executive director, Three Rivers Rowing Association;
- Carl Roe, executive director, Game Commission;
- Mark McLaughlin, director, Shavers Creek Environmental Center;
- Michael Shelton, camp director, Philadelphia Department of Recreation’s Camp William Penn;
- Jamie Olson-McKee, policy director, Pennsylvania Department of Education;
- Allison Topper, executive director, Pennsylvania Advocates for Nutrition and Activity;
- Lori McKean, assistant director for programs, U.S. Forest Service at Grey Towers National Historic Site;
- Lee Steadman, director of arts and humanities, Stairways Behavioral Health; and
- Fran Rodriguez, chief of staff for Rep. P. Michael Sturla.

Task force members will review the data collected from more than 500 people, including the policy makers, business representatives, sportsmen’s groups, conservation organizations and representatives of the health and education sectors who, earlier this year, participated in the first-of-its-kind Governor’s Outdoor Conference and follow up regional meetings.

“Our attention needs to be focused on these issues because they can affect so many things, including children’s health, the vitality of our rural areas, our quality of life and the future of the state’s billion-dollar hunting industry,” Gov. Rendell said.

For more information on the task force or an opportunity to engage in a meaningful discussion about improving connections between Pennsylvanians and the outdoors through an online forum, visit [Outdoor Conference website](#).

### **Game Commission Seeks Citizen Advisory Committee Volunteers**

The Game Commission is calling for nominations of citizens and volunteers willing to participate in one of five [Citizen Advisory Committees](#) to help gather input related to the deer management goal of minimizing deer-human conflicts in five Wildlife Management Units in 2008.

All nominations must be received by September 15.

Those WMUs identified for next year are: WMU 2A, which consists of Greene County and parts of Allegheny, Beaver, Fayette, Washington and Westmoreland counties; WMU 4C, comprising parts of Berks, Carbon, Columbia, Dauphin, Lebanon, Lehigh, Luzerne and Schuylkill counties; WMU 4D, comprising parts of Blair, Cambria, Centre, Clearfield, Clinton, Huntingdon, Juniata, Lycoming, Mifflin, Snyder and Union counties; WMU 4E, comprising Northumberland and Montour counties and parts of Columbia, Dauphin, Lycoming, Luzerne, Schuylkill, Snyder and Union counties; and WMU 5A, which consist of part of Adams, Cumberland, Franklin and York counties.

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All nominations will be forwarded to the state Office of Administration's Bureau of Management Consulting, which will interview potential candidates, make selections of participants and facilitate the meetings.

The Game Commission does not participate in the selection process, and there is no guarantee that any nominee will be selected or even contacted for an interview.

"Citizens will serve as representatives of specific stakeholder groups and work with other stakeholders to provide a deer population recommendation for each WMU," said Carl G. Roe, Game Commission executive director. "CAC recommendations then will be considered by Game Commission personnel as part of the deer human conflict measure - along with indicators of deer health and forest habitat health - to develop deer management recommendations for the agency's Board of Game Commissioners to consider.

"Nominees and volunteers should be fair and open-minded; have good interpersonal skills; should not hold an officer position in organizations related to the stakeholder group they are seeking to represent; and must be willing to collect input from members of the stakeholder group they represent outside of formal Citizen Advisory Committee meetings."

The CACs provide information to the deer team who then integrates the CACs conclusions into their recommendation to the senior staff and commissioners who ultimately make the decision on deer management for that WMU.

The objectives of CACs include providing an opportunity for: the Game Commission to better understand stakeholder values regarding deer management; stakeholders to interact with Game Commission deer biologists and one another; stakeholders to have input on developing deer population goals that ultimately affect those living in the particular WMU; and the Game Commission to inform stakeholders about the agency's mission, the complexities of deer management, and the importance of proper management.

Stakeholder groups that require representation in all CACs, except where noted, are: resident sportsmen; nonresident sportsmen (4D CAC only); business-direct impact, such as sporting goods stores, taxidermists or deer processors; business-indirect impact, such as restaurant, motel or gas station owners; forest industry; rural non-farm landowner; homeowners in developed areas; highway safety agent; public land owner; conservationist; tourism (4D CAC only); agriculture-nurseries/orchards; and agriculture-livestock/cash crops.

