

—PA — Environment Digest

*An Update on
Environmental
Issues in
Pennsylvania*

Edited By David E. Hess, Crisci Associates

October 29, 2007

[PA Environment Digest Video Blog](#)

Video Blog Feature: Legacy Sediments, Floodplain Restoration



See first-hand how legacy sediments, a previously undocumented source of water pollution, were discovered and learn about how floodplain restoration can help solve stream bank erosion, nutrient runoff, stormwater and even climate change problems in this Video Blog Feature by Mark Gutshall, [LandStudies, Inc.](#)

[Video Blog Feature: Mark Gutshall](#)

The video takes you to a tributary to [Chickies Creek in Lancaster County](#) to show you how legacy sediments formed and the pollution

they cause. It then moves to the [Banta Stream Restoration Project](#) in Warwick Township to illustrate how this four year old floodplain restoration project has worked to restore the floodplain, create habitat and reduce water pollution.

“We developed the floodplain restoration technique based on studies we conducted in numerous watersheds over the last several years,” said Gutshall. “These studies pointed to a previously unrecognized major source of pollution – stream banks – but it wasn’t until we talked to colleagues at Franklin & Marshall College that we put our science and their understanding of land-use history together.”

Watershed assessments in the Susquehanna River Watershed demonstrated that 50 to 80 percent of the sediment loads in certain watersheds were coming from streambanks, along with the nutrient pollution they carry. Measured rates of bank erosion in the field were often exponentially greater than the commonly used models show.

“Drs. Dorothy Merritts and Robert Walter at F&M showed us their research that identified hundreds of mill dams built in the 18th and 19th centuries and behind each dam was up to 20 feet of sediment sometimes stretching hundreds of yards,” said Gutshall. “When the dams collapsed or were removed, the sediment was still there, but the stream began cutting its way down through that legacy sediment to the original floodplain and in the process carried away huge amounts of soil.

“Our floodplain restoration technique is designed to restore a stream to its original floodplain by removing the legacy sediment that would otherwise find its way downstream,” explained Gutshall. “Once we knew to look for old mill dams, we could accurately locate the old stream bed level and essentially put the stream back the way it was, with natural meanders but without the eroded stream banks.”

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A new booklet published by LandStudies called, “[Floodplain Restoration](#),” describes the multiple benefits of floodplain restoration, including:

- eliminating a major source of sediment and nutrients;
- reducing downstream nuisance flooding;
- providing an area for groundwater recharge and stormwater filtration;
- generating water quality credits for nutrient and sediment reduction to help wastewater plants comply with nutrient reduction requirements; and
- providing opportunities for carbon sequestration through the planting of riparian corridors.

“Looking for legacy sediments as part of a watershed assessment is critical because time and money invested in planting riparian buffers, for example, could be completely wasted if they are planted on top of these sediments, high above local groundwater and streambeds,” said Gutshall. “The discovery of legacy sediments has dramatically changed the way we look at water quality problems in our watersheds.”

Since the documentation of legacy sediments as a pollution source, the floodplain restoration technique has been recognized by the Department of Environmental Protection in its Stormwater Best Practices Manual and as part of its Nutrient Trading Program for the Chesapeake Bay Tributary Strategy.

The agency is also in the process of developing a formal floodplain restoration Best Management Practice and is studying how to incorporate this technique into local sewage facilities planning.

The 11 x 17, 30-page “[Floodplain Restoration](#)” guide is available for \$30 (tax and shipping included) by sending your request to LandStudies, Inc., 315 North St., Lititz, PA 17543, by contacting LandStudies at 717-27-4440 or by visiting land@landstudies.com for an order form.

Video Blog Feature: [Mark Gutshall on Legacy Sediments, Floodplain Restoration](#)

Follow These Links For More Information:

[Documenting Stream Channel Erosion](#), A Bigger Problems Than Originally Thought

[Reducing Pollution in the Chesapeake Bay](#) Through Floodplain Restoration

[Critical Aquifer Recharge Benefits](#) of Floodplain Restoration

[Floodplain Restoration Improves Water Quality](#)

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Session Schedule

The Senate and House will return to session October 29.

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- 8th Annual Green Power Awards Presented to 33 Individuals, Groups, Companies
- U.S. Composting Council Seeks Nominations for Composting Awards
- Air Pollution From Idling Diesel Trucks Target of New DEP Regulation
- New Pittsburgh Indicators Show Average, Not Frightening Air Quality
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Spotlight

- Resilite Sports Products' Wins Governor's Environmental Excellence Award

Grants & Awards – **NEW SECTION!**

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

On the Hill

On the Senate/House Agenda/Bills Introduced

The Senate and House have the following committee meetings scheduled next week and published voting Calendars for October 29—

Calendars

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House: [House Bill 1787](#) (McIlvaine Smith-D-Montgomery) further providing for curative amendments; [House Bill 1649](#) (Barrar-R-Chester) requiring the fluoridation of public water supplies; [House Bill 1281](#) (Freeman-D-Lehigh) requiring municipalities to protect the Appalachian Trail; [House Resolution 112](#) (Mann-D-Lehigh) directing DEP to implement policies that encourage electronic waste recycling; [House Resolution 268](#) (Rohrer-R-Berks) directing the Legislative Budget and Finance Committee to study Game Commission forestry and mineral development policies.

Senate: [Senate Bill 266](#) (Erickson-R-Delaware) requiring DEP to inventory greenhouse gases and create a climate change action plan; [House Bill 43](#) (Rubley-R-Chester) providing for uniform environmental covenants for brownfields projects; [House Bill 221](#) (Tangretti-D-Westmoreland) establishing a Historic Preservation Incentive Grant Program.

Special Energy Session: [Special Session Senate Bill 1](#) (MJ White-R-Venango) to invest \$530 million over the next seven years in consumer energy programs, energy conservation, and the development of alternative and renewable energy.

Committees

House: the Environmental Resources and Energy Committee meets to consider [Special Session House Bill 22](#) (R.Miller-R-York) requiring a reduction in energy use by state buildings and increased efficiency in state motor fleet and [Senate Bill 1017](#) (Brubaker-R-Lancaster) removing the exemption for dishwasher detergent in the Phosphate Detergent Act; the Local Government Committee meets to consider [House Bill 904](#) (Freeman-D-Lehigh) providing for temporary development moratoriums, [House Bill 1525](#) (Steil-R-Bucks) amending the Municipalities Planning Code dealing with county compliance with comprehensive plans and providing for impact fees; the State Government Committee holds a hearing on [House Bill 397](#) (Petri-R-Bucks) providing for development impact fees in Langhorne.

Senate: the Appropriations Committee meets to consider [Senate Bill 1100](#) (Pileggi-R-Delaware) that would provide a dedicated source of funding for the Hazardous Sites Cleanup Program, [Senate Bill 1068](#) (M.White-R-Venango) requiring fines and penalties to be deposited in the Hazardous Sites Cleanup Fund, [Senate Bill 1069](#) (M.White-R-Venango) requiring an annual report on the Keystone Recreation, Park and Conservation Fund and [House Bill 1589](#) (Evans-D-Philadelphia) 2007-08 Capital Budget.

Senate/House Bills Moving/Bills Introduced

The following bills saw action in the Senate and House this week--

Senate

Detergent Ban: [Senate Bill 1017](#) (Brubaker-R-Lancaster) removing the exemption for dishwasher detergent in the Phosphate Detergent Act was passed by the Senate and sent to the House for action. The House Environmental Resources and Energy Committee is scheduled to consider the bill October 30.

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Landfill Penalties: [Senate Bill 305](#) (Rafferty-R-Montgomery) amending the Solid Waste Management Act relating to repeat violations was referred to Senate Appropriations Committee.

Climate Change: [Senate Bill 266](#) (Erickson-R-Delaware) requiring DEP to inventory greenhouse gases and create a climate change action plan was amended and reported out of the Senate Environmental Resources and Energy Committee and is on the Senate Calendar for action..

