

— PA — Environment Digest

*An Update on
Environmental
Issues in
Pennsylvania*

Edited By David E. Hess, Holston & Crisci

October 24, 2005

Energy, Winter Heating Costs Big Topics This Week

The Senate, House, Rendell Administration and EPA all took on energy and winter heating costs this week in a variety of actions, and any way you slice it costs will be going up significantly over the short term.

The House Environmental Resources and Energy Committee heard projections from the U.S. Department of Energy and others that heating costs could go up a minimum of 30 percent this winter.

The House also passed legislation setting energy efficiency standards for certain appliances.

The Senate passed a resolution urging the federal government to put more funding into the low-income energy assistance program.

Gov. Rendell announced a new “Stay Warm PA” initiative that provides more funding for low-income energy and mortgage assistance, an educational campaign to lower heating costs and other conservation efforts.

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency also published a series of energy saving tips as part of their EnergyStar Program.

Even the [Environmental Question of the Week](#) from the Pennsylvania Center for Environmental Education dealt with energy costs and renewable energy!

This *Digest* has a rundown on all these actions.

The *Digest* continues our series of special articles on how you can reduce your energy costs at home and work. This week we profile the EMAP Program run by the Pennsylvania Small Business Development Center that helps small businesses reduce their energy costs.

If you have some energy conservation tips to pass along, or if you’re an expert at reading natural signs of how severe the coming winter will be, email your comments to: DHess@HolstonCrisci.com.

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What’s This Expert’s Winter Forecast?
Look Under Stories Invited Section

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Session Schedule

The Senate and House both return to regular and special session October 24.

On the Hill

- House Environmental Committee Meets on Recycling Fee, Environmental Education
- Environmental Issues Forum Features Discussion of State Recreation Plan
- Uses for Excess Manure, Linking Local Farms & Schools, Hearing Topics
- Natural Gas, Heating Oil Costs Could Increase by 30%+ This Winter
- Senate/House Bills Moving Last Week

Other News

- Stay Warm PA Initiative to Address Rising Heating Costs, Website Offers Tips
- Help For Small Businesses Interested in Cutting Energy Costs – Ask EMAP!
- Reduce Energy Costs - Optimize Compressed Air, Steam System Performance
- Take Action to Save with Winter Energy-Efficiency Tips from EPA
- Special Energy Efficiency Resources from *PA Environment Digest*
- Grants Available for Wind Energy Projects in Pennsylvania
- Wyeth Pharmaceuticals Recognized as “Best Workplace for Commuters”
- Pittsburgh Clean Cities Coalition Joins “Beyond a Billion” Celebration
- Make Your Own Biodiesel at The First Biodiesel Revival November 12
- Green Building Tour – Highmark Data Center – November 16
- Conservation By Design Workshops Set for Cumberland, Westmoreland
- Mid-Atlantic Green Highways Forum Set for November 8-10
- PA Invests in Revitalizing 4 Former Industrial Sites
- Pittsburgh Mayor Appoints Clean Pittsburgh Commission Members
- Environmental Education and Higher Education Workshop November 9
- Environmental Question of the Week Returns for Students, Educators
- 2006 EPA Environmental Education Grants Applications Due November 23
- New Book Outlines Documented Benefits of Coal Ash for Mine Reclamation
- Volunteers Needed to Plant 4,000 Trees along Brandywine Creek

Awards & Recognition

- Northeast Environmental Partnership Recognizes Good Environmental Works

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

On the Hill

House Environmental Committee Meets on Recycling Fee, Environmental Education

The House Environmental Resources and Energy Committee will meet on October 25 to consider six bills—

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- [House Bill 1902](#) (Rubley-R-Chester) extending the \$2 per ton recycling fee indefinitely and requiring that Section 904 Recycling Performance Grants be spent on efforts to promote recycling and waste reduction;
- [House Resolution 382](#) (Frankel-D-Allegheny) a concurrent resolution urging Congress to reauthorize the Abandoned Mine Reclamation Fund;
- [Senate Bill 410](#) (M.White-R-Venango) establishing the Pennsylvania Center for Environmental Education in law;
- [House Bill 1051](#) (Sturla-D-Lancaster) establishing the Adopt-a-River Program in the Department of Conservation and Natural Resources;
- [House Bill 1494](#) (Stern-R-Blair) providing an Air Pollution Control Act exemption for small milling operations; and
- [House Resolution 368](#) (Reichley-R-Berks) urging the Corps of Engineers to look into wet weather problems in the Little Lehigh Creek Watershed in Berks and Lehigh Counties.

Environmental Issues Forum Features Discussion of State Recreation Plan

The October 24 Environmental Issues Forum sponsored by the [Joint Legislative Air and Water Pollution Control and Conservation Committee](#) will feature a presentation on implementing the State Recreation Plan.

[Pennsylvania Recreation and Park Society](#) President Lee Bryan will be joined by Cindy Dunn, director of the Bureau of Recreation and Conservation, and Vanyla Tierney, chief of Greenways and Rivers Partnerships, from the Department of Conservation and Natural Resources, to outline the program.

Uses for Excess Manure, Linking Local Farms & Schools, Hearing Topics

The Senate Agriculture and Rural Affairs Committee held a hearing this week on two important issues related to the future of farming—alternative uses for manure and creating new markets for farm products through farm to school programs.

Senators Mike Waugh (R-York), chair of the Committee, and Noah Wenger (R-Lancaster) held the hearing as part of their Farmers First Agenda that deals with the preservation of farmers and farmland.

Matthew Ehrhart from the [Chesapeake Bay Foundation](#) noted livestock in the Bay drainage area (Susquehanna and Potomac river basins) generate over 44 million tons of manure a year, with the Lower Susquehanna area alone producing over 286,000 tons a year.

Lower cost options for handling excess manure through methods like composting “may be the only technology that can be implemented on the ground, full-scale” to deal with the manure problem today, Ehrhart said. He encouraged the Committee to look at incentives for using composted material for fertilizer or soil amendments.

While generating energy from manure through gasification, co-firing with other fuels or with digesters does have a lot of potential, they are more capital intensive and do not eliminate the problem of nutrients, Ehrhart said.

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The Foundation recommended not establishing programs to support alternative uses of manure that require long-term subsidies, but instead provide capital funding of up to \$100 million over five years to help build facilities.