CAC nomination applications can be downloaded from the [Citizen Advisory Committees webpage](#).

Individuals also may contact the Game Commission by phone at 717-787-5529 to obtain a CAC Nomination Form, which should be returned to the address provided on the application. Only completed nominations submitted on CAC nomination forms will be considered.

Visit the Game Commission's [Deer Program webpage](#) for more information.

### **DCNR Seeking Members for Recreational Trails Advisory Board**

The Department of Conservation and Natural Resources is accepting nominations through August 24 for three new appointments to the Pennsylvania Recreational Trails Advisory Board.

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The Board was created on October 29, 1992, in accordance with the provisions of the Transportation Equity Act for the 21st Century and as amended under the Safe, Accountable, Flexible, Efficient Transportation Equity Act: A Legacy for Users.

The Board consists of one member from each of the following nine recreational trail user organizations: hiking; cross-country skiing; off-highway motorcycling; snowmobiling; horseback riding; all-terrain vehicle driving; bicycling; four-wheel driving; and water trails. One member also represents physically challenged individuals.

The Board's main responsibilities include advising the Department on the use of Federal trails funding in this Commonwealth, reviewing and ranking trail project applications and presenting an annual report to the Secretary of the Department on the accomplishments of the preceding Federal fiscal year, including recommendations for changes.

Nominations for the three new appointees are to be made from individuals representing the following trail user organizations: four-wheel driving; horseback riding; and cross-country skiing.

The Secretary of the Department will make the appointments. Appointees will serve for 3 consecutive years.

To obtain a nomination form, contact the Pennsylvania Recreational Trails Program, P. O. Box 8475, Harrisburg, PA 17105-8475, 717-787-2316, or send email to: [vtierney@state.pa.us](mailto:vtierney@state.pa.us).

### **Largest Recycled Glass Sand Mound in Pennsylvania Proposed**

The [Moselem Springs Golf Club](#), in conjunction with the Pennsylvania Recycling Markets Center and Ludgate Engineering Corp., announced the construction of a new, state-of-the-art on-lot wastewater treatment system.

The environmentally friendly glass-sand for this system is made from crushed, recycled glass, as supplied by Cougles Recycling Inc. of Hamburg.

The new treatment system, designed by Ludgate Engineering with planning assistance from the [Pennsylvania Recycling Markets Center](#), will service the club house, grill room, and a small motel. The on-lot system is designed in accordance with DEP requirements.

Given geographic limitations, manufactured glass-sand is less costly than natural sand. When clear, brown and green glass is broken and color mixed, there is not presently a local alternative for use of this material in the manufacture of new bottles.

As a manufactured aggregate, the glass sand is less dense than natural sand, so the glass weighs less per cubic yard. The result of using the less dense material is reduced equipment wear and reduced fuel consumption during construction of the system. Further, due to the process for manufacturing the glass-sand, the glass-sand is not sharp.

To date, this 5,400 square-foot sandmound is the largest known sandmound in Pennsylvania constructed from recycled glass and is replacing a treatment system that has served the Moselem Springs Golf Club for over 40 years.

It is estimated that 1,500 tons of manufactured glass-sand, originating primarily from beverage bottles processed at Cougles Recycling, Inc. will be used in the project.

Estimated measurable results of the project include: 1,500 tons of glass beneficially reused, equal to the weight of almost 7 Statues of Liberty; \$10,000 cost savings in using recycled glass; \$195,000 cost avoided to dispose the material if not recycled; and

Annual global climate change air emissions reduction - 45 tons of Carbon Dioxide.

The Moselem Springs Golf Club is located at 684 Eagle Rd in Fleetwood. Moselem Springs Golf Club has other environmentally-friendly initiatives underway at the property.

