

— PA — Environment Digest

*An Update on
Environmental
Issues in
Pennsylvania*

Edited By David E. Hess, Holston & Crisci

September 18, 2006

House Agriculture to Hold Information Meeting on Conservation Tax Credit Bill

The House Agriculture and Rural Affairs Committee will hold an informational meeting September 19 on [House Bill 2878](#) (Stern-R-Blair, Hershey-R-Chester, Daley-D-Washington) that would create the Resource Enhancement and Protection Tax Credit Program.

The Resource Enhancement and Protection Tax Credit Program (REAP) would provide farmers and landowners with business or personal state tax credits to cover their cost for installing best management practices that will reduce nutrients and sediments going into rivers and streams.

Tax credits of between 25 and 75 percent, up to a total of \$150,000, would be provided to clean up barnyards, plant forested buffers, install stream bank fencing and remove legacy sediments from floodplains.

The program would allow the tax credits to be sold and transferred to others or rolled ahead for up to 15 years.

Also included is a sponsorship program that allows businesses to finance projects on farms and receive a tax credit for their investment.

The [Senate Agriculture and Rural Affairs Committee](#) held a public hearing that included the Senate companion bill – [Senate Bill 1286](#) (Wenger-R-Lancaster, Waugh-R-York, O’Pake-D-Berks) -- last week.

The House Agriculture Committee is chaired by Rep. Hershey (R-Chester) and Rep. Daley (D-Washington).



Issue NoteBook: [Resource Enhancement & Protection Tax Credit Proposal](#)
[Chesapeake Bay Foundation REAP Resource Page](#)

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Session Schedule

The Senate returns to session September 19 and the House on September 25.

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See & Hear

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Environmental Heritage

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- State Historical Marker Dedicated for Edmund Bacon, Philadelphia City Planner

Feature

- Paddlers Congregate on Lake Erie's Shoreline During the Final PA River Sojourn Event of 2006, By Justin Shellenberger, *Watershed Weekly*

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On the Hill

On the Senate/House Agenda

Several committee meetings are scheduled for next week, here's the rundown...

In the House, the Agriculture and Rural Affairs Committee holds an informational meeting on [House Bill 2878](#) Resource Enhancement and Protection Tax Credit Act.

In the Senate, the Public Health and Welfare Committee holds a public hearing on [Senate Bill 1270](#) providing additional funding for the Low-Income Home Energy Assistance program.

Committee Told DEP Mercury Rule Imposes Twice the Cost, No Added Benefits

The House Environmental Resources and Energy Committee was told this week the proposed Department of Environmental Protection mercury emissions reduction rule would more than double the ultimate cost of reducing mercury emissions over other mercury reduction plans with no added environmental or health benefits.

This was the second meeting of the Committee on this issue and the fifth held by the Senate and House to hear from a variety of experts on reducing mercury emissions from coal-fired power plants.

“The committee is continuing to take a serious look at this issue in its efforts to support the best possible plan of action by the Commonwealth on how best to reduce mercury emissions in the state,” said Committee Chairman Rep. Bill Adolph (R-Delaware) “We all have the same goal – to reduce mercury emissions in Pennsylvania. The only real question is how best to achieve that goal, which is why we are here today.”

Department of Environmental Protection [Secretary Kathleen McGinty](#) also offered comments saying relatively inexpensive technology was available to reduce mercury emissions to meet the 90 percent reduction requirement in the proposed rule, citing a letter from Sorbent Technologies, a mercury controls vendor.

However, Rep. Reed (R-Indiana) called to the Secretary’s attention Sorbent’s letter said their technology only achieved an 80 percent removal in limited tests.

“The question is not whether to reduce mercury emissions, but how,” said [Douglas L. Biden](#), President of the Electric Power Generating Association, noting that owners of Pennsylvania power plants have already announced they will invest nearly \$3 billion in advanced air pollution controls to reduce mercury and other pollutants.

“[A new report](#) shows DEP’s proposed rule would more than double the cost of removing mercury from power plant emissions because it would not allow Pennsylvania to join the national mercury reduction program adopted by EPA,” said Biden. “And neither DEP nor any group has provided credible information demonstrating that these increased costs to generators and consumers will buy us significant additional health or environmental benefits over joining the federal program.”

Biden pointed to the testimony of medical and health risk experts before previous hearings by the Senate and House Environmental Committees who said, “Any claims that Pennsylvania’s state-specific proposed rule will protect high consumers of Pennsylvania fish any better than will the federal rule are not scientifically supportable.”

The health threat from mercury comes from people eating fish containing mercury, not from direct exposure to mercury emissions.

“DEP itself came before the committees and said they have no studies showing any correlation between mercury emissions from power plants and local health impacts,” said Biden. “DEP also said it has no studies showing a link between specific power plants emissions and where mercury is being deposited in Pennsylvania.”

In fact, Biden noted, power plants in Pennsylvania already have reduced mercury emissions by 33 percent from 1999 to 2004, yet this significant reduction did not even

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register on the state’s Mercury Monitoring Network. These results clearly show that mercury comes from a variety of natural and manmade sources, not just power plants, Biden said.

“In addition, studies show up to 3,400 megawatts of Pennsylvania’s coal-fired electric generating capacity is at risk of shutting down as a result of DEP’s proposal,” said Biden. “Without this capacity, there is considerable doubt whether we could have met the record peak demand for electricity we experienced during the August heat wave without imposing unacceptable costs on consumers.”

Biden also pointed to concerns raised by the PJM Interconnection, the operator of the regional electric grid, about the potential impact on electric reliability due to plant retirements of state-only mercury rules like DEP’s. “Not only would family-sustaining jobs be lost if power plants shut down,” said Biden. “Studies show there will be an annual 14 percent drop in demand for Pennsylvania-mined coal as a result of these plant retirements.

“Electric generators recognize their responsibility to further reduce their mercury emissions, but they need the ability to do so in a cost-effective way. Joining the federal mercury reduction effort, with its cap-and-trade program, will reduce mercury emissions and costs,” said Biden. “We can trade allowances or we can trade jobs to other states. Adopting the DEP command and control approach would mean trading jobs to other states.”

A cap-and-trade program, like the one included in a recently adopted national mercury reduction program, would allow power plant owners to over-control mercury emissions at one plant to make up for other plants where maximum reductions may not be technically feasible or cost -efficient.

The Electric Power Generation Association is part of a labor, business and coal industry coalition supporting legislation adopting a mercury reduction plan that would reduce mercury emissions by 86 percent from Pennsylvania power plants.