The Bay Foundation, the Pennsylvania Agricultural Ombudsman from Lancaster and a representative of the Chesapeake Bay Commission all pointed to subsidized manure exports from Delaware and Maryland as problem complicating Pennsylvania's efforts to deal with excess manure.

In 2004-05, a total of 20,447 tons of manure from Delaware and Maryland was shipped into Pennsylvania as a result of their state subsidy programs, but that was down from 2003-04 when 24,084 tons came to Pennsylvania.

The [Delaware Nutrient Management Relocation Program](#) paid farmers up to \$18 per ton to ship over 7,842 tons of manure to Pennsylvania in 2004-05 and the [Maryland Manure Matching/Transport Program](#) paid up to \$20 per ton to ship 12,605 tons, most of which went to mushroom growing operations, according to information provided by Pennsylvania's Nutrient Management Program.

In terms of nutrient load, Pennsylvania received an extra 1.4 million pounds of nitrogen and 1.2 million pounds of phosphorus in 2004-05, in addition to displacing manure from Pennsylvania farmers shipped to Pennsylvania mushroom operations as a result of the Delaware and Maryland subsidy programs.

The Committee also heard about an innovative nutrition education program run by [The Food Trust](#) in Philadelphia that links nutrition education of Kindergarten students with Pennsylvania farm product producers.

The Food Trust operates 19 farmers markets in Southeastern Pennsylvania to help develop new markets for local farm products. Two years ago the group decided to expand its program through a new Kindergarten Initiative.

The Trust developed curriculum materials for use in Kindergarten classes to educate students about adding fruits, vegetables and dairy products to their snacks and meals. But they went a step further by actually making arrangements with farm product producers to have these healthy foods and snacks served in 30 classrooms in eight schools in Philadelphia.

"We believe we have created a win-win for both children and Pennsylvania farmers," said Bonnie Hallam, with The Food Trust. "The goals of the Kindergarten Initiative are to help children make healthy food choices early and to have them understand where food comes from."

In addition to the educational materials and snacks, The Food Trust also organizes student visits to local farms.

"Our program has shown that connecting children and their families with delicious, locally-grown food has a significant impact on their eating behavior," said Hallam.

(See Regulations for final rule on Concentrated Animal Operations)

NewsClip: [Solutions Sought for Excess Manure Piling Up on Farms](#)

Natural Gas, Heating Oil Costs Could Increase by 30%+ This Winter

The House Environmental Resources and Energy Committee, chaired by Rep. Bill Adolph (R-Delaware), held the first in a series of informational meetings this week to gather information for the development of short- and long-term energy policies for Pennsylvania.

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"It is no secret that energy prices are continuing to rise and available energy supplies will be stretched to their limits. We are hearing every day about the estimated rises in the cost of a gallon of heating oil or the price of a thousand cubic feet of natural gas," said Adolph. "We have two very clear choices. We can stand by or we can move forward, together, to develop a plan to address our state's energy supply and demand issues while at the same time continuing our ongoing commitment to a healthy economy, and a clean, safe environment."

In his introduction, Democratic Committee Chair Rep. Bud George (D-Clearfield) said we need to bring some compassion into this issue because many low-income people face a difficult winter with heating costs rising dramatically.

The hearing focused on the projected outlook for energy supplies nationwide and what other states around the country are doing in terms of energy strategies.

Three witnesses came before the Committee: Ellen Lutz, regional director of the Philadelphia Support Office of the U.S. Department of Energy; Scott Miller, executive director of state government policy for PJM Interconnection System; and Kate Burke, energy policy specialist for the National Conference of State Legislatures.

According to the Energy Information Administration, the average U.S. household will pay an average of \$260 more for heating this winter, mostly due to already tight supplies and the effects of the Gulf Coast hurricanes. Natural gas heating bills will rise by between 32 percent and 61 percent, electricity costs will rise by less than 4 percent, heating oil will increase by more than 30 percent, and propane expenditures will rise by 20 percent to 36 percent this winter.

"Pennsylvania must take a hard look at how we use energy, the opportunities for conservation, and the types of resources that this state is blessed with to create both short- and long-term energy policies," said Adolph.

The goal of the committee is to create a plan that will ensure a secure, reliable and affordable energy supply for the Commonwealth.

Another meeting on this topic is being scheduled for November 1 dealing with energy efficiency and renewable energy issues.

NewsClips: [State May Develop Energy Plan](#)
[Lawmakers Devote Energy to State's Long-Term Future](#)

Senate/House Bills Moving Last Week

Legislation to extend the farmland protection program to horse boarding farms was given final approval and sent to the Governor for his action this week and the House passed legislation eliminating the sales tax on purchases of EnergyStar appliances which now goes to the Senate. Here are the details on these and other bills moving--

Horse Boarding Farms: [House Bill 619](#) (Hershey-R-Chester) which expands the state Farmland Preservation Program to land used for boarding, training or riding horses was passed by the House and the Senate and now goes to the Governor for his action.

EnergyStar Tax Relief: [House Bill 1687](#) (Ellis-R-Bucks) eliminating the sales tax on certain appliances that meet EnergyStar requirements was passed by the House.

Animal Waste Recycling Facility Tax Credit: [House Bill 1413](#) (Caltagirone-D-Berks) providing a tax credit for investments in animal waste recycling facilities was referred to the House Appropriations Committee.

Hazardous Sites Cleanup Fund: [Senate Bill 149](#) (M.White-R-Venango) providing funding for the Hazardous Sites Cleanup Fund was referred to the House Environmental Resources and Energy Committee.

Land Trust Reimbursements: [Senate Bill 940](#) (Waugh-R-York) which would set aside up to \$200,000 per year from the Agricultural Conservation Easement Purchase Fund to reimburse Land Trusts for expenses incurred in acquiring agricultural conservation easements was reported from the Senate Agriculture and Rural Affairs Committee.

In Other News

Stay Warm PA Initiative to Address Rising Heating Costs, Website Offers Tips

Gov. Rendell this week announced a [Stay Warm PA](#) program designed to make sure Pennsylvania's most vulnerable citizens are warm and protected as cold weather approaches and homeowner energy bills are expected to jump at least 30 percent.