The club is planning the second phase of a stream restoration project. This project involves the removal of an on-stream pond and dam on Moselem Creek, while stabilizing a tributary of the same creek. It is projected these stream restoration efforts will increase oxygenation of the stream while reducing stream temperature, erosion, and sedimentation potential. This will directly improve stream habitat for cold water fish species.

The [Pennsylvania Recycling Markets Center](#) is a non-profit organization charged with reducing barriers to development of markets for recyclable materials in the Commonwealth. Headquartered at Penn State Harrisburg, the RMC can be contacted at 717-948-6660 and is supported in part by grant funds from DEP.

### **Pennsylvania’s Climate May Feel Like Alabama According to New Climate Report**

If heat-trapping emissions are not significantly curtailed, global warming will substantially change critical aspects of the Northeast’s character and economy, according to a new report by the [Northeast Climate Impacts Assessment](#), a two-year collaboration between the Union of Concerned Scientists and a team of more than 50 scientists and economists.

Near-term choices about energy, transportation, and land-use will largely determine the extent and severity of climate change, according to the report.

"Global warming represents an enormous challenge, but we can meet it if we act swiftly," said Peter Frumhoff, director of science and policy at UCS and chair of the NECIA team. "Our response to global warming in the next few years will shape the climate our children and grandchildren inherit."

In June, the Pennsylvania Environmental Council unveiled a proposed [Climate Roadmap for Pennsylvania](#) that contained many of the policy recommendations included in the Northeast Climate Impacts Assessment.

"Pennsylvania has much to lose if significant action isn’t taken; but equally important we have much to gain, both economically and environmentally, by adopting comprehensive solutions to reduce greenhouse gas emissions," said Brian Hill, President & CEO of the Pennsylvania Environmental Council. "Our state is one of the largest contributors to greenhouse gas emissions in the world, but has already seen significant benefits from investment in renewable energy development. The Climate Change Roadmap report identifies a number of opportunities inherent in addressing climate change.

"For example, our leading industry – Agriculture – is projected to be greatly affected by climate change. But Agriculture can be part of the solution, whether through biofuel production or carbon sequestration. This is a win-win for our economy and the environment. Pennsylvania can and should be a leader on this issue."

The new report also details the challenges and opportunities for each state in the region.

"Here in Pennsylvania, and across the world, there is growing momentum to meet the climate challenge," according to the report. "Of course our actions alone will not be sufficient to avoid dangerous climate change. But as a global leader in technology, industry, and innovation and a major source of heat-trapping emissions, Pennsylvania (and the rest of the Northeast) is well positioned to drive national and international action."

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Many of the report's recommendations for mitigating the effects of climate-changing emissions were included in Gov. Rendell's Energy Independence Strategy, which will be considered by the state legislature in a special session this fall.

The new NECIA report, reports focusing on Pennsylvania and other states in the region, and a complete list of collaborating scientists and economists.

The peer-reviewed report, "[Confronting Climate Change in the U.S. Northeast](#)," incorporates and builds on NECIA's 2006 study that described how the climate of the nine Northeast states will change under two scenarios: one that assumes an increase in global warming emissions from continued heavy reliance on fossil fuels, and another that assumes substantially lower emissions due to an increased reliance on clean energy sources. The report documents the projected consequences of each emissions path.

It also details what individuals, businesses, and governments can do today to reduce emissions to levels below the lower-emissions scenario and to adapt to the unavoidable changes already set in motion by emissions over the past several decades.

The report's findings include:

**Climate:** The two emissions scenarios would lead to starkly different climates when children born today reach middle age. Under the higher-emissions scenario, winters in the Northeast could warm by 8 to 12 degrees and summers by 6 to 14 degrees above historic levels by late this century. But under the lower-emission scenario, temperatures during Northeast winters are projected to warm only 5 to 8 degrees above historic levels by late-century, and summers by just 3 to 7 degrees.