Hazardous Sites Funding: [Senate Bill 1100](#) (Pileggi-R-Delaware) that would provide a dedicated source of funding for the Hazardous Sites Cleanup Program was reported from the Senate Environmental Resources and Energy Committee then referred to the Senate Appropriations Committee.

HSCA Penalties: [Senate Bill 1068](#) (M.White-R-Venango) requiring fines and penalties to be deposited in the Hazardous Sites Cleanup Fund was referred to the Senate Appropriations Committee.

Keystone Fund: [Senate Bill 1069](#) (M.White-R-Venango) requiring an annual report on the Keystone Recreation, Park and Conservation Fund was referred to the Senate Appropriations Committee.

Historic Preservation: [House Bill 221](#) (Tangretti-D-Westmoreland) establishing a Historic Preservation Incentive Grant Program was reported from the Senate Communications and Technology Committee and is on the Senate Calendar for action.

House

Energy Efficient Lights: [Special Session House Bill 8](#) (Leach-D-Montgomery) providing an exclusions from Sales Tax for fluorescent light bulbs was passed by the House and sent to the Senate for action.

Energy Efficient Appliances: [Special Session House Bill 11](#) (Parker-D-Philadelphia) providing an exclusion from Sales Tax for EnergyStar appliances was passed by the House and sent to the Senate for action.

Emergency Workers: [House Bill 763](#) (Goodman-D-Schuylkill) amending the Workers' Compensation Act to add employees from the Department of Environmental Protection and other workers exposed to disease to the definition of "occupational disease" was passed by the House and sent to the Senate for action.

Plug-In Hybrids: [House Bill 690](#) (Cohen-D-Philadelphia) establishing a Plug-In Hybrid Task Force was passed by the House.

Miner's Day: [House Resolution 410](#) (DeWeese-D-Greene) that designates December 19 as "Coal Miner's Day" in Pennsylvania was adopted by the House.

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Waste Management Fee: [House Bill 934](#) (Scavello-R-Monroe) authorizing a county solid waste management fee was reported from the House Environmental Resources and Energy Committee.

Green Building Credit: [Special Session House Bill 5](#) (M.Smith-D-Allegheny) creating a tax credit for high performance green buildings was reported from the House Environmental Resources and Energy Committee and referred to the House Appropriations Committee.

Climate Change: [House Bill 110](#) (Vitali-D-Delaware) requiring DEP to inventory greenhouse gases and create a climate change action plan was amended and reported out of the House Appropriations Committee.

Emergency Workers: [House Bill 1025](#) (Casorio-D-Westmoreland) amending the Workers' Compensation Act to add employees from the Fish and Boat Commission exposed to disease to the definition of "occupational disease" were reported from the House Appropriations Committee.

Bills Introduced

Flood Maps: [House Bill 1949](#) (Hanna-D-Centre) providing for review and update of flood maps and [House Resolution 465](#) (Hanna) urging the Federal Emergency Management Agency to review and update floodplain maps every ten years.

ATVs on State Lands: [House Bill 1950](#) (Hanna-D-Centre) authorizing individuals commissioned by the Department of Conservation and Natural Resources to arrest or cite for summary offenses for violations of ATV rules.

Farmland Assessment Payments: [House Bill 1960](#) (Hershey-R-Chester) providing payments to local taxing authorities if they lose 10 percent or more of their assessed value due to lands covered by the PA Farmland and Forest Land Assessment Act.

Senior Environment Corps: [House Bill 1967](#) (George-D-Clearfield) making an appropriation to maintain the services of the Senior Environment Corps.

Water Facilities Plan: [House Bill 1969](#) (George-D-Clearfield) amending the PA Infrastructure Investment Authority providing financial assistance and for comprehensive water facilities plans.

Lateral Lines: [House Bill 1969](#) (George-D-Clearfield) providing funding for private lateral lines.

GIS Day: [House Resolution 467](#) (Thomas-D-Philadelphia) designating November 11-17 as "National Geography Awareness Week and November 15 as "Pennsylvania GIS Day."

Energy Conservation by Utilities: [Special Session House Bill 31](#) (Ross-R-Chester) encouraging energy efficiency and demand-side resources by electric distribution companies.

Energy Efficiency/Awards Program: [Special Session House Bill 34](#) (Hershey-R-Chester) establishing an energy efficiency and pollution reduction program within the Department of Environmental Protection and creating the Keystone Energy and Environmental Excellence Award.

Energy Education Program: [Special Session House Bill 36](#) (Swanger-R-Lebanon) establishing a consumer energy education program at the Public Utility Commission.

State Energy Office: [Special Session House Bill 36](#) (George-D-Clearfield) establishing a State Energy Office and an advisory committee.

Hazardous Sites Funding: [Senate Bill 1059](#) (McIlhinney-R-Bucks) providing for a transfer of a portion of the budget surplus to the Hazardous Sites Cleanup Fund.

Hazardous Sites Funding: [Senate Bill 1100](#) (Pileggi-R-Delaware) that would direct \$17 million to the Hazardous Sites Cleanup Fund out of legislative accounts for the current fiscal year, and earmark \$40 million in existing capital stock and franchise tax revenue until this tax is phased out in 2011.

Electronic Waste: [Senate Bill 1115](#) (C.Williams-D-Montgomery) establishing the Computer and Electronic Equipment Disposal and Recycling Act banning e-waste in landfill and imposing a fee on electronics purchases.

Biodiesel Incentives: [Special Session Senate Bill 10](#) (Gordner-R-Columbia) providing a \$1 per gallon incentive payment for biodiesel producers.

State Vehicles: [Special Session Senate Bill 26](#) (Wonderling-R-Montgomery) requiring state owned or leased vehicles to use a 20 percent biodiesel blend starting in January 2010.

Senate Committee OK's PA Climate Change Act, House Moves Its Version

The Senate and House both took action on companion bills that would create the PA Climate Change Act to develop a climate action plan for the Commonwealth and inventory greenhouse gases.

The Senate Environmental Resources and Energy Committee this week amended and reported out [Senate Bill 266](#) (Erickson-R-Delaware). The House Appropriations Committee amended and reported out [House Bill 110](#) (Vitali-D-Delaware)

In the Senate the bill was amended to create an advisory committee appointed by House, Senate and Governor, ensure that the climate change report and action plan examines and reflects the diversity of viewpoints on climate change and require the Department of Environmental Protection to utilize a third-party facilitator in working with the advisory committee.



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A summary of the bill and a copy of the amendment added by the Committee is available on the [Senate Environmental Resources and Energy Committee webpage](#).

The House amended its version of the legislation to change the effective date to July 1, 2008.

NewsClip: [PA Moves Toward Reducing Greenhouse Gasses](#)

Hazardous Sites Cleanup Funding Bill Approved By Senate Committee

The Senate Environmental Resources and Energy Committee reported out [Senate Bill 1100](#) (Pileggi-R-Delaware) that would provide a dedicated source of funding for the Hazardous Sites Cleanup Program.

"I am pleased that we are moving this bill forward, and I look forward to quick consideration by the Senate," said Sen. Mary Jo White, chair of the Senate Environmental Resources and Energy Committee. "This represents the third effort by the Senate to provide the necessary funding for HSCA without raising taxes, and I urge the Governor and the House of Representatives to get on board."

"This crisis should have been averted by addressing HSCA in the budget," said Sen. Pileggi. "But our proposal will fully fund HSCA for four years without a tax increase, and without cutting any other state programs."

The bill would direct \$17 million to the Hazardous Sites Cleanup Fund out of legislative accounts for the current fiscal year, and earmark \$40 million in existing capital stock and franchise tax revenue until this tax is phased out in 2011.

The bill was then referred to Senate Appropriations Committee.

Sen. Mary Jo White noted, in response to a question, the Rendell Administration may be coming up with another funding initiative of their own for HSCA. An agreement between Gov. Rendell and Senate Republicans to fund HSCA during the July budget debates fell through when the House refused to go along with the deal. (See [July 16, 2007 PA Environment Digest](#))

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

House Committee Reports Out Waste Fee, Green Building Legislation

The House Environmental Resources and Energy Committee this week reported out [House Bill 934](#) (Scavello-R-Monroe) authorizing a county solid waste management fee and [Special Session House Bill 5](#) (M.Smith-D-Allegheny) creating a tax credit for high performance green buildings.