The Governor's plan includes:

- Seeking additional federal LIHEAP money;
- Authorizing up to \$18 million in state resources, including \$15 million for LIHEAP and \$3 million for HEMAP;
- Asking energy companies to help low-income consumers meet their winter bills;
- Creating a partnership with home supply retailers to help seniors and others winterize;
- Marshaling families and friends to help take care of their homes to help lower winter heating bills;
- Convening a statewide Stay Warm PA summit with volunteers and religious organizations to protect the neediest citizens;
- Enabling the Energy Star sales tax holiday and extending it to include weatherization materials;
- Reducing the commonwealth's energy use;
- Ensuring that poor families have a second chance to make energy payments before utilities are turned off; and
- Removing hurdles for poor families seeking to reconnect fuel service.

The Governor announced that Equitable Energy Corp. has pledged up to \$9 million toward low-income energy assistance for customers in its service market. Exelon/PECO has pledged to increase its assistance by \$5.9 million this year. Additionally, Sunoco is filling up fuel tanks for a limited number of families who qualify for LIHEAP. Gov. Rendell called on other companies to join in providing such assistance and support.

The Governor also has called a statewide Stay Warm PA summit on November 1, to bring together the leadership of the United Way, Red Cross, Salvation Army, AFL-CIO,



www.StayWarmPA.com

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the Pennsylvania Council of Churches as well as Jewish and Muslim organizations to mobilize an army of volunteers to weatherize homes, assist the frail and elderly, establish warm rooms in homes and community centers and collectively address the winter heating crisis.

At Gov. Rendell's request, Lowe's, one of the world's largest home improvement retailers with some 60 stores across Pennsylvania, has agreed to hold weatherization workshops at least on a weekly basis at senior centers and other locations.

The Fortune 50 company also is providing plastic sheeting, caulking, door guards and other weatherization materials at no cost to volunteer groups helping to winterize homes of seniors and needy families.

The Governor also asked the Public Utility Commission to set up regulatory actions, where possible, to improve the efficiency of the state's utilities and their fairness and reasonableness in terminating consumers and in reconnecting service.

For more information and energy saving tips, visit the [Keep Warm PA website](#).

NewsClips: [Rendell Unveils Plan to Help Pennsylvanians Keep Warm](#)
[Rendell Urges State Aid for Poor on Heating Bills](#)
[State to Seek Winter Help for Poor](#)
[Weatherization Tips Offered as Part of Stay Warm PA](#)

Help For Small Businesses Interested in Cutting Energy Costs – Ask EMAP!

The latest projections from the U.S. Energy Information Agency show energy costs will increase at least 30 percent this winter.

How can small businesses deal with these energy cost increases without going under?

Turn to the Environmental Management Assistance Program run by Pennsylvania's Small Business Development Centers for help in looking for energy cost reduction opportunities and then the funding to carry them out.

"We start by asking a company to provide us with the last 12 months worth of energy bills and talk about their energy use," said Christopher Lynch from SBDC. "We look for the easy things first, like if they turn on and don't use equipment, gasket leaks in doors and exhausting heat into areas a business is trying to cool."

"For one client, Tripps Grill in North Bend, PA, our consultant found something as simple as the business being classified in the Large General Service electric rate, instead of Small General Service, which saved them hundreds of dollars a year" said Lynch.

After the initial consultation, the EMAP program offers small business a free site visit to do a walk through assessment to develop specific recommendations on their processes, lighting, equipment and building construction.

"Our consultants also have information that benchmarks a business against industry averages so we can tell almost right away if a company's energy use is above average," said Lynch. "We can also bring in other resources as needed to help a company."

EMAP can also lead businesses to funding opportunities, like the [Small Business Advantage Grant Program](#) run by the Department of Environmental Protection, that offers grants of up to \$7,500 to finance energy efficiency improvements.



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Lynch offered these 10 simple, low-cost ideas to help small businesses reduce energy costs now:

- Reduce your building's heat loss from drafty windows and doors. Check window and door seals and caulk and seal as necessary;
- Have an HVAC contractor service your heating system to maintain optimal efficiency.
- Insulate your hot water heater and hot water pipes;
- Install a programmable thermostat. Lower your thermostat by at least 10 degrees during unoccupied times;
- Utilize your ceiling fans in the winter. Most ceiling fans have a switch that reverses the blade motion and draws the hot air from the ceiling down to the working floor;
- Remove wall-mounted air conditioner units, if possible;
- Check the air filter on your heater and replace as necessary;
- If you're replacing a heating system, make sure that it is properly sized and has the Energy Star label;
- Check your past utility bills to know what you spend on heating; and
- Not sure what to look for, contact EMAP to review your utility bills and help identify costs savings at your facility.

EMAP can also help business join the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's [Energy Star for Small Business Program](#) which, in addition to advice, can provide marketing benefits for a company interested in showing off its green side.

"We realize it's tough for people to change the way they work, especially if they need financing," said Lynch. "But we can help companies overcome these obstacles and save them real money in ways that help their bottom line."

EMAP also offers small businesses help with environmental compliance questions, worker health and safety information, help in picking, developing and marketing green technologies and in pollution prevention and waste reduction.

The program also runs the [Material Trader Program](#) where one business' waste becomes another business' raw material.

To read about some of their success stories, visit the [EMAP Success Stories webpage](#).

EMAP is just one of the programs offered by the [Small Business Development Centers](#) to help businesses improve their operations. SBDC centers are available at [16 locations around the state](#).

For more information on the free and confidential services offered through the EMAP Program and the SBDC throughout Pennsylvania, visit the [EMAP website](#) or call toll-free 877-ASK-EMAP.

Reduce Energy Costs - Optimize Compressed Air, Steam System Performance

Compressed air and steam systems are the heart of many manufacturing operations. Learn how to reduce energy costs from these systems in three upcoming workshops.

On November 9, Penn State University's McKeesport Campus will host a compressed air workshop sponsored by Draw Professional Services, Atlas Copco, Air Technologies, and the Electrotechnology Applications Center. To register for the workshop contact Julie Chips at Air Technologies, telephone 412-788-2730, extension 194.

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On November 15, Villanova University's Center for the Environment will host a compressed air workshop sponsored by Sunoco, Inc. To register, contact Magdalenamona Velicu at Villanova University, telephone 610-716-0722.

Both workshops are co-sponsored by the Department of Environmental Protection.

Steam system operators can reduce energy costs by participating in DOE's "Steam System Specialist Qualification" workshop scheduled for January 24-26, 2006 at the Spirax Sarco training facility in Center Valley, Lehigh County. Contact Angie Funk at Spirax Sarco, telephone 1-800-996-3232, to register.