**Coastlines:** Global sea level is conservatively projected to rise 10 to 23 inches under the higher-emissions scenario and 7 to 14 inches under the lower-emissions scenario

**Agriculture:** By late-century under the higher-emissions scenario, heat stress in cows is projected to cut milk production across much of the region by 5 to 20 percent in certain months, with the greatest losses in the key dairy state of Pennsylvania. Meanwhile, weed problems and pest-related damage are likely to escalate, increasing pressures on farmers to use more herbicides and pesticides. By contrast, changes expected under the lower-emissions scenario are generally much less extensive.

**Marine Fisheries:** As ocean temperatures continue to rise, the range of suitable habitat in the Northeast for many fish and shellfish species such as cod and lobster is projected to shift northward.

**Winter Recreation and Tourism:** Under the higher-emissions scenario, only western Maine is projected to retain a reliable ski season by the end of the century, and only northern New Hampshire would support a snowmobiling season longer than two months. The Northeast cannot reduce global warming alone, but as a world leader in technology, finance and innovation-and a major source of heat-trapping emissions-the region is well-positioned to help drive national and international progress in reducing emissions.

The report concluded that sustained efforts to reduce emissions in the region-on the order of 80 percent below 2000 levels by mid-century and just over 3 percent per year on

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average over the next several decades-can help pull global emissions below the lower-emissions path used in this study.

"The Northeast has a tremendous opportunity to help lead us to a secure climate future. Fortunately, more and more people understand the stakes and are mobilizing around the problem. The time to act is now," said James McCarthy, professor of biological oceanography at Harvard University, vice-chair of the NECIA.

A copy of the [Northeast Climate Impacts Assessment](#) and information about [PEC's Climate Roadmap for Pennsylvania](#) is available online.

**NewsClips:** [PA's Climate Could Be Like Alabama's Global Warming Scenarios Detailed](#)

### Quick Clips

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

[PA's Climate Could Be Like Alabama's](#)

[Global Warming Scenarios Detailed](#)

[Audubon to the Max This Month](#)

[Game Commission to Investigate Mortality Rates in Birds, Bats Caused by Windmills](#)

[House Approves Long-Term Power Deals](#)

[Editorial: Mid-Atlantic Corridor Limits State's Rights](#)

[Alternative Energy Growing in Schuylkill](#)

[CMU Grads Want to Use Blighted Industrial, Residential Sites to Produce Bio-Fuel](#)

[Passage Fulfills a Bicyclist's Downhill Dreams](#)

[Bicycling: Somerset County a Hot Spot](#)

[Scrantons Support Countryside Conservancy](#)

[Central PA Conservancy Transfers Land to DCNR](#)

[Land Conservation – Going Greener](#)

[Editorial: Hold Off Stony Creek Agreement Until Impact Clear](#)

[\\$3 Million in Federal Money to Combat Ash Borer](#)

[Invasive Species Harm Great Lakes](#)

[Wildlife: Shining a Light on a Few Favorite Sumertime Things](#)

[Recycling Benefits Church School](#)

[Lawmakers Consider Bottle Bill to Fund Cleanups](#)

[Environmental Advisory Council Draws Crowd](#)

[Pittsburgh's Improved Air Quality Gains Important Boost From EPA](#)

[Schweiker to Speak at Mine Rescue Anniversary](#)

[Schweiker Returning for Mine-Rescue Anniversary](#)

### Watershed NewsClips

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

[States Urged to Boost Efforts to Curb Runoff From Cornfields](#)

[Stonycreek Watershed Getting Reassessment of Data](#)

[Upgrading Coming to Que](#)

[Deer Creek Watershed Association Making Progress Views Sought on Dunbar Creek Study](#)  
[Delaware River Cleanup Day Planned for July 25](#)  
[Conservation Group Says: Remove Obsolete Dams](#)  
[Alternative Energy Growing in Schuylkill](#)  
[Op-Ed: All Can REAP Benefits of Farm Bill](#)  
[Allegheny Health Dept. Bracing for Costly Sewer Project](#)  
[Lack of Rain Prompts Ban on Water Use](#)  
[Smiles, Memories and Trout](#)  
[Specter, Casey Announce Approval of Water Projects](#)

## **Regulations**

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The Environmental Quality Board this published [proposed changes to hazardous waste regulations](#) for public comments which are due September 12, a formal notice extending the CAIR permit application deadline (*PA Bulletin 3330*) and an updated list of those certified to perform radon-related activities (*PA Bulletin 3330*).