The coalition includes: the United Mine Workers of America, International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers, Pennsylvania Coal Association, Electric Power Generation Association, Pennsylvania Chamber of Business and Industry, Pennsylvania Manufacturers Association, Pennsylvania Chemical Industry Council, Associated Petroleum Industries of Pennsylvania, and the Pennsylvania Conference of Teamsters.

“We believe good public policy demands that as we protect the environment and public health, we also need to protect jobs, consumers and Pennsylvania’s economic future,” said Biden. “We think we can create a win-win for everyone, but not with DEP’s proposal as it currently stands.”

The House Environmental Committee is chaired by Rep. Adolph (R-Delaware) and Rep. George (D-Clearfield).

NewsClip: [Smog Pollutants in East Drop EPA Says](#)
[DEP Issues Permit to Reduced Emissions at Greene Power Plant](#)

Issue NoteBook: [PA Mercury Emissions Control Update](#)

In Other News

State Treasurer Launches \$90 Million Keystone Green Investment Strategy

State Treasurer Robert P. Casey, Jr. this week announced a new investment strategy for the Commonwealth that will promote greater public and private investments in clean technologies, such as alternative and renewable energy sources, and provide superior returns for taxpayers.

Casey said his new [Keystone Green Investment Strategy](#) is one of the nation's most comprehensive among institutional investors and the result of a yearlong series of meetings with private sector investors, financial experts, non-profit state energy funds and others.

Highlights include:

1. **The Keystone Green Fund** – a new investment fund Casey is establishing to attract and leverage private sector investments in clean technology products and firms that will benefit Pennsylvania's economy. The Fund will include up to \$40 million in Treasury assets and several million more from Pennsylvania-based energy funds.

2. **Active Equity Management** – Casey will reallocate up to \$50 million in Treasury assets from existing investment managers to those who can demonstrate a track record of providing superior returns on their investments in clean technology stocks.

3. **Environmental Equity Screens** – Treasury will develop new investment screens for its investment managers and outside consultants to use when evaluating a company's potential exposure to environmental liabilities.

4. **Investor Network for Climate Risk** – Pennsylvania will formally join the INCR, a network of institutional investors and financial institutions that promotes better understanding of the financial risks and investment opportunities posed by climate change.

“Keystone Green is a comprehensive effort to identify investments that can generate superior returns for Pennsylvania taxpayers, while attracting future private sector venture capital investment and job growth in clean technology industries,” Casey said.

Brian Hill, President of the [Pennsylvania Environmental Council](#), lauded Treasurer Casey's action, saying, “this new investment strategy by the Treasurer links environmental protection and economic development, and puts Pennsylvania at the forefront of a national trend to promote sustainable economic development. It is both progressive and prudent.” Venture capitalists invested \$1.6 billion in North American clean technology companies in 2005 – 43 percent more than the previous year – according to a May 2006 report from [Cleantech Capital Group, LLC](#).

Cleantech's report emphasized that, “...the seeds are being laid now to determine which state's companies will get the lion's share of investment, and which states will call the leaders of the cleantech industry their own. The states that can best woo entrepreneurs and investors now will have a chance to create self-perpetuating cleantech clusters that drive dynamic economic growth while also improving the economy...”

Rob Sanders, managing director of [The Reinvestment Fund \(TRF\) of Philadelphia](#), said, “TRF commends the Pennsylvania Treasury Department for its vision and leadership in creating the Keystone Green Fund. TRF believes the new Fund will be an engine for creating quality Pennsylvania jobs in the clean technology sector, for helping Pennsylvania citizens and businesses reduce their energy costs, and for cleaning Pennsylvania's air, water and soil – all while paying a profitable return to the Fund's investors.”

Kevin Murphy, president of the [Berks County Community Foundation](#), said, “We commend the Pennsylvania Treasury Department for its farsighted decision to invest in Pennsylvania's rapidly emerging clean technology sector. Encouraging private investment now in environmentally friendly power will be a competitive advantage to the

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Commonwealth as it seeks to attract and retain jobs in the future. Pennsylvania's leadership position, bolstered by the Treasury's action, will strengthen her position in the global economy."

Venture capital experts say that clean technology is the fastest-growing sector in the private funding business. Earlier this year, the *New York Times* reported, "Public and private investment money and venture capitalists are marshalling billions of dollars to pour into companies pursuing alternative energy – renewables like wind or solar power – or clean technologies, like pollution-control innovations that make conventional energy sources cleaner." (*Felicity Barringer*, May 17, 2006)

Joyce M. Ferris, managing partner, [Blue Hill Partners, LLC](#), said, "By creating the Keystone Green Fund the Treasury Department is leading the way in generating strong financial returns for the citizens of Pennsylvania by investing in this important asset class. In addition to achieving competitive, risk-adjusted returns in this profitable investment area, the Fund should also generate measurable environmental returns and supporting economic development...and provide important fuel to support the growth of green technology companies in Pennsylvania."

Casey's goal for the \$40 million Keystone Green Fund is to achieve solid returns on clean technology investments while enhancing the Commonwealth's economy. Treasury will invest up to \$15 million in innovative and profitable clean technology businesses that have a direct nexus to existing or nascent Pennsylvania firms, and up to another \$25 million in other clean technology opportunities that offer attractive returns, as well as broad benefits to the state's economy.

Three of Pennsylvania's four sustainable energy funds – TRF's Sustainable Development Fund, [West Penn Power Sustainable Energy Fund](#), and First Energy's Sustainable Energy Fund – have formally expressed their interest in co-investing with Treasury in the Keystone Green Fund. This marks the first time that the sustainable energy funds have pooled their resources in the interest of alternative energy and economic development.

New \$50 Million Treasury Investment in Profitable Clean Technology Stocks. Casey said the Pennsylvania Treasury Department will take specific steps to make certain that up to \$50 million of its public equity holdings can take advantage of the potential opportunities that clean technology industries offer in the new marketplace. At the same time, Casey said Treasury will adopt a series of written guidelines or "investment screens" for all of its public equity investment managers to consult in assessing companies' potential risks of loss from climate change, as well as changes in international energy economics and carbon regulation.

Casey also announced the Pennsylvania Treasury Department has formalized its relationship with the [Investor Network on Climate Risk](#) (INCR) by joining the three-year-old organization. INCR is a network of institutional investors and financial institutions dedicated to promoting better understanding of the financial risks and investment opportunities posed by climate change.

Founded by state and city treasurers and comptrollers, labor pension fund leaders and foundation leaders in 2003, INCR represents over 50 institutions that collectively manage more than \$3 trillion in assets. INCR believes that prudence, common sense and fiduciary responsibility should compel most institutional investors to examine the financial

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ramifications of climate risk and, where appropriate, to invest based upon those risks and opportunities.