Fluency in using the Best Practices suite of steam system software tools is the goal of this three-day workshop. The software tools include Steam System Scoping Tool, Steam System Assessment Tool, Steam System Survey Guide, and 3E-Plus Insulation Appraisal software. Successful completion of a rigorous exam on the final day of the workshop yields the title of "DOE-Qualified Steam Specialist".

For more information about Best Practices Workshops or to sponsor an event in your area, contact Richard Illig, DEP Program Specialist at 717-772-5834, or by e-mail rillig@state.pa.us.

Full details including registration information for Best Practices workshops currently scheduled in Pennsylvania is available on the [Pennsylvania Industries of the Future webpage](#).

Take Action to Save with Winter Energy-Efficiency Tips from EPA

In the face of higher energy bills this winter, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency encourages everyone to take action in their home to be more energy efficient and here's how.

EPA recommends five places to look and practical advice for home energy savings: sealing and insulating; heating efficiently; changing lights; powering down home electronics; and looking for the Energy Star on new products.

The average American household spends \$1,500 annually on energy bills -- a number that may go up as much as 50 percent this year. Almost half of that energy goes to heating and cooling your home.

Lighting and appliances represent about a quarter and home electronic products like computers, TVs and cell phone chargers take a significant and growing share of what is left. There are ways to become more energy efficient in all these areas.

Seal up your home -- One of the most cost effective ways to reduce energy bills is to air-seal holes, cracks and openings in your home and then add insulation to stop the flow of heat through the walls and ceiling. Consider the following steps:

- Weather-strip and insulate your attic hatch or door to prevent warm air from escaping out the top of your house.
- Seal holes in the attic that lead down into the house, such as open wall tops and duct, plumbing, or electrical runs.
- Weather-strip doors and windows that do not seal tightly. Use foam caskets around electrical outlets (under the plates) to reduce drafts

For more information on home sealing, consult [EPA's Home Sealing Do-it-yourself guide](#).

Heat your home wisely -- Your heating system works hard during the winter to keep you warm. When it is working at top performance and your heating ducts are delivering warm air to your rooms effectively, you will be more comfortable and save money.

- Replace your furnace air filter before the heating season begins as a dirty filter reduces air flow which makes your system work harder to deliver air to the registers. Also, cover the filter slot with a piece of wide tape to keep air from getting in around filter edges without passing through the filter.
- Be sure your ducts are delivering all the warm air they can. If you can see the duct seams where the metal comes together, seal these joints with shiny foil tape with a UL-181 label (This label is very important.) or duct mastic (also called duct sealant). This is especially important for the ducts that you can see in your basement or attic.
- Set back your thermostat when you're asleep or away. When used properly, an Energy Star qualified programmable thermostat with four-temperature and time settings can save you \$100 each year on energy costs.
- Call a heating contractor to service your system. Fall is a good time to have a service technician look at your heating system to make sure that it is running properly to keep you warm this winter without adding unnecessary costs. Ask your contractor to check your duct system also.

For more advice on heating efficiently and sealing your ducts, consult [EPA's Guide to Energy-Efficient Heating and Cooling- PDF](#).

Change a light -- Lighting our homes can represent 20 percent of home electricity bills and is one of the easiest places to start saving energy. If every household changed a light to an Energy Star one, together we'd save enough energy to light 7 million homes and reduce greenhouse gas emissions equivalent to that of 1 million cars.

Replace the five most frequently used lights, or the bulbs in them, with one's that have earned the Energy Star, and save more than \$60 each year in energy costs.

Start with one light and take the [Energy Star Change A Light Pledge](#).

Power down computers and electronics products when not in use --Computers and other electronics account for an increasing energy load in most homes, and often use energy even when switched off.

- Activate your computer's power management features, so it powers down when sitting idle.
- Unplug battery chargers and power adapters when they finish charging, or are not in use.
- Consider using a power strip that can be turned off when you're done using (or at bedtime) your computers, printers, wireless routers, and other electronics.

Look for many products that have earned the Energy Star -- The government's EnergyStar is on more than 40 different kinds of products the home, including lighting, home electronics, heating and cooling equipment and appliances. Energy Star qualifying products provide the features and performance you want while helping you save energy and reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

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Look for Energy Star qualified products when you are in the market for new products for your home and check with your local utility about rebates or use EPA's special offers finder.

Look online for a complete [list of home energy-efficiency tips](#) or take the [K-12 School EnergyStar Challenge](#).

For more information on [Energy Star](#) or to take the [EPA Home Energy Yardstick](#) or call 1-888-STAR-YES.

Special Energy Efficiency Resources from *PA Environment Digest*

We've gathered in one place just a few of the energy efficiency tips and resources from past articles and links in the *PA Environment Digest* for your convenience—

Businesses

[Green Makes \\$ense – Save Money, Be Green – Updated!](#)

[EnergyStar Home Energy/Heating Management Tools](#)

[EnergyStar Business Energy Management Tools](#)

[DEP Offers Free Energy Assessments, Energy Efficiency Options](#)

Individuals

[Pennsylvania Resources Council Energy Conservation Tips](#)

[Home Heating Cost Reduction Tips From DEP](#)

[Pennsylvania Public Utility Commission Tips to Reduce High Natural Gas Costs](#)

[PUC Home Heating Safety Tips](#)

[EPA Guide to Energy Efficient Heating and Cooling](#)

[Saving Energy, Reducing Waste At Home, On the Farm, At School – Updated!](#)

[Low-Income Energy Assistance Program to Help Pay Heating Bills](#)

[Learn About Saving Energy, Solar and Other Clean Options](#)

[2006 EPA Guide To Energy Efficient Vehicles](#)

Grants Available for Wind Energy Projects in Pennsylvania

The [Sustainable Development Fund](#) this week said it has available approximately \$2 million in wind energy production incentive grants to support new wind projects in Pennsylvania.

Applications are due by November 23 and projects must begin commercial operation by December 31, 2006. A pre-application conference call will be held on October 28.

SDF will provide financial support to successful applicants in the form of wind energy production incentive payments. The total amount of the production incentive grant will be negotiated by SDF and the successful applicants. The production incentive, paid out in quarterly payments at a rate of 1.5 cents per kilowatt-hour generated, will be paid until the entire amount of the grant has been earned by the wind project.

Unless there are unexpected difficulties encountered in the due diligence review of the applications, SDF will announce the grant decisions on or before December 23.