[Pennsylvania Bulletin – July 14, 2007](#)

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

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

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

## **Technical Guidance & Permits**

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The Department of Environmental Protection this week [published final guidance](#) on the Coal Mining Applicant Violator System.

DEP ID: 562-3000-802 Coal Mining Applicant Violator System (AVS) Compliance Manual. The AVS is a National computer system managed by the Federal Office of Surface Mining Reclamation and Enforcement to track coal mining permit information and permittee ownership and control information for the states where coal is mined. The system also tracks violation information such as outstanding Federal violations, unpaid Federal civil penalties and reclamation fees, and outstanding State Failure to Abate Cessation Orders and civil penalties.

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

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

## Calendar of Upcoming Events

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

- [No-Cost Internet-Based Training Courses](#)
- **July 14** -- Senate Rules Committee meets to consider [House Bill 1295](#) (Hanna-D-Clinton) restoring the State System of Higher Education allocation from the Keystone Recreation, Park and Conservation Fund for fiscal year 2006-07 and including other budget implementing language for fiscal year 2007-08 and [Senate Bill 97](#) (D.White-R-Indiana) was amended to add REAP farm conservation tax credit program to other tax credit programs being considered. Rules Room. Call of Chair.
- **July 14** – Senate Environmental Resources and Energy Committee meets to consider [House Bill 1203](#) (Hornaman-D-Erie) making changes to the Alternative Energy Portfolio Standards Act consistent with the Governor’s Energy Independence Initiative. Rules Room. Call of Chair.
- **July 17** – Premier of John James Audubon: Drawn From Nature Documentary and unveiling of planned improvements at the Audubon Hawk Watch At Waggoner’s Gap in honor of Cliff Jones. Whitaker Center for Science and the Arts, Harrisburg. 6:00. Contact: 717-213-6880
- **July 17** – [DEP Citizens Advisory Council](#) meeting. Room 105 Rachel Carson Building, Harrisburg. 11:30.
- **July 17** – **CANCELLED**. Environmental Quality Board meeting. The next scheduled Board meeting is August 21.
- **July 18** – Harrisburg Capital Regional Water Board Planning Commission meeting. Juniata Room, Susquehanna River Basin Commission Building, 1721 N. Front St., Harrisburg. 10:00. and Capital Regional Water Planning Directors meeting. 1:00 same location. Contact: Cindy Rock, 717-633-7959 or send email to: [pweameetings@comcast.net](mailto:pweameetings@comcast.net) .
- **July 19** – DCNR [Snowmobile and ATV Advisory Committee](#) meeting. Room 105 Rachel Carson Building. 9:00.
- **July 25** – DCNR [Conservation and Natural Resources Advisory Council](#) meeting. Room 105 Rachel Carson Building. 10:00.
- **August 14** - The Delaware River Basin Commission will [hold a public hearing](#) on the proposed Flexible Flow Management Program for New York City Reservoirs. Trenton, NJ.
- **September 27** – **RESCHEDULED**. DEP [Low-Level Waste Advisory Committee](#) meeting has been rescheduled to November 1, Room 105 Rachel Carson Building. 10:00.
- **October 13** – Schuylkill River Festival. Pottstown. Contact: Carolyn Brunschwyler, Montgomery County Community College, 610-718-1847, or send email to: [cbrunsch@mc3.edu](mailto:cbrunsch@mc3.edu)



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- **October 23** – DEP [Nonpoint Source Liaison Workshop](#) meeting. Room 105 Rachel Carson Building, Harrisburg. 10:00. Contact: Steven Lathrop, 717-772-5618 or send email to: [slathrop@state.pa.us](mailto:slathrop@state.pa.us) .
- **February 22-23** – 2008 [Keystone Coldwater Conference](#). State College.

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

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

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

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

## Helpful Web Links

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

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

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

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

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

## Stories Invited

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

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