Rep. Bud George (D-Clearfield) and Rep. Scott Hutchinson (R-Venango) chair the House Environmental Resources and Energy Committee.

Detergent Ban, Energy Efficiency Bills on House Environmental Committee Agenda

The House Environmental Resources and Energy Committee meets to consider legislation to increase energy efficiency in state buildings and vehicle fleet and prohibiting dishwasher soaps with phosphates. The bills include:

- [Special Session House Bill 22](#) (R.Miller-R-York) requiring a reduction in energy use by state buildings and increased efficiency in state motor fleet; and

- [Senate Bill 1017](#) (Brubaker-R-Lancaster) removing the exemption for dishwasher detergent in the Phosphate Detergent Act next week.
The Committee is chaired by Rep. Bud George (D-Clearfield) and Rep. Scott Hutchinson (R-Venango).

Joint Committee October Environmental Synopsis Now Available Online

The October edition of the [Environmental Synopsis](#) published by the Joint Air Pollution Control and Conservation Committee is now available online.

This month's topics include illegal dumping, rapid growth of wind power, stormwater pollution, diesel retrofits and the Keep Pennsylvania Beautiful 2007 Summit.

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

Other News

REAP Tax Credit Program to Encourage Farm Conservation Effective This Week



The effort to reduce pollution entering Pennsylvania's 80,000 miles of rivers and streams is about to get a big boost thanks to the [Resource Enhancement and Protection Act](#) (REAP). The law enacting the program became effective this week.

The REAP Program provides \$10 Million this fiscal year for agricultural Best Management Practices in the form of transferable or sponsored

tax credits.

REAP was included in [Senate Bill 97](#), but received overwhelming bipartisan support. It was sponsored in the House by Representatives Jerry Stern (R-Blair) and Peter Daley (D-Washington) and in the Senate by Senators Mike Waugh (R-York) and Michael O'Pake (D-Berks), along with 79 other co-sponsors.

"REAP offers a common-sense solution to many of our agriculturally-related water quality issues," said Matthew Ehrhart, Executive Director of CBF's Pennsylvania office. "REAP will help farmers improve their operations while cleaning up our rivers and streams."

The State Conservation Commission, jointly chaired by the state Departments of Agriculture and Environmental Protection, is overseeing the program and anticipates applications will be available by December 1.

Personal and business state tax credits ranging from 50 to 75 percent of the cost to install conservation practices like barnyard improvements, riparian buffers, no-till planting equipment, stream fencing and other practices will be available.

"Pennsylvania farmers are terrific stewards of the land, and REAP will help them continue to protect the environment while producing food, fiber and fuel for the world," said Dennis Wolff, Pennsylvania's Secretary of Agriculture. "I am confident REAP will be an important part of agriculture and our environment, helping improve both our natural resources and our economy."

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Each farm enrolled in the program is eligible for up to \$150,000 in transferable tax credits that can be used over a 15-year period or sold to other taxpayers. A business can earn tax credits by sponsoring projects on an eligible farm.

“Farmers should watch their farm publications for opportunities near them to learn more about this innovative approach to helping them foot the cost of environmental best management practices on their farms,” said Joel Rotz, State Governmental Relations Director for the PA Farm Bureau.

Workshops Scheduled

Throughout the coming months CBF, sponsoring legislators, and other organizations will be hosting public forums to educate the various farmers, businesses and interested parties about the program and the enrollment process.

CBF will be presenting information about REAP during a farmer workshop on crops, soils, and conservation planting. The event will be held in Lititz, Pa on October 30-31. Pre-registration is required. Call Binkley & Hurst, LP at 1-800-414-4705.

Rep. Jerry Stern (R-Blair) will be hosting a forum to talk about REAP at 1 p.m. on November 1, at the Morrison’s Cove Memorial Park in Martinsburg, Pa. Those wishing to attend are asked to RSVP by calling Stern's Hollidaysburg office at 814-695-2398.

Farmers are welcome to attend Pennsylvania Farm Bureau’s opening session at their annual meeting on November 12 at Hershey Motor Lodge at 9:00 a.m. Also, information sessions are being planned for both the Harrisburg and York farm shows in January 2008.

For more information visit the [State Conservation Commission](#) or the [Chesapeake Bay Foundation](#) REAP webpages

Reminder: Deadline for Agriculture/Rural Youth Grants October 31

More than \$110,000 in [Agricultural & Rural Youth Grants](#) are now available to help youth organizations enhance leadership development programs for innovative projects in aquaculture, animal science, food safety and other agriculturally-related topics.

Applications are due October 31.

The program provides funding to organizations comprised of youth 18 years of age or younger that are organized and recognized by the commonwealth to promote development in the areas of agriculture, rural community leadership, vocational training or peer fellowship.

Project proposals should demonstrate their relevance to agriculture or rural issues and they should show originality and community influence.

The grant program offers eligible organizations the opportunity to apply for a matching grant of up to \$10,000 for projects, including: capital projects relating to agriculture or rural issues; and equipment purchases to be used in the course of an agricultural project or a project relating to rural issues.

Organizations seeking direct grants of up to \$2,500 may be considered for funding based on the following criteria: related to agriculture or rural issues, educational programs relating to agriculture or rural issues and conducted by the applicant, educational seminars or field trips relating to agriculture or rural issues attended by the organization, agriculture safety training programs; and equipment purchases and capital projects.

Eligible programs may receive one of each grant within the calendar year. For direct grants, applicants must provide a detailed description of the project to be funded, a

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reasonable and accurate statement of the estimated project cost and a copy of the official youth organization board minutes where action was taken on the proposed project.

In addition to the requirements for the direct grants, matching grant applicants must also provide a description of the source of the organization's matching funds contribution to the project.

Return completed applications to Eric Cowden, Department of Agriculture, 2301 N. Cameron St., Room 311, Harrisburg, PA 17110-9408.

For an application, visit the [Agricultural & Rural Youth Grants Program webpage](#) or contact Eric Cowden at 717-346-4202 or send email to: ecowden@state.pa.us.

Schuylkill Workshop on Local Governments Protecting Watersheds

On October 30 the [Schuylkill Action Network](#) is sponsoring a workshop entitled, "What's Working to Engage Local Governments in Watershed Protection?" at Montgomery County Community College from 10 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.

The workshop is designed to engage representatives of local governments and watershed groups in exchanging new tools, techniques and ideas for solving key watershed protection issues.

Keynote presenters will include: Jon Capacasa, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Region III, Jen Adkins of the Partnership for the Delaware Estuary and Diane Russell of the Institute for Conservation Leadership.

The program will also include an optional tour of the stormwater retention basin at Spring Ford Area Senior High School in Royersford.

For more information and to register, visit the [Schuylkill Action Network website](#).

Workshop to Teach Communities How to Protect Public Drinking Water Supplies



The Department of Environmental Protection, the Susquehanna River Basin Commission, and state and local organizations will [hold a workshop](#) on November 8 in Lebanon on how to protect community water supplies from contamination.

The workshop starts at 1 p.m. at the Lebanon Valley Agricultural Center, 2120 Cornwall Rd., Lebanon, and is open to municipal officials, water system operators, community planners, open space preservationists, watershed groups and the public.

The Pennsylvania League of Women Voters' Water Resources Education Network, or WREN, will present "Protecting Public Drinking Water: Source Water Protection Solutions."

Before the workshop ends at 4:45 p.m., attendees will explore how communities can prevent contamination by assessing water sources, make informed decisions about land use and open space preservation, and involve the public as a partner in protection.

DEP's new [Source Water Protection Technical Assistance Program](#) will also be discussed.

Pre-registration is required to attend the free workshop. [Register online](#) or by contacting WREN Program Manager Julie Kollar by sending email to: juliekwren@verizon.net or calling 267-468-0555.