“Treasurer Casey is demonstrating prudent, smart leadership by joining forces with dozens of other investors to better understand the financial risks and investment opportunities from climate change,” said Mindy S. Lubber, president of Ceres and director of the Investor Network on Climate Risk. “Whether from extreme weather events, regulatory changes or growing demand for renewable energy, climate change is a serious business issue that will have far-reaching consequences for businesses and investors in the years ahead.”

Casey said the Treasury Department will work with INCR to insure that investors can obtain greater access to information about how climate change will impact the long-term viability of individual businesses and industries.

[A copy of the Keystone Green Investment Strategy is available online.](#)

Lake Erie-Allegheny Earth Force to Host Alternative Energy Educator Workshop

The [Lake Erie-Allegheny Earth Force](#) and the Department of Environmental Protection will hold a free educator workshop-- Introducing Alternative Energy-- on October 27 from 8:30 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. at the [Tom Ridge Environmental Center](#) in Erie.

Designed for middle and high school teachers, homeschoolers and non-formal educators, participants will explore alternative energy technologies, including solar, wind, hydrogen fuel cells and biofuels and learn about energy conservation for schools through presentations, hands-on activities and a field trip to observe alternative energy technology in action.

The workshop is based upon Pennsylvania’s Academic Standards for Environment and Ecology and Science and Technology and participating teachers are eligible for 7.0 Act 48 credit hours.

According to Jack Farster, Director of DEP’s Environmental Education and Information Center, “We are pleased to offer this workshop to educators. With the ever-increasing amount of alternative energy technology activities, whether planned or ongoing in the Erie and surrounding areas, it was a natural fit to offer this workshop to area educators.”

To register for the workshop, educators should contact Ann Devine, in DEP’s Environmental Education and Information Center, at 717-772-1644 or send e-mail to: adevine@state.pa.us by October 13. Space is limited, so registrations will be accepted on a first-come, first-serve basis.

Sustainable Living Festival/Conference Set For Berks County

On September 22-23 the Kempton Community Center in Berks County will host the [Second Annual Sustainable Living Festival and Conference](#).

If you've ever dreamed of powering your home or business from solar or wind energy, don't miss this opportunity to learn how to make your dream a reality by attending this Festival!

The Festival will feature workshops and presentations about renewable energy, natural building construction, sustainable agriculture, land-use planning, forestry and

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healthy living practices, along with speakers, national exhibitors, hands-on demonstrations, vendors, live music and entertainment, children's activities and, of course, food.

For more information, visit the [Sustainable Living Festival and Conference webpage](#).

DEP Awards \$740,000 In Environmental Education Grants

The Department of Environmental Protection this week announced 129 grants totaling \$738,965 to create and develop projects that enhance environmental education in Pennsylvania.

The grants were awarded to schools, universities, nonprofit organizations and county conservation districts to create and develop projects that will help to increase environmental literacy among Pennsylvanians.

Projects range from creative, hands-on lessons for students to teacher-training programs and ecological education for adults. Topics include watersheds, wetlands, Pennsylvania ecosystems, and renewable and nonrenewable energy resources.

They include grants like those to the Pennsylvania Resources Council - \$10,000 for pre-service teacher training workshops on watershed issues for Slippery Rock University education majors (Butler County) and the Pennsylvania Environmental Council - \$1,500 for Erie Basin watershed education resources (Crawford County) and \$1,500 to purchase educational materials related to renewable energy sources (Monroe County) and for watershed-related programs like: Berks County Conservation District - \$7,950 for creation of a watershed-based source-water education program for middle schools, Bucks County Conservation District - \$ 1,480 for watershed educational materials for district education and outreach programs and to Stream Restoration Inc. - \$9,961 for teacher training on coal mining and acid mine drainage.

The grant program was established by the Environmental Education Act of 1993, which mandates setting aside 5 percent of the pollution fines and penalties collected annually by DEP for environmental education in Pennsylvania.

Since the inception of the environmental education grant program, DEP has awarded almost \$4 million in grants to support the environmental education efforts of schools, county conservation districts and other nonprofit organizations throughout Pennsylvania.

[A complete list of grant awards is available online.](#)

NewsClips: [Better Education on Environmental Issues Purposes of Grant](#)

Volunteers Turn Abandoned Mine Land Into Community Flower Garden

Over the last nine months more than 30 volunteers have transformed mine-scarred land, an abandoned bridge abutment and an invasive weedy hillside into an industrial art project honoring the largest anthracite mining disaster in Avondale in Northeastern Pa.

And on September 17, the volunteers will celebrate the successful project with a Community Picnic and Cook-out from 4 p.m. to 6 p.m.

Part of the project includes a community flower garden that incorporates a stormwater management practice using a rain barrel to recycle water for the plants. The

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garden project just received a \$250 grant from [Keep Pennsylvania Beautiful](#) to support garden development.

Throughout the summer, volunteers worked 700 hours and gathered more than \$10,000 of donated materials and time for the perennial garden and industrial art project which is dedicated to the 110 victims of the [1869 Avondale mine fire](#).

During construction, Robert Hughes, [Eastern Pennsylvania Coalition for Abandoned Mine Reclamation](#) and a resident of Avondale Hill, secured a donation of and installed a 100-foot long silt fence to prevent dirt from eroding off the hillside with Mike Hewitt, a co-worker from Plymouth.

A small grant from the Department of Environmental Protection and the Pennsylvania Resources Council, plus some donations of flowers from local nurseries, helped to populate the garden.

Valerie Taylor, EPCAMR Office of Surface Mining VISTA, from the [Appalachian Coal Country Watershed Team](#), coordinated all of the volunteer work days and her enthusiasm for the project spread through many of the volunteers throughout the course of the project.

At the base of the abutment, Heather Elias planted a wildly colorful garden. Dawson and Hayley Hughes scrubbed the graffiti off of the boulders and the abutment to bring back the rock's true colors. Tom and Mike Loke built the surrounding rock wall and cut the weeds and invasive plants out of the hillside to make way for the garden.

Ed and Diane, a couple that lives directly across the street from the project, watered the garden during its initial landscaping to keep it alive, and have assisted with planting the garden and pulling weeds as well.

Karen Gabriel, a new homeowner on Avondale Hill, shoveled dirt to create the flower bed during the heat of the Summer. Many other silent volunteers and businesses have contributed quietly with their contributions and work ethic to the project and were just glad to help in any way possible.

Volunteers arranged long-term garden care with the addition of a rain barrel donated by the Luzerne Conservation District. From the roof of the kiosk housing a public community bulletin board, built by Rick Shields and his grandson, Patrick Shields, water collects and will nourish the garden during dry times. A seep hose distributes the water throughout the planted area.

For more information, please contact the [EPCAMR office](#) at 570-674-7993 or send email to Robert Hughes at: rhughes@epcamr.org.