PA Environment Digest – Holston & Crisci

To participate in the conference call, e-mail Roger Clark at roger.clark@trfund.com by close of business on October 26. Questions about the application form or process should be sent by e-mail to Clark at roger.clark@trfund.com.

The Reinvestment Fund's [Sustainable Development Fund](#) offers innovative financing in the areas of renewable and clean energy. Created by the Public Utility Commission in its final order in the PECO Energy electric utility restructuring proceeding, SDF is helping to make a sustainable energy future for Southeastern Pennsylvania.

Wyeth Pharmaceuticals Recognized as a “Best Workplace for Commuters”

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency recognized 69 companies nationwide as [Best Workplaces for Commuters](#) for their commitment to reducing air pollution and their role in easing traffic congestion and among those recognized was Wyeth Pharmaceuticals in Collegeville, Montgomery County and Frazer, Chester County.

“We are proud that so many companies in our region are among those being recognized,” said Donald S. Welsh, regional administrator for EPA’s mid-Atlantic region. “If half of all U.S. employees worked for companies offering outstanding commuter benefits, 3.5 billion gallons of gasoline would be conserved. That would save drivers billions annually at the gas pump and would result in a significant reduction of carbon dioxide in the air we breathe.”

Wyeth Pharmaceuticals was recognized because it offers outstanding benefits such as discounts and coupons for walkers and employees riding their bikes. The company offers special incentive for people to live close to work, plans transportation for their employees for special events and offers a commuter awards program.

To qualify as one of the best workplaces for commuters, employers must provide:

- At least one primary commuter benefit, such as a monthly transit/vanpool pass subsidy or a significant telecommuting program;
- At least three supporting commuter benefits, such as carpool/vanpool incentives, lockers/showers for bikers or walkers, compressed/flexible work schedules, or on-site daycare;
- A central point of contact, who actively informs employees of available commuter benefits; and
- Access to a regional or employer-provided Emergency or Guaranteed Ride Home Program.

Americans spend an average of 46 hours each year stuck in traffic. Gridlock produces more than \$63 billion in congestion costs per year. Companies that offer commuter benefits help curb these costs and make a significant contribution to the health and welfare of their employees.

The 1,400 employers participating and the 2.8 million employees who work for them are annually conserving 146 million gallons of gasoline and preventing the release of 1.3 million metric tons of carbon dioxide, while saving consumers more than \$400 million dollars, according to the Energy Information Administration.

For more information, visit the [Best Workplaces for Commuters webpage](#).

Pittsburgh Clean Cities Coalition Joins “Beyond a Billion” Celebration

More than 8.35 million gallons of gasoline and diesel fuel have been displacement by alternative fuels used by school districts, transit authorities, local government agencies and private companies in Pennsylvania since 1994 thanks to federal and state agencies working with these local partners.

Nationally, the [Pittsburgh Clean Cities Coalition](#) joined the "Beyond a Billion" celebration last week to mark the nationwide displacement of more than 1 billion gallons of gasoline since 1994 through the use of alternative fuels such as compressed natural gas, liquid propane and ethanol.

The celebration took place at the compressed natural gas refueling station at the Pittsburgh International Airport Sunoco Station, with the symbolic dispensing of the billionth gallon into an Allegheny County Airport Authority vehicle. Compressed natural gas and propane vehicles, flexible fuel vehicles operating on E85, a hybrid electric/diesel and biodiesel powered bus were also showcased at the event.

Clean Cities is a national U.S. Department of Energy initiated government-industry partnership designed to reduce petroleum consumption in the transportation sector. The partnership is composed of 88 community-based coalitions, voluntary public/private partnerships that work to advance the use of alternative fuels and vehicles, infrastructure development, idle reduction technologies, hybrid electric vehicles and biofuels such as biodiesel.

Pennsylvania has two clean cities coalitions, one in [Pittsburgh](#) and the other in [Philadelphia](#). The Department of Environmental Protection receives funding from the DOE to support coalition activities. DEP also provides grant funding under the [Alternative Fuels Incentive Grant Program](#) for alternative fuel projects in the Clean Cities regions and throughout the state.

Saving a billion gallons of gasoline is a significant contribution to Clean Cities' mission, and it's only the beginning. The Clean Cities' goal is to displace 2.5 billion gallons of gasoline annually by 2020. By helping the nation use less petroleum, Clean Cities improves the energy, economic, and environmental security of the United States.

Clean Cities is part of the U.S. Office of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy's Weatherization and Intergovernmental Program.

For more information visit the [Pittsburgh](#) and [Philadelphia](#) Clean Cities webpages.

Make Your Own Biodiesel at the First Biodiesel Revival November 12

The First Biodiesel Revival is scheduled for November 12 at the Robert A. Macoskey [Center for Sustainable Systems Education and Research](#) at Slippery Rock University.

The event will be led by Greg Boulos, co-founder of Steel City Biofuels, a local company dedicated to promoting the use of locally manufactured fuels in the Western Pennsylvania region.

Boulos, an SRU alum from the Sustainable Systems program, will demonstrate how to make diesel fuel from waste and virgin vegetable oils and answer questions about local production and on-farm feasibility.

The educational component of the workshop will provide background information about biodiesel, discuss the uses and benefits of biodiesel, address the preparation process, evaluate resource and safety precautions, and discuss the future of fuel.

PA Environment Digest – Holston & Crisci

The production component of the workshop will allow for participants to work in small groups to calculate titrations and to perform small batch reactions. The focus will be demonstrating the feasibility of producing biodiesel in usable quantities.

In advance of the workshop, participants are encouraged to secure their own 500-1000 ml samples of vegetable oil from a local source, such as a restaurant or from home, to bring to the workshop for processing.

The First Biodiesel Revival is free, but advance registration is requested for participation due to space limitations. Please call the Macoskey Center at 724-738-4050 to register by November 7.

Harrisburg Green Building Tour – Highmark Data Center – November 16

The Green Building Association of Central Pennsylvania and the Central Pennsylvania Section of the International Facilities Management Association is sponsoring a tour of the new data center built by Highmark in Dauphin County on November 16.

The project architect, Dougleas McCoach from RTKL in Baltimore will describe the thinking that went into making the building green.

For more information, visit the [Highmark Data Center Tour webpage](#).

Conservation By Design Workshops Set for Cumberland, Westmoreland

“Putting Conservation in Local Codes” is the theme of two upcoming Conservation By Design workshops on [November 1 in Enola, Cumberland County](#) and [November 3 in Belle Vernon, Westmoreland County](#).