New Manual for Maintenance of Dirt and Gravel Roads Available Online

“[Environmentally Sensitive Maintenance for Dirt and Gravel Roads](#)” is a 300-page manual which identifies, documents, and encourages the use of environmentally sensitive maintenance of dirt and gravel roads, is now available online.

The manual was created with funding from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency for a general audience interested in integrating environmental concerns into their unpaved roads program.

The document provides insight into using natural systems and innovative technologies to reduce erosion, sediment, and dust pollution while more effectively and efficiently maintaining dirt and gravel roads and gives the users a “tool box” full of environmentally sensitive maintenance tools and practices.

Dirt and gravel roads are increasingly being recognized as having a significant impact on water resources.

[Penn State’s Center for Dirt and Gravel Road Studies](#) has been a pioneer in development methods and training programs to limit the water pollution that comes from dirt and gravel roads.

Printed copies of the manual can also be obtained from Chris Solloway, U.S. EPA, Office of Water, by sending email to: solloway.chris@epa.gov .

Applications Invited for Water Resources Education Project Grants

The League of Women Voters of Pennsylvania Water Resources Education Network is now inviting applications for [Water Resources Education Projects Grants](#) of up to \$5,000 per project.

Applications are due April 2.

Educational projects that raise awareness about protecting the community’s drinking water source and/or preventing nonpoint source pollution in the watershed. Projects must aim at building an informed citizenry who will protect water resources with actions at home, at work, and within the community, including encouraging local officials to make decisions that will promote clean water.

Partnerships of organizations in Pennsylvania such as watershed associations, civic groups, community water systems, governmental entities (including municipal authorities), and other public interest organizations. All partners must play an active role in the project.

Grantees must attend an Orientation Meeting in mid-June, 2008 (date and location TBA) to network with other WREN grantees and receive resources and tools. There is no cost to the grantee to attend.

Download an application from the [Water Resources Education Projects Grants](#) webpage, send email to: wren@palwv.org or call 800 692-7281 ext 10.

Public Invited to Meetings on Conewago River Conservation Plan

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The public is invited to a series of three public meetings on the final draft of the [Conewago Creek Watershed](#) Conservation Plan in Adams, Cumberland and York counties.

The [Pennsylvania Environmental Council](#), in cooperation with the [Watershed Alliance of Adams County](#), the [Watershed Alliance of York County](#), the York and Adams County Planning Commissions and Conservation Districts and other partners helped produce the Plan.

Meetings will all start at 7:00 p.m. on the following dates: October 30 at the National Apple Museum, 154 W. Hanover Street, Biglerville; November 5, at Ski Roundtop Summit Room, Main Lodge, 925 Roundtop Road, Lewisberry; and November 7, at the Guthrie Memorial Library (John D. Bare Center), 2 Library Place, Hanover.

Local elected officials, appointed officials, landowners, residents, and anyone interested in water use, land use, recreation, agriculture, and historic preservation are invited to offer comment about proposed activities, as well volunteer to help make the proposals happen within the Watershed.

Throughout the planning process, there have been several opportunities for public involvement, including talking with stakeholders, landowners, organizations and municipalities.

When completed, the Conewago Creek Watershed Conservation Plan will be added to the state registry and the projects recommended in the plan will be eligible for additional [Rivers Conservation Program](#) funding.

A grant from the Department of Conservation and Natural Resources helped pay for developing the Conservation Plan. The Plan includes an inventory and analysis of conditions, a mapping database and a management action plan for the Watershed.

For more information about the plan or public meetings, contact Anna Breinich at 130 Locust Street, Suite 200, Harrisburg, PA 17101, call 717-230-8044 ext.12 or send email to: abreinich@pecpa.org.

\$69 Million in Water Infrastructure Investments Approved

Residents in 16 counties will have better drinking water and improved management of storm runoff and wastewater because of the \$68.9 million in loans and grants approved this week by the [Pennsylvania Infrastructure Investment Authority](#).

Most of the money approved, \$63.9 million, is in the form of low-interest loans. Combined with \$5 million in grants, PennVEST will fund 21 clean water projects.

The awards approved by PennVEST range from a \$727,000 loan to construct new storm water management facilities for a community in Luzerne County to a \$10.3 million loan and grant combination that will eliminate the contamination of a river in Fayette County caused by malfunctioning on-lot septic systems.

[A list of projects approved is available online.](#)

SRBC's Thomas Beauduy Elected Chair of Interstate Council on Water Policy

[Susquehanna River Basin Commission](#) Deputy Director and Counsel Thomas W. Beauduy this week was elected chair of the [Interstate Council on Water Policy](#), a national organization whose members represent state and regional water resource agencies.

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ICWP, which was established in 1959 to give states a voice on national water policy matters, focuses on water quality and water quantity issues and the relationship between local, state and federal policies, programs and regulations.

As chair, Beauduy will work with ICWP board of directors, staff and members on a range of water resource issues including dam safety, floodplain management, groundwater management, nonpoint source pollution, water quality standards, water conservation, drought and emergency management, wetlands protection, state water rights, climate change, hydropower licensing, endangered species and habitat and water supply.

“Tom has served as the Commission’s representative on ICWP for many years, and we are very pleased he has now been entrusted with this important leadership role,” said Paul Swartz, SRBC Executive Director. “His extensive background and experience on water policy and regulatory matters will serve ICWP well. ICWP is a good fit not only for the state and federal members, but also for the river basin commissions that manage water resources on a watershed basis, not based on political boundaries.”

Students Answer the Challenge to Promote Green Energy in Poster Contest

Over 1,100 students in grades K through 12 across the Commonwealth tapped into their creativity and designed posters that spread the word about the importance of renewable energy.

Sponsored by the Pennsylvania Waste Industries Association, this statewide poster contest themed “Green Energy ... It's Energizing PA!” challenged students to highlight the importance of renewable energy, specifically green energy that is produced by converting landfill gas into usable energy. Pennsylvania is recognized as a national leader in building a new future with green energy.

“We were amazed by the amount of entries we received,” said Tim O'Donnell, PWIA president. “It is essential to educate our youth about the benefits of green energy, and PWIA is proud to have sponsored this contest.”

Entries were divided into three categories -- elementary (K-6th grade), middle (7th-9th grade) and high school (10th-12th grade). First, second and third place winners were chosen in each category. Each winner received a cash prize from PWIA.

2007 Renewable Energy Poster Contest winners were:

First Place

- Nina Fleegle, 11th grade, Wallenpaupack Area High School, Hawley
- Courtney Langensiepen, 8th grade, Great Commission Schools, Altoona
- Rachel Bauer, 4th grade, S. St. Marys Area Elementary School, St. Marys

Second Place

- Matt Livingston, 12th grade, Greater Johnstown Career and Tech Center, Johnstown
- Christopher Phillips, 8th grade, Ridley Middle School, Ridley Park
- Christopher Blake, 6th grade, Lower Dauphin Middle School, Hummelstown

Third Place

- Kelsey Mertens, 10th grade, Hopewell High School, Aliquippa
- Monica Valtin, 8th grade, JT Lambert Intermediate School, East Stroudsburg
- Jenna Shumar, 5th grade, Central Elementary School, East Millsboro

Winning entries will be displayed in the artist's hometown and can be viewed at [PWIA's Website](#).

“Green” Water Bottling Plant Opens in the Lehigh Valley

Nestle Waters North America Inc. this week dedicated a new, environmentally-friendly water bottling facility in Lehigh County that is designed to meet LEED green building standards.

The company's new 576,531-square-foot plant is next to its Breinigsville facility, and the operation can be expanded by another 120,000 square feet to accommodate future growth. The plant meets the rigorous Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design, or LEED, specifications – and the official LEED-certification process is underway.

The new Nestlé Waters Lehigh Valley plant bottles the company's Pure Life brands. The company is also producing its new environmentally designed "eco-shape" bottles at both of its Lehigh Valley bottling plants.