Saint Vincent College Hosts Acid Mine Drainage Workshop for Teachers

[Saint Vincent College Environmental Education Center](#) is hosting a workshop entitled, "Watersheds and the Abandoned Mine Drainage" for elementary, secondary and environmental educators on October 11 from 9:00 - 4:00.

The focus of the workshop is Watersheds and the Abandoned Mine Drainage (AMD) Partnership Curriculum titled, "Nature Interrupted: The Journey of Abandoned Mine Drainage."

The workshop will provide educators with the training and resources needed to utilize Nature Interrupted, the newly developed curriculum that is still in the piloting stage. Teachers can then use the curriculum in their classrooms to introduce Mine Drainage and

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encourage student awareness of, and critical thinking about how it causes degradation of land and water quality and how it poses serious risks to the community at large.

The workshop will demonstrate how teachers can use the curriculum to meet state academic standards, and the workshop will specifically address Pennsylvania Academic Standards for Environment and Ecology on Humans and the Environment, Watersheds and Wetlands, Agriculture and Society, and Ecosystems and their Interactions.

The AMD curriculum, developed by local environmental organizations uses an experimental approach to learning and the use of indoor and outdoor learning lessons to encourage students' skills in problem solving, questioning, and observing.

Teachers will also be asked to assist with any revisions that are necessary to improve the curriculum.

The workshop fee is \$25.00. Curriculum development was funded by a Department of Environmental Protection - Growing Greener Grant.

For more information about the workshop, please call 724-805-2051 or register at the [Saint Vincent College Environmental Education Center webpage](#).

For information on the Curriculum Guide visit the [AMR Clearinghouse website](#) to request a sample lesson plan.

PA Lake Management Society Conference, 2006 Photo Contest in October

The Pennsylvania Lake Management Society will hold its [17th Annual Lake and Watershed Management Conference](#) on October 25- 26 at the Days Inn, State College.

PALMS is also accepting entries for its [2006 Photo Contest](#) until October 24.

The theme of this year's conference is "New Technologies for Lake Management" and will feature keynote speakers Dr. Alex Home, Professor of Ecological Engineering from the University of California at Berkeley and Robert Johnson, manager of the Cornell Ponds in New York.

Workshops will feature practical case studies on a variety of lake and pond management problems and issues, dam removals, aquatic pesticide use, environmental planning for lake communities, improving fish habitat and fish stocking programs.

For more information and to register, visit the [Lake and Watershed Management Conference webpage](#) or contact: Jason Smith at 610-691-5644 or send email to: jesmith@hanovereng.com or Ed Molesky at 215-230-9325 or send email to: emolesky@aqualinkinc.com.

Ohio River Celebration Attracts 900 So Far, Grants Added for Watershed Groups

Over 900 people have registered so far for the 5th Annual Ohio River Watershed Celebration that gets underway on September 21.

To help create interest in attendance, the ORWC Organizing Committee will award four \$500 grants to winners of an "on-board" display competition. There was so much interest in the grants, the Committee decided to also award four additional \$250 second prize grants awards to help watershed groups meet their organizations goals.

The Celebration recognizes the efforts and impacts that small local watershed organizations have had on the restoration of the Three Rivers in Pittsburgh lead by dedicated volunteers addressing local issues,

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There is still time to register. [Go to the Ohio River Celebration webpage.](#)

Watershed Alliance of York Sponsors 4th Watershed Weekend September 23 & 24

Reminder that the [4th Annual Watershed Weekend](#) sponsored by the Watershed Alliance of York is coming up on September 23 & 24.

This year's theme is "Celebrating Connecting People to Their Watersheds." The public is invited and encouraged to get to know their watershed and the people and organizations working hard to restore and protect them.

This year the Alliance is offering 17 different ways to get to know your watershed and learn how to get involved protecting it. Venues include watershed cleanups, educational programs, fundraising events, recreational opportunities, and more.

Watershed Weekend 2006 will be held from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. in the Conewago Creek, Codorus Creek, Muddy Creek, and Gunpowder Creek Watersheds, in York County, Pennsylvania and Carroll County, Maryland.

Learn more about how you can get involved in Watershed Weekend 2006 by picking up our free self-guided tour pamphlet at your local library, government offices, and the York County ANNEX, or visit the [4th Annual Watershed Weekend webpage](#). All venues are free.

The Watershed Alliance of York is a coalition of stakeholders committed to encouraging watershed-based planning, restoration and protection through locally led initiatives, in York County and beyond.

Funding of watershed cleanups provided by PPL Corp.

Villanova Green Roof Technology Seminar and BMP Tour October 6

Villanova University is hosting a [Green Roof Technology Seminar and Best Management Practices Tour](#) on October 6 at the University.

The deadline for registration is October 3.

Two Green Roof experts will make presentations at the workshop and answer questions on the Design, Construction and Permitting of Green Roofs.

The BMP tour will include roof top gardens, stormwater wetlands, a bio-infiltration traffic island, pervious concrete infiltration site, porous asphalt, infiltration trench and a seepage pit.

The workshop cost is \$25.

For more information and to register, visit the [Green Roof Technology Seminar and Best Management Practices Tour webpage](#).

Brandywine Creek Clean Up Scheduled, Tree Planting in Laurels Reserve

"Friends of the Brandywine" are sponsoring a first annual river clean up to be held 9 a.m. to 4 p.m., October 7. The [Brandywine Conservancy](#) is also sponsoring a tree planting in the Laurels Reserve October 14.

Volunteers should meet at 8 a.m. in the parking lots behind the Downingtown Borough Hall and follow signs to the cleanup. Workers should bring work gloves, boots,

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pry bars, rakes, hip waders, heavy ropes and friends. Gloves, trash bags, trucks, and refreshments will be supplied.

Organizers hope to make this an annual event by involving the community, local businesses, watershed and environmental organizations, municipalities and schools in an education-based event that inspires awareness and watershed stewardship throughout the year.

The growing list of partners includes: Kimberton Whole Foods Brandywine Conservancy Brandywine Trout & Conservation Club Downingtown Borough Honeybrook Township Chester County Sierra Club Committee UEB Conservation Plan Committee Chester County Conservation District Lanchester Landfill – Chester County Solid Waste Authority Friends of the Brandywine.

For more information on the cleanup, contact Robert Lonsdorf, Brandywine Conservancy, at RLonsdorf@brandywine.org.

On October 14, plant a tree in the Laurels Reserve with the [Young Friends of the Brandywine Conservancy](#), their families and friends. Participant fee includes the cost of trees and lunch. Advance registration is required. For more information or to register, please call 610-388-8315.