The Governor’s Center for Local Government Services, Pennsylvania State Association of Township Supervisors and the Natural Lands Trust are collaborating to provide local officials, planning commission members, environmental advisory council members, developers and engineers with information on how communities can achieve their conservation goals through good local planning and land use controls.

A free copy of the 312-page Growing Greener workbook with model ordinances will be available at the workshop and, thanks to a grant from the Department of Community and Economic Development, workshop registration is \$20.

To register online, visit the [PSATS One Source November Calendar webpage](#).

Mid-Atlantic Green Highways Forum Set for November 8-10

As part of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Region 3 Mid-Atlantic [Green Highways Initiative](#), a [Green Highways Forum](#) will be held in College Park, MD November 8-10.

The Green Highways Initiative is a group of federal and state transportation and environmental executives, as well as representatives and leaders in non-profit groups, trade organizations, and private consultants, who have come together to and promote sustainable transportation initiatives..

The Forum is designed to showcase examples of using green design techniques in highway construction, share techniques and help develop a Green Highways Recognition Program.

For more information visit the [Green Highways Initiative webpage](#).

PA Invests in Revitalizing 4 Former Industrial Sites

Four sites in Bucks, Butler, Chester and Lehigh counties have qualified for [Brownfield Action Team Assistance](#) the Department of Environmental Protection announced this week.

The four sites include:

The **Worthington Steel site** in East Whiteland Township, Chester County which closed in 2002. The 77-acre site includes 700,000 square feet of commercial office space, 500,000 square feet of retail space, 600 multi-family residential units and an open-space greenway for recreation. This project is expected to create 3,000 jobs on site, with the potential to generate up to 7,400 spin-off jobs in the area economy.

The site is being developed by O'Neill Properties Group, which already has secured \$7 million in federal funding and is pursuing several sources of state funding, including the Business in Our Sites Program, which provides money to prepare sites for reuse.

At the former **Elf Atochem North America** property in Bensalem Township, Bucks County, the Riverfront South project will create a waterfront community containing an array of office and retail space, along with entertainment-oriented businesses. Also planned is a mixture of housing, about 500 units in all, in a traditional neighborhood setting with pedestrian-oriented streets. This new urban plan also includes four acres of greenspace along the Delaware River for recreation, including walking and biking paths to link with park areas both north and south of the site.

The **West Sand Island project** in Bethlehem, Lehigh County, will expand the existing park, preserve green space, improve access to the riverfront and enhance the overall recreational value of Sand Island. The redevelopment plan, being run by the city, includes walking/biking trails, fishing piers, a nonmotorized boat dock, a pavilion with restroom facilities, a picnic area, a parking area and green space.

The **Pullman Center Business Park** in Butler, Butler County, is a key component of the city's revitalization efforts. Plans for this \$30 million redevelopment project include revamping it into a business park with space available for commercial, office and industrial manufacturing uses. Two current businesses located on this site will stay, and several parties have expressed interest in other parcels on the site once it is reclaimed and new utilities are installed. This project will be funded through a variety of public and private investments.

For more information, visit the [DEP Land Recycling Program webpage](#).

Pittsburgh Mayor Appoints Clean Pittsburgh Commission Members

Pittsburgh Mayor Tom Murphy held a swearing-in ceremony for new members of the Clean Pittsburgh Commission this week. The Commission was created to serve as a resource for community groups and individuals working to clean-up their neighborhoods, plant community gardens, and the implement litter prevention and awareness programs.

“This Commission is fundamental to the effective coordination of clean-up and beautification efforts between the City and its residents,” said Mayor Murphy. “By identifying available resources and disseminating this information throughout the City, the

PA Environment Digest – Holston & Crisci

Commission will empower community groups and active individuals to effect positive change in their neighborhoods.”

The Commission members include representatives from key City departments including the Mayor’s Office, Public Safety and Public Works, non-profit environmental organizations, local neighborhood groups, and interested individuals. The Commission will meet monthly to create and implement a strategic plan focused on neighborhood improvement through community involvement and effective use of City services.

At its first official meeting, the Commission members elected David Mazza, Regional Director of the Pennsylvania Resources Council, as its first chairperson.

“As partners who are committed to improving the quality of life for all residents of the City of Pittsburgh, the Commission members embrace the opportunity to provide leadership, expertise and guidance to the City and its residents as they carry-out vital community improvement efforts,” stated Mr. Mazza at the swearing-in ceremony. “We congratulate the Mayor and members of Council for their vision in creating this Commission to help lead the way for Pittsburgh to become a cleaner, more beautiful City.”

The Commission was created legislation sponsored by Councilman Doug Shields in August.

For more information, contact Commission chair David Mazza at 412-431-4449 ext. 209 or send email to: davem@ccicenter.org .

Environmental Education and Higher Education Workshop November 9

Pennsylvania Center for Environmental Education



The Pennsylvania Center for Environmental Education is sponsoring another [Environmental Education and Higher Education Workshop](#) in State College on November 9.

This is one in a series of special events that focus on several areas of interest: diversity training, environmental education training and partnership, environmental education program certification and more.

Interested individuals should RSVP by October 31 by contacting Stephanie Martin at 724-738-4529 or send email to: pcee3@sru.edu .

Environmental Question of the Week Returns for Students, Educators

Pennsylvania Center for Environmental Education



The popular feature [Environmental Question of the Week](#) is back on the Pennsylvania Center for Environmental Education website.

Each week a thought-providing environmental question provides the focus for a learning exercise that is complete with background information, links to resources and its relationship to the Department of Education Environment and Ecology Standards.

The question for the week of October 17 is very timely since it plays off the current headlines about energy prices and asks participants to identify renewable sources of energy.

For more information, visit the [Question of the Week webpage](#).

2006 EPA Environmental Education Grants Applications Due November 23

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency is soliciting grant proposals for its 2006 Environmental Education Grant Program. Proposals are due November 23.

EPA expects to award 150 grants subject to the availability of funds and the quality of applications received. Most grants will be in the \$10,000 to \$15,000 range.

Any local education agency, college or university, state education or environmental agency, not-for-profit organization or noncommercial educational broadcasting entity may submit a proposal.

Projects should be designed to promote environmental stewardship and help develop aware and responsible students, teachers, and citizens. This grant program provides financial support for projects which design, demonstrate, or disseminate environmental education practices, methods, or techniques.