"Like Gov. Rendell, Nestlé Waters North America is dedicated to environmental leadership," said Peter Rittenhouse, supply chain director for Nestlé Waters. "Our new plant meets the high standards required for LEED certification and our new eco-shape packaging uses less plastic than any bottle in history. We are committed to supporting recycling efforts and protecting the region's sustainable water resources. Most of all, we are proud of our employees and the healthy product they produce every single day."

Nearly a third of all bottled water sold in the United States is distributed by Nestlé Waters North America, formed in 1976 with just one brand – Perrier Sparkling Mineral Water. They have operated a 500,000-square-foot water bottling plant in Breinigsville for the past 10 years, primarily bottling Deer Park and Great Bear brands.

To learn more, visit the [Nestle Waters North America Inc. website](#).

Phipps Center for Sustainable Landscapes Breaks Ground on “Living Building”

The [Phipps Center of Sustainable Landscapes](#) received a grant this week on what it called a “living building” as a model for meeting Pennsylvania's clean energy and environmental protection goals.

"The Center for Sustainable Landscapes will represent the future of sustainability and attract international attention to Phipps and Pennsylvania, while the living building will challenge other organizations to choose renewable resources and consider all possible energy-saving solutions. This important grant greatly helps in the process," said Phipps Conservatory and Botanical Gardens Executive Director Richard V. Piacentini.

"Pennsylvania is leading a revolution in clean energy development and deployment by making strategic investments and partnerships with progressive organizations such as the Phipps Center for Sustainable Landscape," said DEP Bureau of Energy Innovations Director Dan Griffiths as he presented a \$250,000 grant from the Pennsylvania Energy Development Authority. "Pennsylvania is investing in its future and establishing itself as a leader of the new energy economy.

"For too many years, Pittsburgh and the rest of the state's economy became sluggish as industries started to shrink," Griffiths said. "Now, thanks to innovators such as Phipps and its partners in Pittsburgh's green building renaissance, Pennsylvania has gained a reputation as a leading destination for innovative energy development and conservation projects."

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The Phipps Conservatory "living building" will generate its own energy with renewable resources. It will also capture and treat all of its wastewater on-site and the facility will produce no emissions, or carbon footprint.

Once completed, the Phipps Center for Sustainable Landscapes will house the nucleus of the conservatory's education, research and administrative programs.

Pennsylvania and Phipps will be setting the standard in the green building industry and they will be gaining important economic, environmental and educational knowledge.

Having the first living building in Pennsylvania will help support the state's burgeoning green industry sector and the growth of affiliated high-tech research industries that are important job-engines.

The grant awarded to the Phipps Center for Sustainable Landscapes was part of a total \$11 million investment in 24 innovative, alternative and renewable energy projects approved by the [Pennsylvania Energy Development Authority](#) earlier this month.

For more information, visit the [Phipps Center of Sustainable Landscapes website](#).

First Cut of Biomass Energy Inventory in PA Now Available Online

The [Penn State Biomass Energy Center](#) has released its first draft of a [Biomass Energy Inventory Assessment](#) covering agriculture, forest, food and other resources in the Commonwealth.

“This inventory is a first approximation,” said Tom Richard, Director of the Biomass Energy Center. “There is much more work needed to quantify how much biomass can be sustainably harvested from different types of agricultural and forest land under improved management and various future scenarios.”

For more information, visit the [Penn State Biomass Energy Center website](#) or contact Tom Richard at 814-865-3722 or send email to: trichard@psu.edu .

Small Business Development Center Holds Energy Efficiency Workshop

The threat of rising energy costs is a looming concern for small businesses, and the Lehigh University Small Business Development Center wants to help by sponsoring an energy efficiency workshop on November 7 at Lehigh University.

In a 2006 survey performed by the National Small Business Association, 75 percent of respondents indicated that they had been moderately to significantly impacted by rising energy costs.

In Pennsylvania, these costs are expected to rise considerably in the next few years, as electricity price caps for utilities serving much of the Commonwealth will expire at the end of 2009 and 2010.

While there is no way to predict the exact rise in costs, recent examples demonstrate that businesses should be prepared for dramatic increases. When the rate caps came off in Pike County in 2006, customers saw their total electric bills increase over 70 percent. Commercial customers in Delaware and Maryland are having similar experiences as the rate caps come off in those states.

However, there are steps that businesses can take to become more energy efficient and lessen the impact of the potential electricity price increases.

The Lehigh [SBDC's Environmental Management Assistance Program](#) is offering a free workshop to address these issues.

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“The Impact of EAct: Assessing Your Potential for Energy Efficiency Savings and Tax Deductions In the Face of Utility Deregulation” will be held from 8 a.m. to 3:30 p.m., November 7 at Lehigh University.

This workshop can benefit small businesses of any type seeking clarity about utility deregulation and energy efficiency opportunities. Examples of topics to be covered include electric deregulation, how to analyze your energy bill, tax deductions and rebates for energy efficiency projects, and more.

Statewide, businesses are already benefiting from the energy efficiency expertise available through the network of Pennsylvania Small Business Development Centers.

A typical Pennsylvania SBDC client can save 25-30 percent on utility bills by implementing EMAP recommendations of cost-effective steps to reduce energy consumption. This workshop will highlight how other small businesses can achieve these results.

To register, call 610-758-3980 or send email to: insbdc@lehigh.edu . For more information on this and other workshops visit the [EMAP workshop webpage](#).

Nominations Due for 2008 Philadelphia Sustainability Awards December 7

The Pennsylvania Environmental Council and seven other regional organizations this week announced a call for nominations for the [2008 Philadelphia Sustainability Awards](#).

Nominations are due December 7.

Nominees who have achieved sustainable excellence through innovative environmental practices or creative partnerships are encouraged to apply. Successful candidates will be those who solve challenges through solutions that go beyond standard or regulatory techniques, and who demonstrate a measurable impact on the Greater Philadelphia region.

Businesses, individuals, academic institutions, community groups and government agencies from the greater Philadelphia region are eligible.

In 2007, the first-ever awards program generated more than 50 submissions from Philadelphia and its surrounding Pennsylvania and New Jersey communities. A distinguished panel of jurors reviewed each nomination, and selected 19 finalists and 10 winners. Jurors included U.S. Green Building Council Chair Sandy Wiggins, New York City’s green affordable housing developer Carlton Brown and Director of Policy for Chicago’s Department of Planning and Development Sam Assefa.

2007 award winners included PhillyCarShare, Liberty Property Trust, The Food Trust, RecycleBank, Upper Dublin Township, the Philadelphia Police Forensic Science Center, Judy Wicks, Jackie O’Neil’s Zero Energy Home, the Engineering and Design Institute at Philadelphia University and Re:Vision Architecture.

Once again submissions will be judged by an accomplished panel of jurors, each with intimate knowledge of the Philadelphia region and/or sustainability issues. Jurors will select finalists and winners in January. Finalists will be celebrated and winners announced at a ceremony held at the Philadelphia Flower Show on March 3, 2008.

Coordinating organizations include PEC, Pennsylvania Horticultural Society, Delaware Valley Green Building Council, City of Philadelphia, Citizens for Pennsylvania’s Future (PennFuture), The Reinvestment Fund, Delaware Valley Regional Planning Commission, and American Institute of Architects.

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More information about the awards can be found at the [2008 Philadelphia Sustainability Awards webpage](#) or by contacting Jessica Anderson at 215-592-7020 ext.101.

8th Annual Green Power Awards Presented to 33 Individuals, Groups, Companies

Green Power Awards were given out to 33 individuals, companies and groups in the 8th annual awards program to honor their commitment to building a renewable energy market in Pennsylvania. The awards are sponsored by the Citizens For Pennsylvania's Future.

A special award was given to Department of Conservation and Natural Resources Secretary Michael DiBerardinis and John Quigley, also of DCNR, for their leadership in the Pennsylvania Wind and Wildlife Collaborative, helping to build a consensus process to develop wind energy in an environmentally responsible manner.

Other Green Power Leaders in this category include Bill Capouilliez, Game Commission, in recognition of the Wind Energy Voluntary Cooperation Agreement and Keith Welks, Treasury Department for funding the Keystone Home Energy Loan Program (HELP) and promoting green investments in Pennsylvania.