Forum to Focus on Guide to the Natural Communities of the Delaware Estuary

The speaker for the next Rachel Carson Forum on September 21 will be Krista Nelson, the Watershed Restoration Coordinator for the Partnership for the Delaware Estuary.

The Forum will be held at noon in the auditorium of the Rachel Carson Building in Harrisburg.

Nelson will talk about “[The Guide to the Natural Communities of the Delaware Estuary](#)” and its companion, “[Key to the Delaware Estuary Ecological Systems and Natural Communities](#),” tools for conservation planners and practitioners. The guide describes 185 community types encompassing 35 broader-scale ecological systems known to occur in the Delaware Estuary region.

The natural community types were identified using the National Vegetation Classification System, approved by the Federal Geographic Data Committee as the U.S. vegetation standard. Each of the three estuary states’ vegetation classifications was cross-walked to the NVC, providing a common language across multiple jurisdictions.

The guide was created to help protect, preserve, and restore many of the species and habitats that comprise the Delaware Estuary Watershed. The information contained in the guide can help growth management decision-making, steering development away from ecologically sensitive resources. It can aid land acquisition prioritization, answering questions of rarity and representation in protected areas.

The Rachel Carson Forum on Future of the Environment is a monthly mid-day speakers series that seeks to stimulate discussion on important environmental and sustainable development issues.

The Department of Environmental Protection, the Department of Conservation and Natural Resources, Office of Conservation Science, and the [Pennsylvania Consortium for Interdisciplinary Environmental Policy](#) are organizing this series.

PA Rural Water Assn. Offers Billing, Financial Services

The Pennsylvania Rural Water Association announced the launch of [PRWA Financial Services](#) this week to provide financing, billing and collection services, and line insurance.

The benefits of the loan program include minimal paperwork, fast, one-week approval, low origination and closing costs, payment schedules to meet cash flow, and interest rates tied to tax-free or taxable indexes. Loans can be used for construction financing, equipment loans, working capital lending, and debt refinancing.

For more information contact Joe Falcone at 814-353-7703 or send email to: jfalcone@prwa.com or visit the [Billing Services webpage](#).

Industrial-Strength Opportunities to Reduce Energy Costs Topics of Workshops

The Department of Environmental Protection is sponsoring [two upcoming workshops](#) in Southeastern Pennsylvania in support of the [Department of Energy's Save Energy Now initiative](#).

The workshops are designed for managers, engineers, equipment operators and maintenance staff of commercial and industrial businesses and will help optimize the efficiency and reliability of energy-intensive business systems.

On September 20, West Chester University, Perfecseal Inc. and Blankin Equipment Corp. will cosponsor a no-cost Steam System Assessment workshop at the Graduate Business Center on the university's Chester County campus.

The full-day training will address steam system efficiency gains available by optimizing system generation, use and distribution components. DOE software resources, which include the Steam System Scoping Tool, Steam System Assessment Tool and 3E Plus Insulation software, will be available to all workshop attendees along with a Steam System Survey Guide. Steam system optimization can reduce fuel consumption up to 25 percent so savings can be significant for businesses able to participate in the workshop.

On October 11-12 an Advanced Management of Compressed Air Systems workshop will be held at McCall Field in Upper Darby, Montgomery County.

The workshop is cosponsored by Exelon Corp., Scales Industrial Technologies, Draw Professional Services and George Weston Bakeries.

The advanced workshop provides in-depth technical information on compressed air system troubleshooting and improvements. Attendees will learn how to develop a compressed air system profile and to assess system efficiency and cost-effectiveness, develop maintenance programs, study control system strategies for matching air supply and quality with demand, evaluate heat recovery options, and learn to present system improvement projects to management.

Copies of the AirMaster+ software tool and all DOE software resources will be available to workshop participants. A \$100 registration fee will be charged to attend this two-day event.

To download a brochure containing registration information, agendas, and full workshop details for either event visit the [DEP Pennsylvania Industrial Energy Resources webpage](#) or contact Richard Illig, 717-772-5834.

Duquesne Light Settlement Means \$6 Million for Green Electricity, Energy Efficiency

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Citizens for Pennsylvania's Future this week announced that it and 16 other parties had reached a settlement with Pittsburgh-based Duquesne Light Company that will, for the first time in this region, provide \$6 million over four years for renewable energy development and conservation programs.

This agreement comes after PennFuture and the other parties filed objections before the Pennsylvania Public Utility Commission to the distribution and transmission rate increases requested by Duquesne Light.

"This agreement finally brings the Pittsburgh area into the renewable energy market, with millions for jobs and development, as well as direct help to customers in cutting their bills," said John Hanger, president and CEO of PennFuture, and former member of the PUC. "We gained funding for clean, renewable energy and energy conservation. This is money that will be directly invested in the Pittsburgh territory and help cut customer's electricity usage and bills.

"In an energy world in turmoil, where oil, gasoline, natural gas and even coal prices have increased by 100 percent to 400 percent in the last five years, Duquesne's electricity prices are actually \$11 less than they were in 1991," continued Hanger. "In 1991, the average residential customer paid \$85.65 or the equivalent of \$128 in today's dollars. After the distribution rate increase granted in this case goes into effect in January 2007, the average residential bill will be \$74.23 — 42 percent less in inflation-adjusted dollars than the bill was in 1991.

"The distribution system rate increase granted to Duquesne in this settlement was necessary to build and expand the system to deliver electricity to customers," continued Hanger. "And the new investments PennFuture insisted on will help to insulate customers from coal, natural gas and oil price spikes by providing clean energy, made from the sun and wind and other free fuel sources, and will also allow customers to invest in conservation technologies to cut their bills."

Adding renewable energy to Duquesne's energy supply and boosting energy conservation will improve reliability and security by relying on local electricity sources and will help cut pollution that threatens the region's public health and economy. This agreement will also provide local jobs and investment.

Pittsburgh is currently the only major electricity service territory in the state without a sustainable development fund to invest in clean energy. The Pittsburgh funding will be administered by the Pennsylvania Energy Development Authority.

The Duquesne Light settlement is the latest agreement PennFuture has negotiated for renewable energy and efficiency investments in Pennsylvania. Through PennFuture's series of legal cases and the organization's advocacy within state government, Pennsylvania has increased investments and incentives for renewable energy by \$188 million.

A number of local elected officials supported PennFuture's request for money to invest in renewable energy and energy efficiency in the Duquesne Light settlement, including Allegheny County Council President Richard Fitzgerald, Allegheny County Council Members Jim Burn, Joan Cleary and William Robinson and Pittsburgh City Council Member William Peduto.