EPA may also fund activities such as creating a nature trail or building a bird watching station as long as these items are an integral part of the environmental education project, and the cost is a relatively small percentage of the total amount of federal funds requested.

For more information, visit the [2006 Environmental Education Grant Solicitation webpage](#).

New Book Outlines Documented Benefits of Coal Ash for Mine Reclamation

A new book highlights 20 years of research by scientists at Penn State's Materials Research Institute and the Department of Environmental Protection that proves the benefits of using fly ash produced in Pennsylvania's coal-fired power plants for controlling acid drainage, and for backfilling abandoned and working coal mines, water-filled mines and rock pits.

[“Coal Ash Beneficial Use in Mine Reclamation and Mine Drainage Remediation in Pennsylvania”](#) is a joint project of DEP and Penn State Materials Research Institute.

Dr. Barry E. Scheetz, Dr. William B. White, and Dr. Caroline M. Loop, a former Penn State graduate student now a consultant in Greenville, N.C., are the researchers whose work forms the core of the book, along with contributions by DEP staff and engineers on other beneficial uses of coal ash.

The book provides peer-reviewed research results for the scientific community, government agencies, environmental groups, and the general public to help resolve a pressing public health and environmental problem.

Currently more than 50 percent of Pennsylvania's electric power is generated in coal-fired power plants. Traditionally, the coal ash was deposited in huge landfills and slurries near the power plants.

But in recent decades coal ash has been put to use to fill and reclaim abandoned mines, a practice that has raised unsubstantiated fears of groundwater contamination. Now further scientific proof of the safety of coal ash remediation is available.

The Penn State researchers and DEP monitors conclude that the use of fly ash in mine remediation, when applied by DEP guidelines, is safe and effective. A committee of the Pennsylvania legislature noted that 3,400 acres of abandoned mine land have already been reclaimed at no cost to taxpayers, and 88 million tons of acid bearing coal refuse and

PA Environment Digest – Holston & Crisci

countless culm piles have been removed from the Pennsylvania landscape through the use of coal ash.

In Pennsylvania cities such as Pottsville, where underground mining generations ago has left active cropfalls - collapsing vertical pits that can drop off hundreds of feet - within sight of residential streets, the use of a stabilizing concrete material made of fly ash may be the only affordable way to halt the dangerous collapses.

In Clearfield County, waste piles of acid leaching rock, capped by a hardened layer of fly ash and waste lime, effectively cut off the drainage of contaminated water into the West Branch of the Susquehanna River.

These successful results indicate that this new book's timely information can be widely used to help other Pennsylvania communities, and coal mining regions throughout the U.S., solve two pressing environmental problems.

The book is available in CD format by contacting: Barry Scheetz, 107 Materials Research Laboratory Bldg., University Park, PA 16802 or send email to: se6@psu.edu.

Print copies are available through: State Book Store, 400 North Street, Harrisburg, PA 17120.

Copies of "[Coal Ash Beneficial Use in Mine Reclamation and Mine Drainage Remediation in Pennsylvania](#)" are also available online.

Volunteers Needed to Plant 4,000 Trees along Brandywine Creek

As part of a [TreeVitalize](#) grant, [Stroud Water Research Center](#) needs to plant 4,000 trees along Taylor Run, a tributary to the East Branch of the Brandywine Creek, Chester County.

Two tree planting dates have been set-- October 29 and November 5 from 9 a.m.-1 p.m. at the Stroud Preserve, located in East Bradford Township, just outside of West Chester in Southern Chester County.

A tree planting on October 15 brought out over 100 volunteers who planted about 2,000 trees.

The [Stroud Preserve](#) is owned and managed by [Natural Lands Trust](#) whose staff will be providing maintenance and upkeep of the trees for years to come.

Any time volunteers can take to help with this planting is appreciated. Bring some friends and a shovel.

For more information, including directions, visit the [Stroud Water Research Center website](#).

Awards & Recognition

Northeast Environmental Partnership Recognizes Good Environmental Works

The Northeast Environmental Partnership recognized the accomplishments of seven individuals and organizations as part of its annual awards dinner this week. The award winners include:

William D. Lange, Lackawanna County, received the Thomas P. Shelburne Environmental Leadership, for his work with the State Conservation Commission and the

PA Environment Digest – Holston & Crisci

National Association of Conservation Districts where he made significant contributions to supporting programs for cleaning up abandoned mines and developing public/private partnerships as chairman of the [Lackawanna County Conservation District](#) and a 22 year member of the Conservation Commission.

[Annual Northeast Regional Contractors/Engineers Workshop](#) which for 12 years has served as an educational forum for those involved in development activities to improve their environmental protection skills and techniques in the public and private sector.

[Chesapeake Bay Foundation](#) for promoting its Habitat Stewardship Program which provides incentives to agricultural producers to restore stream corridors and wetlands.

Ernest Keller, Lackawanna County, who as District Manager for the [Lackawanna County Conservation District](#) has established partnerships with landowners and regional organizations to help mitigate and reduce pollution entering waterways and assists forest landowners through educational activities and promotion of sustainable forest management.

[Monroe County Municipal Waste Management Authority](#) for its programs to expand recycling and waste reduction in Monroe County and building partnerships with a variety of organizations and agencies to develop self-sustaining programs like Christmas tree, phone book and electronics recycling.

[Northern Tier Coalition](#), Susquehanna County, recognizing the joint efforts of 12 municipalities to plan for future growth and development in their communities, including housing, transportation, economic development, agricultural and rural use, health and education, recreation and conservation of natural resources.

[Pike Conservation Partnership](#), Pike County, for its efforts to bring together local conservation groups, public officials and residents through workshops and educational programs that encourage long-term, smart growth strategies for development and conservation.

Paul W. Snyder, Monroe County, for his efforts as part of the [Tobyhanna Creek/Tuckhannock Creek Watershed Association's](#) Stream Watch Volunteer Water Monitoring Program, macro invertebrate assessment, and work with The Nature Conservancy's Legal Preserve Monitoring Program as well as advising Monroe County on implementing the \$25 million Open Space Fund.

[Wyoming Valley Wellness Trails Partnership](#), Luzerne County, was recognized for its efforts to promote the use of recreational trails throughout the county to promote healthy living and for hosting the "Creating Active Community Environments" mini-conference.

For more information on the Northeast Environmental Partnership, contact Julie McMonagle, Director [Pennsylvania Environmental Council](#) Northeast Office, 570-718-6507 or send email to Julie@pecnepa.org .