Other individuals and organizations receiving the awards include:

Green Power Purchasers - Large Businesses

- Philadelphia Eagles, for purchasing 25 percent renewable energy and reimbursing all employees who buy wind energy at their homes;

Green Power Purchasers - Small Businesses:

- PLATINUM AWARD to Studioeec, (Exton), for purchasing 100 percent renewable energy; and
- Restaurant Taquet, (Wayne), for purchasing 100 percent wind;

Green Power Purchasers – Public Interest Organizations

- Phipps Conservatory and Botanical Gardens, (Pittsburgh), for purchasing 100 percent wind energy for the Silver LEEDTM-certified Welcome Center;
- Philadelphia International Airport, for purchasing 7 percent wind energy, with 8.5 percent of all energy coming from renewable resources;

Green Power Purchasers – Government

- PLATINUM AWARD to Upper Dublin Township, (Montgomery County), for purchasing 100 percent renewable energy;
- City of Philadelphia, for purchasing 100 percent of City Hall's electricity from wind power (3.07 percent of city government's total use);
- Schuylkill Township, (Chester County), for purchasing 25 percent renewable energy;

Green Power Purchasers - Educational Institutions

- PLATINUM AWARD to Eastern University (St. Davids, Delaware County), for purchasing 100 percent wind power;
- Swarthmore College & Earthlust Student Organization (Swarthmore, Delaware County), for purchasing 35 percent wind power;
- Penn State University & Eco-Action Student Organization, for purchasing 20 percent renewable energy;
- Montgomery County Community College, for purchasing 10 percent clean wind energy;

Green Power Pioneers

- Environmental Committee of the United Jewish Federation of Pittsburgh, for its campaign: "A Light Among the Nations" aka "How Many Jews Does It Take to Change a Light Bulb?" which engage the Jewish community in education, advocacy, and concrete action to reduce greenhouse gas emissions;
- Georgia Berner, president and CEO of Berner International (New Castle, Lawrence County), for pioneering leadership in the community, helping to further the development of greener, more energy efficient buildings;
- Trond Grenager of Lebanon Methane Recovery, Inc., for promoting the use of waste-to-energy at the Greater Lebanon Refuse Authority landfill project;
- Joel Morrison, West Penn Power Sustainable Energy Fund, Inc, for leadership in organizing the biomass working group to examine cellulosic ethanol potential;
- Great Valley School District (Malvern, Chester County) and Krapf Bus Companies, for converting all 70 of the Great Valley School District school buses to use B20 biodiesel fuel and expanding to other school districts;

Green Building Achievement

- Giant Eagle (Pittsburgh), for its Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design LEED Commercial Interiors Silver Certified supermarket at the Shadyside Market District;
- Friends Center Corporation (Philadelphia), for incorporating green building practices in campus renovations, including a vegetated roof and a 10-kilowatt solar array;
- Tobyhanna Army Depot (Tobyhanna, Monroe County), for installing a 14,141 square foot vegetative green roof on headquarters;

Green Power Generators

- Conergy, for selecting Pennsylvania as the East Coast operations of its solar engineering and installation subsidiary, SunTechnics;
- Exelon, SunTechnics, and Epuron, for their partnership in building the nation's fourth largest solar photovoltaic generation project in southeastern Pennsylvania;
- Gamesa, in recognition for its continued commitment to developing wind energy in Pennsylvania, including the creation of over 1,000 jobs;
- Iberdrola, for continued leadership in the development of wind energy in Pennsylvania, including Locust Ridge wind farm and the continued success of the PECO wind program, one of the nation's top ten green power programs for enrollment;
- Lancaster County Solid Waste Management Authority, for commitment to reducing greenhouse gas emissions and becoming the first public environmental services organization to become a member of the Chicago Climate Exchange;
- PPL Energy Services and the Greater Lebanon Refuse Authority, for the development of the Lebanon Refuse Authority's methane gas-to-energy plant, helping to reduce methane and carbon dioxide emissions while creating electricity.

For more information, visit the [PennFuture Awards webpage](#).

U.S. Composting Council Seeks Nominations for Composting Awards

The U.S. Composting Council is now accepting nominations for its annual [Professional Achievement Awards Program](#) to honor individuals or companies that have made a significant contribution to the industry.

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The deadline for submissions is November 30.

The 2007 Professional Achievement Award Honorees will be recognized at the USCC Annual Conference and Tradeshow, Oakland, CA, February 9-12, 2008. These awards represent the highest achievement in the composting field.

Awards will be presented in the following categories:

- Composter of the Year - for a commercial-scale composting facility, public or private, that has displayed excellence in both compost production and marketing/distribution;
- Hi Kellogg Award - for outstanding service to the composting industry;
- Rufus Chaney Award - for research excellence;
- H. Clark Gregory Award - for outstanding grassroots efforts to promote composting;
- and
- Clean Water Award (sponsored by Filtrexx) - for projects that have positively impacted water quality or increased awareness of the link between soils, compost and water quality

For more information, visit the [Professional Achievement Awards Program webpage](#).

Air Pollution From Idling Diesel Trucks Target of New DEP Regulation

A new regulation approved for public comment by the Environmental Quality Board will help clean Pennsylvania's air and save trucking companies millions of dollars in diesel fuel by requiring trucks to limit the time they idle their engines.

Under the proposal a diesel-powered commercial motor vehicle could idle its engine no more than five minutes in a 60-minute period.

The rule is aimed, primarily, at long-haul truckers, many of whom idle their vehicles during federally mandated rest periods to provide heating, cooling and power to their bunks and cabs. It will also affect other vehicles, such as many delivery trucks, school buses, transit buses and motor coaches.

Because of its extensive interstate highway system, there is a heavy volume of truck travel in Pennsylvania. The Commonwealth has some 260 truck stops, 47 public rest areas, and more than 13,000 truck parking spaces—providing many convenient areas for heavy-duty diesel vehicles to idle.

According to a study by the Commonwealth's highway emissions consultant, Michael Baker Jr. Inc., total statewide idling related to truck travel rest is estimated to be more than 21 million annual hours. That total represents 96 percent of long-duration idling, or instances when the engine of a still vehicle is left running for more than 15 minutes.

DEP estimates that 13,000 long-haul trucks idle in Pennsylvania each day. If each of these trucks used alternative means to provide drivers with power during rest periods, fuel use would be cut by more than 20 million gallons a year.

Estimates are that a tractor-trailer uses about one gallon of diesel fuel per hour when idling, which means that truck idling related to travel rest in Pennsylvania consumes 21 million gallons of diesel fuel each year. At diesel's current statewide average cost of \$3.19 per gallon, truckers are spending nearly \$67 million each year on fuel to idle their vehicles during rest periods.

Diesel powered vehicles emit nitrogen oxide (NOx) and volatile organic compounds (VOCs), both of which contribute to ground-level ozone, as well as fine particulate matter. Both ozone and fine particulate matter are pollutants that can cause or

exacerbate breathing problems, especially in people with pre-existing respiratory conditions such as asthma, bronchitis, and emphysema.

DEP says the new regulation—once fully enacted in 2010—will reduce annual emissions of NOx by about 1,610 tons, VOCs by about 45 tons, and particulate matter by about 30 tons. This rule will also help reduce carbon dioxide, the major greenhouse gas responsible for global warming.

DEP has already made investments to encourage alternatives to idling. It has awarded \$1 million in grants to support the installation of alternative power sources to truckers, with more than another \$1 million in grants to small trucking firms to help them buy on-board alternative power units.

Several exemptions are included in the proposed anti-idling measure, such as allowing a vehicle with a sleeper compartment to idle when the outside temperature is below 40 degrees or above 75 degrees Fahrenheit when stationary idle reduction technology is not available. This exemption expires May 1, 2010.

Other exemptions include idling for: active loading or unloading of passengers or property, operating work-related mechanical or electrical operations other than propulsion and maintenance, repairs, inspections for safety-related purposes.