Steady Reduction in Power Plant Emissions Continue With Cap & Trade Program

[A new report](#) catalogues how power plants and other large facilities in the East cut ozone-forming emissions another 11 percent between 2004 and 2005 under the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's cap and trade program, with the reduction since 1990 totaling 72 percent.

The latest analysis illustrates that the agency's nitrogen oxide (NOx) Budget Trading Program continues to reduce the amount of the ozone-forming pollutant nitrogen oxide (NOx) released into the nation's skies.

The analysis, conducted as part of an annual report on the NOx Budget Trading Program, shows that eastern states have reduced NOx emissions by 57 percent since 2000 and by 72 percent since 1990. In addition, based on 2003-2005 air monitoring data, nearly 70 percent of the areas that did not meet the national air quality standard for 8-hour ozone in 2004 now have better air quality than the standard requires.

The NOx Budget Trading Program provides electric generating units such as manufacturing facilities with several options to reduce ozone season NOx emissions, such as adding NOx emission control technologies, replacing existing controls with more advanced technologies or optimizing existing controls.

This flexibility, and an active NOx allowance market, has led to an over 99 percent compliance rate with the program's requirements.

The Bush Administration's Clean Air Interstate Rule and Clean Air Nonroad Diesel Rule will build on the NOx SIP Call by requiring additional reductions of NOx emissions both nationally and in the eastern U.S.

The Clean Air Interstate Rule will reduce NOx emissions in the eastern U.S. with a similar cap and trade program as the NOx Budget Trading Program by more than 60 percent and help prevent an estimated 17,000 premature deaths annually.

The Clean Air Nonroad Diesel rule will reduce nationwide NOx emissions by more than 90 percent and help prevent more than 6,000 children's asthma-related emergency room visits annually.

Established to help states comply with EPA's NOx SIP Call, the NOx Budget Trading Program is designed to significantly reduce the amount of ozone that moves across state boundaries during the warm summer months, when ozone concentrations are highest.

To make these reductions, the rule requires NOx reductions in 19 eastern states and the District of Columbia.

For more information, visit the [EPA NOx Budget Trading Program webpage](#).

NewsClip: [Smog Pollutants in East Drop EPA Says](#)

[DEP Issues Permit to Reduced Emissions at Greene Power Plant](#)

EPA Administrator to Lead Cooperative Conservation Listening Session in Pottstown



On September 18 U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Administrator Stephen Johnson will lead a [cooperative conservation listening session](#) at the Montgomery County Community College in Pottstown, Pa.

The session is intended to give citizens an opportunity to exchange ideas on incentives, partnership programs, and regulations that can improve results and promote cooperative conservation and environmental partnerships.

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The listening session is the latest in a series of discussions that the Bush Administration has hosted since the [President's Conference on Cooperative Conservation in August 2005](#). Groups and individuals involved in cooperative efforts to protect the environment are encouraged to participate in this session.

Discussion topics include:

- How can the federal government enhance wildlife habitat, species protection, and other conservation outcomes through regulatory and voluntary conservation programs?
- How can the federal government enhance cooperation among federal agencies and with states, tribes, and local communities in the application of environmental protection and conservation laws?
- How can the federal government work with states, tribes, and other public- and private-sector partners to improve science used in environmental protection and conservation?
- How can the federal government work cooperatively with businesses and landowners to protect the environment and promote conservation?
- How can the federal government better respect the interests of people with ownership in land, water, and other natural resources?

For information on how to submit comments and to review transcripts and comments by others, visit the [Contact webpage for the listening sessions](#).

Benefits of Smart Growth Shown in 40 Communities Throughout U.S.

From cities to suburbs to small towns to rural communities, environmentally sensitive development is improving quality of life, according to the new publication, “[This Is Smart Growth](#),” released this week by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, the International City/County Management Association (ICMA) and 30 other organizations.

All 32 organizations are partners in the [Smart Growth Network](#), a highly diverse alliance that works to encourage development practices that improve the environment, the economy, public health, and the community.

[Featuring 40 localities](#) around the country, including East Liberty in Pittsburgh, *This Is Smart Growth* illustrates how communities can use smart growth techniques that improve the quality of development. It shows how communities have made tax dollars go farther by reducing the cost of services and infrastructure and offering people more transportation choices.

It also shows how communities have protected natural lands, farms and ranches; created safe, convenient neighborhoods with homes people can afford; and boosted public health by reducing pollution and increasing opportunities for walking, biking, and other forms of physical activity.

This is Smart Growth was funded through a cooperative agreement between EPA and ICMA.

Free copies of “[This Is Smart Growth](#)” are available online, or printed copies from the EPA National Service Center for Environmental Publications at 800-490-9198 or via e-mail at ncepimal@one.net. Ask for publication number 231-K-06-002.

DEP Soliciting Proposals for Federal Coastal Zone Land Acquisition Grants

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The Department of Environmental Protection is soliciting proposals under the [Coastal and Estuarine Land Acquisition Conservation Program](#). Proposals are due October 16.

States may submit up to three proposals for land acquisition in coastal areas during this solicitation. In Pennsylvania areas in Erie and along the Delaware Estuary qualify.

Grant awards are capped at \$3 million and must be matched dollar-for-dollar with state or local funds.

For additional information, contact Chris Linn at the Delaware Valley Regional Planning Commission, 215-238-2873 or send email to: clinn@dvrpc.org ; Robert Wisener at the Erie County Planning Department, 814-451-6017, or send email to: rwisener@eriecountyplanning.gov ; Jim Nagy, DEP Water Planning Office, 717-783-2402, or send email to: jnagy@state.pa.us ; or Andy Zemba, DEP Water Planning Office, 717-772-4785, or send email to: azemba@state.pa.us .

Northeast Environmental Partners Awards Dinner October 18

The Northeast Pennsylvania Environmental Partners will hold their Sixteenth Annual Environmental Awards dinner on October 18 featuring Transportation Secretary Allen D. Biehler, P.E., as this year's Keynote Speaker.

Northeast PA Environmental Partners include the Pennsylvania Environmental Council's Northeast Office, Wilkes University, Northeastern PA Alliance, PPL, The Procter & Gamble Paper Products Company and the departments of Environmental Protection and Conservation and Natural Resources.

William F. McDonnell, Brennadele, LLC, and former director of DEP's Regional Office in Wilkes-Barre, will serve as the Dinner Chair and Master of Ceremonies for the event which will be held at the Woodlands Inn and Resort, Wilkes-Barre.

The Environmental Partnership Award winners and the Thomas P. Shelburne Environmental Leadership Award Recipient will be honored during the Dinner.

To receive an invitation to the awards dinner, please call the Pennsylvania Environmental Council at 570-718-6507 or send email to: Julie A. McMonagle, julie@pecnepa.org, Director of PEC's Northeast Office.