Quick Clips

[Bedford County Farmers Dig Deep for Fuel](#)
[Pittsburgh Hybrid Buses Save Fuel](#)
[Hot Alternatives As Fuel Prices Rise](#)
[Landfill Gas to Energy Project Dedicated – Lancaster County](#)
[Profile: Electricity of Innovation – Community Energy, Inc.](#)
[Energy Assistance Programs Brace for Hike in Applications](#)
[Op-Ed: Weatherization Empowers Community & Wallet – Sen. Anthony Williams](#)
[CMU Solar House Takes 10th Place in Competition](#)
[Audubon, Montgomery County Cooperate on Mill Grove Museum](#)
[Science Lesson Takes Students Outside the Classroom](#)
[Lebanon Manufacturer Honored for Recycling](#)
[Recycling Pays Off for Borough](#)
[Ashland Recycling Honored](#)
[Bushkill Residents Urged to Vote Yes on Open Space](#)
[Chester County Losing Its Land](#)
[Centre County May Help Fund Land Purchases](#)
[Ohiopyle to Confluence Bike Trail](#)

Watershed NewsClips

[Carbon County Named Groundwater Guardian](#)
[Springdale Recognized for Protecting Drinking Water](#)
[Tuscarora State Forest Watershed Lands Now Open](#)
[Pine Creek's Plan](#)
[Binky Lee Preserve Dam Removal Project Toured](#)
[Conservation Officials Tour Caukins Creek](#)
[Paint Creek Regional Watershed Association Targets AMD](#)
[Permit Will Drain, Reclaim Northumberland Mine Pit](#)
[Sunbury Improvements to Open River Vistas](#)
[PA Trout Farm Lets Kids Get Hooked on Fishing](#)
[York Man Advocate for Susquehanna River](#)
[DEP Awards No-Cost Mine Reclamation Contract – Westmoreland County](#)
[Local Biologist Honored by Governor](#)

Regulations

The Environmental Quality Board took action this week to adopt a proposed California car rule for public comment and published final regulations covering bituminous mining bonds, concentrated animal feeding operations and several lake redesignations. The Public Utility Commission also published formal notice of its requirements for implementing the Alternative Energy Portfolio Standards. EPA also announced it would take additional comments on its mercury emissions reduction rule. Details below.

PA Environment Digest – Holston & Crisci

The Environmental Quality Board this week approved a proposed rule for public comment adopting new California car standards, a petition to redesignate Tannery Hollow Run, Cameron County and a final rule delisting certain hazardous wastes ([meeting handouts](#))

The California car rule was amended to clarify requirements for registration of vehicles coming in from other states and to require the Department of Environmental Protection to evaluate the environmental and cost of changes in the California car rules.

NewsClip: [EQB Approves Clean Vehicle Rule Comment Period](#)

Final EQB [Bond Adjustment and Bituminous Mine Subsidence Control Standards](#) regulation.

Final EQB [Concentrated Animal Feeding Operation regulation](#)

Final EQB regulation making [Lake Redesignations](#) in Berks, Bucks, Lebanon, Snyder counties. (*PaB 5806*)

The Public Utility Commission published its [formal order implementing the Alternative Energy Portfolio Standards Act](#).

NOTE: The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency announced October 21 that it will take additional comments on its mercury emissions reduction rule for 45 days. For more information, visit the [EPA Mercury Rule webpage](#).

[Pennsylvania Bulletin – October 22, 2005](#)

Comment Deadlines: [Regulations \(DEP website\)](#) [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 is accepting comments on a new [biofuel and biodiesel product general permit](#) through November 30. DEP also published final guidance on underground coal mining and proposed guidance on permit coordination.

Final: DEP ID: 563-2000-610. Validating Abandoned Underground Mine Maps and Establishing Barrier Pillars. Recent changes were made to the guidance to clarify the procedures applicable for the installation of closed-loop check survey station spads in rooms less than 600 feet.

Draft: DEP ID: 400-2000-301. Policy for Permit Coordination. This draft guidance identifies coordination procedures to be used by Department staff in the technical review and decision making of projects involving multiple Department permits or authorizations. Comments due: November 21.

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

- **October 24** – Environmental Issues Forum – [Joint Legislative Air and Water Pollution Control and Conservation Committee](#) presentation by PA Recreation & Parks Society and DCNR on implementing the State Recreation Plan.
- **October 24** – Senate Community and Economic Development Committee meeting to consider [House Bill 218](#) (Reed-R-Indiana) making changes to the Downtown Relocation Act.
- **October 25** – House Environmental Resources & Energy Committee meets to consider [House Bill 1902](#) (Rubley-R-Chester) extending the \$2 per ton recycling fee indefinitely and requiring that Section 904 Recycling Performance Grants be spent on efforts to promote recycling and waste reduction; [House Resolution 382](#) (Frankel-D-Allegheny) a concurrent resolution urging Congress to reauthorize the Abandoned Mine Reclamation Fund; [Senate Bill 410](#) (M.White-R-Venango) establishing the Pennsylvania Center for Environmental Education in law; [House Bill 1051](#) (Sturla-D-Lancaster) establishing the Adopt-a-River Program in the Department of Conservation and Natural Resources; [House Bill 1494](#) (Stern-R-Blair) providing an Air Pollution Control Act exemption for small milling operations; and [House Resolution 368](#) (Reichley-R-Berks) urging the Corps of Engineers to look into wet weather problems in the Little Lehigh Creek Watershed in Berks and Lehigh Counties.
- **October 26** – [DCNR Citizens Advisory Council](#) meeting.
- **November 1** – House Environmental Resources & Energy Committee informational meeting on Energy Policy – energy efficiency, renewable sources.
- **November 16** – PA Environmental Council Awards Dinner. Harrisburg
- **November 17** – PA Resources Council Awards Dinner. West Conchohocken.
- **November 17** – House Health & Human Services Committee hearing on [House Bill 1369](#) (Sturla-D-Lancaster) relating to powers and responsibilities during a public health emergency.
- **November 18** – [Wildlands Conservancy Annual Dinner/Auction](#). Macungie.

DEP Calendar of Events

Watershed Events

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

Environmental Education Workshop/Training Calendar

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

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

Helpful Web Links

[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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Winter Forecast: [What the Woolly Caterpillar Says](#)

Visit the [Professional Services Directory](#) and [Events Calendar](#)