Passenger and school buses may idle for up to 15 minutes during a 60-minute period to provide heating or cooling when non-driver passengers are on board.

Pennsylvania joins 14 other states, including Delaware, Maryland, New Jersey and New York in adopting anti-idling measures.

The EQB will accept public comment on this proposed regulation for 60 days following the regulation's publication in the Pa. Bulletin. It will also hold three public hearings on the proposal.

The regulation, developed by the Department of Environmental Protection after it was petitioned by the Clean Air Board of Central Pennsylvania.

Three bills have also been introduced in the General Assembly to address the diesel idling issue: [Senate Bill 1095](#) (Vance-R-Cumberland), [House Bill 1113](#) (Gabig-R-Cumberland) and [House Bill 1224](#) (Gabig).

For more information, visit DEP's [Diesel Idling webpage](#).

NewsClip: [Bill Addresses Diesel Idling](#).

[Truck Stop Using Anti-Idling Technology Opens in Carlisle](#)
[Editorial: Controls on Truck Idling One Step to Cleaning Air](#)

New Pittsburgh Indicators Show Average, Not Frightening Air Quality

New and more accurate air quality indicators for the Pittsburgh region, updated hourly and benchmarked against 14 other areas across the country, are now available from the [Pittsburgh Regional Indicators Consortium](#).

Unlike other commonly used air-quality reporting, the new indicators measure the air pollution experienced throughout the Pittsburgh metropolitan area, rather than just at the locations that have the highest pollution levels.

[The indicators show](#) the average annual levels of ozone (smog) and PM 2.5 (soot) at all of the pollution monitors in the Pittsburgh Region.

"These new air quality indicators give a more accurate picture of the pollution levels experienced by a typical resident in each region than the measures currently used in

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many quality-of-life rankings," said John G. Craig Jr., president of the Pittsburgh Regional Indicators project.

As an example, Craig pointed to the rankings produced by the American Lung Association that report that Pittsburgh has the second worst air quality in the country.

"The American Lung Association's ranking of Pittsburgh is misleading because it is based on the unusually high PM 2.5 levels in Liberty Borough and Clairton, which are not representative of the air quality most people in the region experience," said Craig. "This results in some people believing that air throughout the region is dirtier than it really is, while others ignore the rankings as over-stated and assume the air quality here is better than it really is."

Continued Craig, "The new indicators we have developed fill a critical void in citizens' understanding of how much pollution they are breathing compared to other regions."

The new annual indicators take the average of the readings at all of the air pollution monitors in each region in order to estimate how much air pollution the "average resident" of each region is breathing on a given day. Then these daily measures are averaged again over the course of the year (or in the case of ozone, over the May-September ozone season) to measure the cumulative air pollution levels experienced by an average resident.

In addition to the annual averages, the new indicators also enable citizens to see the current hour's ozone and PM 2.5 levels at many locations across the region using graphics produced by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's AirNow website.

"Senior citizens, individuals with breathing problems, and anyone concerned about air pollution can now easily see whether high pollution levels are affecting their part of the region," Craig said.

"The new indicators clearly show that Pittsburgh's particulate levels are not the second worst in the country," Craig said, while adding that "the readings are still not good."

Explained Craig, "Average levels of PM 2.5 pollution in Pittsburgh were the fifth worst among the top 40 regions and the second worst among our benchmark regions in 2006. That means that citizens throughout the Pittsburgh region should be concerned about PM 2.5 pollution, not just those in the Mon Valley, and they need to be concerned throughout the year, not just on certain days."

Craig pointed out that Pittsburgh ranks about average among other regions on ozone pollution levels, and that the region has seen significant improvements in ozone levels over the past several years.

Craig noted that pollution problems aren't limited to the 10-county southwestern Pennsylvania region. "The Pittsburgh Today website shows pollution levels at locations not only in southwestern Pennsylvania, but in the full twenty-two county Pittsburgh Region, including counties in Ohio and West Virginia," he said.

"The indicators show that PM 2.5 levels across the border are equally bad, and ozone levels are slightly worse, than in the 10 counties of southwestern Pennsylvania," Craig said. "That illustrates what researchers at Carnegie Mellon University and others have found -- that poor air quality here is caused by pollution sources far upwind."

The development of the new air quality indicators has been guided by an Advisory Committee that includes experts on environmental issues from the Pittsburgh Region.

Members of the Advisory Committee include: Cliff Davidson, Carnegie Mellon University, Devra Davis, University of Pittsburgh Cancer Institute, Ellen Dorsey, The

Heinz Endowments, Bernard Goldstein, University of Pittsburgh, Stephen Grant, University of Pittsburgh Cancer Institute, Jason Maranche, Allegheny County Department of Health, Granger Morgan, Carnegie Mellon University and Roger Westman, Allegheny County Department of Health

The Pittsburgh Regional Indicators Consortium is an initiative to foster a more holistic and accurate understanding of the economic, political and cultural interdependency of a broadly defined metropolitan Pittsburgh region.

The initiative tracks and publishes online detailed and continuously updated statistics on key components – called "indicators" -- of the region's life: Arts, Demographics, Economy, Education, Environment, Government, Health, Safety and Transportation. A tenth topic, sustainability, will be added soon.

Founders of the Indicators project include former U.S. Secretary of the Treasury and former Alcoa CEO Paul O'Neil and former Pittsburgh Post-Gazette Executive Editor John Craig.

For more information, visit the [Pittsburgh Regional Indicators Consortium website](#).

Pennsylvania Again Leads U.S. in Deer-Car Collisions, Over 98,000

[Pennsylvania leads](#) every other state in the number of insurance claims submitted as a result of deer-car collisions and the most overall collisions—98,313, according to State Farm Insurance. The likelihood of a deer-car collision in Pennsylvania is 1 in 100.

West Virginia leads all the states in the chances for a collision at 1 in 57, but the overall number of collisions is less than a third of Pennsylvania at 23,607. Michigan is second with a 1 in 86 chance and 96,451 collisions with Wisconsin at third with a 1 in 99 chance and 47,589 collisions.

Property damage attributed to collisions in Pennsylvania is over \$78 million.

Links: [Motorists Urged to Watch for Deer When Driving This Fall](#)

PA Parks and Forests Foundation Seeks 2008 Award Nominations

The [Pennsylvania Parks and Forests Foundation](#) is seeking nominations for its 2008 Parks and Forests Award. Nominations are due December 14.

Last year, the Foundation established an award program to recognize the outstanding service, programs and exemplary work taking place at state parks and forests. The Award categories are:

- **PA Parks and Forests Foundation Keystone Legacy Award:** This is the top honor—given to a group, individual, or business—chosen at the discretion of PPF.
- **Parks and Forests Government Award:** This is given to a person or department at any level of government to recognize their work in the stewardship of Pennsylvania's state park and state forest systems.
- **Park of the Year Award:** This award is designed to recognize a park for their exemplary or innovative work in any or all of the following: customer service; education, programming or recreation; stewardship of the natural, cultural or historic assets; and/or accommodation of special needs of visitors.

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- **Forest of the Year Award:** This award is designed to recognize a forest district for its innovative and exemplary work in both forest management and recreation for a wide range of activities.
- **Friends Groups Awards:** Up to three awards per year can be given for recognition of achievements made by friends groups. These include a Volunteerism Award, Improvement Award, and an Education Award.

The awards will be presented at the 2nd Annual PPF Award Banquet on May 6, 2008 at the Harrisburg Country Club, Harrisburg.

To submit a nomination, please visit [Pennsylvania Parks and Forests Foundation website](#) or contact Marci Mowery at 717-236-7644 or send email to: mmowery-ppff@pa.net.

Conservation Landscape Workshop Set for November 8

The [North Branch Land Trust](#) is sponsoring an all-day workshop entitled, “[Conserving Natural Resources in Growing Communities](#),” on November 8 at the Tribeca Convention Center on Route 315 in Pittston Township, formerly Victoria Inns & Suites.