Links: [2005 Northeast Environmental Partners Award Winners](#)
[2004 Northeast Environmental Partners Award Winners](#)

See & Hear

Water Environmental Federation Sponsors 2 Free TMDL Development Webcasts

The Water Environment Federation will host [two free webcasts September 21 and 28](#) on the process for developing Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) plans for regulated and non-regulated entities.

Both webcasts will be held from 12:00 to 2:00 Eastern Time.

The September 21 webcast will explore basic TMDL development and a 10-step process for developing a third-party TMDL. Real-world examples of successful non-regulated stakeholder TMDL development efforts will also be discussed.

The September 28 webcast will cover TMDL development from the perspective of a regulated stakeholders.

The webcasts are free, but you must register at the [TMDL webcast webpage](#).

Environmental Heritage

Penn State University Library Hosts Mira Lloyd Dock Slide Collection Online



[Mira Lloyd Dock \(1853-1945\)](#), the first woman appointed to the State Forest Commission, used nearly 500 glass lantern slides to illustrate her lectures at the Pennsylvania State Forest Academy and at speaking engagements in the early 1900s.

Now a portion of the [Mira Lloyd Dock collection](#) is being made available online by Penn State University Libraries for students, teachers and the public through a special series of webpages.

The slides are primarily black and white pictures of tree and plant specimens, although a small number of the slides were meticulously and beautifully hand-colored.

Many of the pictures were taken in Pennsylvania, especially the Harrisburg area and Wetzel's Swamp/Wildwood Park in particular. Landscape and historic scenes in other U.S. states as well as European sites are also included.

Most of the pictures appear to have been taken by either Mira Dock or the Harrisburg photographer and printer [J. Horace McFarland](#).

Mr. McFarland shared Ms. Dock's interest in the City Beautiful movement and served as the national president of the organization at one point. Katharine Gordon Breed's and a Mrs. Schaeffer's names appear on some of the slides as well.

The Dock slides are housed in the Penn State Mont Alto Campus Library Archives and were being heavily used by students and scholars. The slides were housed in the original wooden glass slide containers and were in no discernible order. Most were very dirty and fragile. The collection was chosen for digitization to decrease handling and thus preserve the originals and improve access to the collection.

Visit the [Mira Lloyd Dock collection](#) online.

State Historical Marker Dedicated for Edmund Bacon, Philadelphia City Planner

Gov. Rendell this week unveiled a state historical marker to honor Edmund N. Bacon, Philadelphia's city planning director for more than 20 years.

"The City of Philadelphia was greatly affected by the brilliant and tenacious Ed Bacon. His enthusiasm for his work and great love of his native city were an inspiration to me and so many others," said Gov. Rendell. "I hope that people who see this marker will remember his contributions to the design of the city."

Bacon's efforts led to the revitalization of Center City Philadelphia and were instrumental in developing Penn Center, Society Hill, Independence Mall and LOVE Park.

Bacon appeared on the cover of Time Magazine in 1964 and was considered a noted architect, urban planner and educator. He is well-remembered when, at the age of 92, he put on a helmet, stepped on a skateboard and - with a little help - took a turn around LOVE Park in protest of the ban on skateboarding there.

"Ed Bacon was able to turn his vision into projects that made life better for people," said Wayne S. Spilove, chairman of the Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission, which administers the historical marker program. The Ed Bacon Foundation co-sponsored the marker dedication.

Link: [The Ed Bacon Foundation](#)

Feature

Paddlers Congregate on Lake Erie's Shoreline During the Final PA River Sojourn Event of 2006

By Justin Shellenberger

[Watershed Weekly](#)



Forming the extreme northwest border of Pennsylvania, Lake Erie is a unique body of water. The lake is the only coastline in Pennsylvania. Diverse wildlife, breathtaking views, and numerous recreational opportunities make the area the destination of more than four million visitors each year.

New to the [2006 PA River Sojourn Program](#), the Lake Erie Sojourn added an opportunity that no other PA River Sojourn can do, offer costal paddling. Paddling along sandy beaches, navigating

the breaking surf, and enjoying the unique wildlife is a different experience than paddling one of Pennsylvania's rivers.

The 2006 Lake Erie Sojourn was a three day, three night expedition exploring Pennsylvania's north shore. The trip began approximately ten miles west of Erie at the mouth of Elk Creek and continued around Presque Isle continuing east for another five miles. A variety of presentations, paddling demonstrations, and a concert kept participants entertained.

Participants began arriving on Thursday, September 7 at the campsite along Elk Creek. After tents were pitched, it was off to Pennsylvania's newest state park, Erie Bluffs State Park. Located west of Erie, Erie Bluffs State Park sits on 540 acres above the lake. The undisturbed land and breathtaking views atop the 90 foot bluffs overlooking the lake resemble Carolina's shoreline rather than Pennsylvania.

As the sun rose on Friday, the kayaks were nudged into the lake officially marking the start of the three day paddling journey. Today's destination was the beach located on

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the western edge of Presque Isle. The sun was shining, and small waves rocked the boats as we made our way to the lunch stop.

After lunch, representatives from the Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission explained the steelhead fishery and what is being done to preserve and enhance it. After the wonderful presentation, we shoved off aiming for the faint line of trees in the horizon.

After landing on the beach, we set up camp and headed off for a private tour of the new [Tom Ridge Environmental Center](#). The displays were fascinating and educational. Back at camp, we sat by our fire on the beach as the sun disappeared and the moon rose. The next morning rumbles of thunder and dark clouds were abundant. As we made our way to our boats, the weather quickly improved.

Today's journey would take us around Presque Isle and across the bay. Increasing wind made for larger waves than the prior day. These fun and playful waves were the perfect opportunity for lessons on surfing and rescue techniques lead by our outfitter. After a wonderful day of paddling, the sojourn received VIP treatment at the Erie Heritage Festival.

With great a great view of the stage, private tent, and a top-notch buffet, sojourners swapped stories of the previous days. To wrap things up, the Erie Philharmonic Orchestra played the 1812 Overture complete with live cannon fire and fireworks.

As we awoke for the final day, the seas had continued to grow and the wind was coming from the east. As the boats made left the marina, two to three foot swells greeted us. While slightly more challenging than the day before, everyone was smiling as we rode up and down the gentle waves.

As we continued to head eastward the wind continued to build. As our forward progress slowed, the decision to head back to our alternate takeout was made. After another filling meal, the sojourn came to an end and everyone headed home.

The 2006 PA River Sojourn Program was one of the best in history. Record number of participants turned out for the largest season yet with 15 events for 2006. This year's program was made possible by collaborative efforts with Department of Conservation and Natural Resources, Pennsylvania Organization for Watersheds and Rivers, the American Canoe Association, Fish and Boat Commission, Department of Community and Economic Development, the event organizers and their volunteers, and hundreds of local sponsors statewide.

Each year the PA River Sojourn Program features rivers and lake across the state ranging from flat water up to class III, even including costal paddling. 2007 is shaping up to be even bigger and better with more events and paddling days. Check out the official webpage later this fall as date, times, and locations are posted.

(Courtesy [Watershed Weekly](#), PA Organization for Watersheds & Rivers)

Quick Clips

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

[Editorial: Plague Numbers of Deer Affect Other Species](#)
[Highlighting Healthy Habitat – Balancing Deer Populations](#)
[Counting Up Venango's Natural Resources](#)

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[Next Few Weeks Will Determine Quality of Fall Colors](#)
[Autumn Driving in PA Can Be a Delight Thanks to Foliage](#)
[Pennsylvania Peak Is Heaven for Stargazers](#)
[Outdoors: Red Efts Crawl About After Rain](#)
[Washington Power Plant Gets OK](#)
[DEP Issues Air Permit for Reduced Emissions at Greene County Power Plant](#)
[Coal Refuse Power Plant Builder Ready to Move Forward](#)
[Schuylkill County Coal Mining History](#)
[Editorial: Are We Really Protecting Our Farmland?](#)
[Permit Law Limits Grease, Chemicals in Sewers](#)
[Letter: Corn Ethanol's Promise Rings Hollow](#)
[Rendell Signs Agreement with Germans on Alternative Energy](#)
[Liberty Plaza Building Earth-Friendly](#)
[PA Oil & Gas Industry Continues Record Growth](#)
[Wade Island's Cormorant Numbers Cut](#)

Watershed NewsClips

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

[Watershed Group Calls for Volunteer Monitors](#)
[Westmoreland Awards Growing Greener Projects](#)
[Edinboro Lake to Get Help With Pollution](#)
[Lake Wallenpaupack Try to Continue Stream Study](#)
[Plan Floated to Save North Park Lake](#)
[Waterfowl Gets Boost From Device](#)
[State, Local Officials Urge Support for Great Lakes Cleanup Plan](#)
[Lovegreen Reflects On Changing Role of Conservation Districts](#)
[Stream Work Will Protect Against Flood Hazards](#)
[Bucks County to Coordinate Flood Mitigation Requests](#)
[Secrecy Surrounds Town Flood Buyout](#)
[Montco Targets Disaster Readiness](#)
[Congressional Delegation Asked to Secure Federal Stream Restoration Aide](#)

Regulations

EQB Meets on California Car, IRRC Comments on NOx Rule

The Environmental Quality Board [meets September 19](#) to consider final adoption of the California vehicle emission standards, among other rules and the Independent Regulatory Review Commissions [comments on New Source Review rule](#).

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Also on the EQB agenda are proposed radiological health regulation changes needed for Pennsylvania to take over inspection and permitting duties from the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission, proposed regulations covering water resources management and consideration of petitions to redesignate Bear Run, Indiana County and Shermans Creek, Perry County.

Links: [Senate Passes Clean Vehicle Bill, Requires Stakeholder Groups](#)
[House Committee Holds Hearing on California Car Standards](#)
[Senate Holds Hearing on California Car Proposal](#)

[Pennsylvania Bulletin – September 16, 2006](#)

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

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

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

Technical Guidance & Permits

The Department of Environmental Protection published notice of new [General NPDES Permit for Concentrated Animal Feeding Operations](#), and a [change in the guidelines](#) for the Small Business Advantage Grant Program.

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

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

Calendar of Upcoming Events

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

- [DEP Announces No-Cost Internet Training Courses](#)
- **September 19** – House Agriculture and Rural Affairs Committee informational meeting on [House Bill 2878](#) (Stern-R-Blair) Resource Enhancement and Protection Tax Credit Act. 205 Ryan Building. 1:00.
- **September 19** – Environmental Quality Board meeting. Room 105 Rachel Carson Building. 9:00.
- **September 19** – [DEP Citizens Advisory Council](#) meeting on mercury emissions reduction rule. Room 105 Rachel Carson Building. 11:00.
- **September 19-20** – [State Board for Certification of Water and Wastewater Systems Operators](#). 10th Floor Rachel Carson Building. 10:00 and 8:30 respectively.

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- **September 20** – Senate Public Health and Welfare Committee public hearing on [Senate Bill 1270](#) (Robbins-R-Mercer) providing additional funding for the Low-Income Home Energy Assistance program. Room 8E-A East Wing. 9:00.
- **September 26** – **CANCELLED**. DEP Stormwater Manual Oversight Committee meeting. Rescheduled to October 10.
- **September 27** – [Delaware River Basin Commission meeting](#) on flood mitigation and flood loss reduction, a proposed water loss accountability program, a status report on the DRBC Water Resources Plan and other matters. DRBC Office, West Trenton, NJ.
- **September 27** – [DCNR Conservation and Natural Resources Advisory Council](#) meeting. Room 105, Rachel Carson Building. 10:00.
- **September 28** – Joint Air and Water Pollution Control and Conservation Committee meeting of Legislative Forestry Task Force. Senate Room, Penn Stater Conference Center Hotel, State College. 10:00.
- **October 3** – Renewable Agriculture Energy Council meeting. Penn State University. 10:00. (details to be announced)
- **October 5** – [PA Energy Development Authority](#) meeting. Room 105 Rachel Carson Building. 10:00.
- **October 10** – [DEP Stormwater Manual Oversight Committee](#) meeting. Room 105 Rachel Carson Building. 10:00.
- **October 13** - [DEP Water Resources Advisory Committee](#) meeting. Room 105 Rachel Carson Building. 9:30.
- **October 17** – **RESCHEDULED to a Conference Call**. [State Board for Certification of Water and Wastewater System Operators](#).
- **October 19** – **RESCHEDULED**. [DEP Environmental Justice Advisory Board](#) meeting was changed to this date from November 2. Rachel Carson Building. 9:15. Contact: Ayanna King, 717-783-5630.
- **October 31-November 5** – [National Historic Preservation Conference](#). National Trust for Historic Preservation. Pittsburgh.
- **November 20** – Environmental Issues Forum, Joint Air and Water Pollution Control and Conservation Committee featuring J. Kent Crawford, USGS, to discuss the emerging contaminants project. Room 205 Ryan Building. Noon.
- **December 12** – **CANCELLED**. [Coal and Clay Mine Subsidence Insurance Board meeting](#).
- **December 14** – [Coal and Clay Mine Subsidence Insurance Board meeting](#). 14th Floor Conference Room, Rachel Carson Building, Harrisburg. 10:00.

[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

[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

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

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