The keynote speaker is Michael DiBeradinis, Secretary of the Department of Conservation and Natural Resources who will introduce attendees to the new Conservation Landscape Initiative, or CLI, that DCNR is launching statewide.

Other presenters and their respective topics will be: Penn State University professor Bill Elmendorf, “Using Existing Tools to Conserve Natural Resources in Growing Communities”; West Vincent Township manager Jim Wendelgass, “Conservation Success Stories on the Township Books”; Center for Watershed Protection staff, “Forest-Friendly Development Practices and Better Site Design”; and local author and watershed expert Paul DeBarry, “Handling Stormwater Part A and B.”

This program is possible through Northeast PA Urban and Community Forestry Program funded by USDA Forest Service Northeastern Area directed by PA Urban & Community Forestry Council supported by DCNR’s Bureau of Forestry and Penn State Cooperative Extension.

Cost to attend is \$25 per person. The workshop will take place from 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Pre-registration is required and ends November 5. Space is limited.

For more information [download the workshop brochure](#) and to register, contact North Branch Land Trust at 570-696-5545 or send email at Thoma@nblt.org.

Save the Date: PA Association for Environmental Ed 2008 Conference

“[LEEAP IN! Linking Environmental Education and Play in Nature](#),” is the theme of the 2008 PA Association of Environmental Education Conference set for February 28 to March 2 in Antiochian Village Camp and Conference Center near Ligonier, Pa.

Conference tracks include Human Health and the Environment, Best Practices in the Field, Outdoor Family Fun, and EE in the Classroom.

A full complement of workshops, on-site field studies, and off-site field experiences will be offered throughout the weekend, along with exhibits, entertainers, great food, and conference fun!

The 2008 conference committee is pleased to announce that Rick Flood and Joseph Cornell are confirmed as 2008 conference keynote speakers.

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Rick Flood is a sustainability expert with 15 years executive leadership in the environmental education field. His expertise lies in sustainable systems for energy, buildings, water conservation, waste assimilation, and food systems.

Mr. Flood's presentation, Environmental Education's Future: Birds, Bugs, and Bogs?, will kick-off the 2008 conference weekend, as he invites us to consider environmental education in the context of climate change, species extinction, and global consumption and to ask ourselves, "Is it our job to foster generations of nature-lovers, or should we be creating people devoted to sustainability?"

Rick will help us to explore themes that are at the core of what we do and why, and challenge and inspire us to imagine what might be.

Joseph Cornell is one the most inspiring nature educators in the world today. His first book, Sharing Nature with Children, sparked a worldwide revolution in nature education and became a classic.

His six Sharing Nature Books have been translated into twenty languages. In 1978, Mr. Cornell founded Sharing Nature Worldwide, a popular and highly acclaimed nature awareness program. He is the honorary president of the Japan Nature Game Association, an organization of 11,000 leaders who use and promote his nature education philosophy and methods in Japan and Southeast Asia.

Mr. Cornell will present Balancing Science with Love, at the PAEE Annual Banquet on Saturday, March 1, 2008. Joseph will discuss the unique role that calm feeling, or intuition, plays in our understanding, empathy, and desire to act and will provide many innovative techniques for encouraging love and care for the Earth.

Prior to his keynote presentation, Joseph is facilitating an on-site field study entitled Sharing Nature, an opportunity to experience many nature awareness games from Joseph Cornell's Sharing Nature books. Participants will also experience Flow Learning-- a powerful tool to lead people from their present level of awareness into closer contact with nature.

For more information and to register, visit the [LEEAP IN! Linking Environmental Education and Play in Nature webpage](#).

Help Wanted: DEP Seeking Nominations for Solid Waste Advisory Committee

The Department of Environmental Protection is seeking nominations for the [Solid Waste Advisory Committee](#). The committee currently has four vacancies.

There are openings for two private citizens, a public official and a representative with an economic interest in solid waste management.

The membership of the committee consists of equivalent proportions of the following four stakeholder groups: private citizens, representatives of public interest groups, public officials, and citizens or representatives of organizations with substantial economic interest in solid waste management.

The Solid Waste Advisory Committee was created in 1980 by the Solid Waste Management Act. The committee's function is to advise DEP on rules, regulations, standards, criteria, and procedures as it deems necessary and advisable for implementation of the act and recommended changes to the statewide Solid Waste Management Plan.

Members of SWAC serve concurrently on the Recycling Fund Advisory Committee.

Interested parties should submit a letter indicating the stakeholder group they would represent and resume to: DEP, Bureau of Waste Management, SWAC Recording Secretary, P.O. Box 8471, Harrisburg, PA, 17105-8471.

To obtain nomination information or information on SWAC, contact Pat Stape, SWAC Recording Secretary, by phone at 717 787-9870; or send email to Patricia Stape at pstape@state.pa.us.

Spotlight

Resilite Sports Products' Wins Governor's Environmental Excellence Award

[Resilite Sports Products Inc.](#), Northumberland County, received the Governor's Award for Environmental Excellence for a simple energy efficiency and conservation project that immediately saved the company nearly three-and-a-half times its upfront costs.

"Resilite is proof that even small companies have options when it comes to conserving energy and saving money," said Department of Environmental Protection Secretary Kathleen McGinty. "This was a relatively simple and low-cost initiative that paid substantial dividends after just one month. It just goes to show that investments in energy conservation and efficiency measures make good business sense."

In January 2006, company officials decided to insulate the boiler's feed and return lines and condensate tanks.

Because fuel oil accounts for the majority of Resilite's energy costs, the \$11,600 project helped the company reduce its consumption by about 20,000 gallons, which saves it \$39,960 per year. The reduced consumption also eliminates 3,154 pounds of sulfur dioxide, 482 pounds of nitrogen oxides, 99 pounds of carbon monoxide, and 41 pounds of PM10—or fine and coarse dust particles—from the air.

"Resilite Sports Products is grateful to be a recipient of the Governor's Award for Environmental Excellence," said Resilite President Paul Gilbert. "The Small Business Development Center and DEP played a major role in helping Resilite to develop and implement a plan to improve our energy efficiency. It's a clear example of Pennsylvania government helping our small business remain successful."

Resilite Sports Products is the world's largest mat manufacturer with a reputation for customer satisfaction and first class workmanship. The company was established in 1959 and employs 65 people.

The Governor's Award is open to any Pennsylvania business, government agency, educational institution, nonprofit organization, individual or farm that has created or helped to develop a project that promotes environmental stewardship and economic development in the state.

The deadline for applications is November 2.

For more information and to download an application, visit the [2008 Governor's Award for Environmental Excellence webpage](#).

Grants & Awards

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

- **October 22** – DEP [Coastal Zone Management Grants](#).
- **October 26** – [Coca-Cola/NRC Recycling Bin Grant Program](#).
- **October 31** – Fish & Boat Commission [Valley Creek Trustee Council Grants](#).
- **October 31** – Fish & Boat Commission [Nominations for Abele and Mahon Awards](#).
- **October 31** – NOAA [Open Rivers Initiative Grants](#).
- **October 31** – **NEW**. [Agriculture & Rural Youth Grants](#)
- **November 1** – DEP [Recycling Markets Infrastructure Grants](#).
- **November 2** – [Governor’s Award for Environmental Excellence](#).
- **November 27** – PennVEST [Infrastructure Loans/Grants for January 22 Meeting](#).
- **November 30** – DEP [New or Innovative Water/Wastewater Grants](#).
- **November 30** – **NEW**. [U.S. Composting Council Composting Awards](#).
- **December 7** – **NEW**. [2008 Philadelphia Sustainability Awards](#)
- **December 14** – [Coldwater Heritage Partnership Grants](#).
- **December 14** – **NEW**. [PA Parks/Forests Foundation 2008 Awards](#)
- **December 15** – DEP [Environmental Education Grants](#).
- **January 4** – [PA Conservation Corps Grants](#).
- **February 1** – PA Land Trust Assn. [Government Leadership Award Nominations](#).
- **February 19** – PennVEST [Infrastructure Loans/Grants for April 15 Meeting](#).
- **March 31** – PAEP [Karl Mason Environmental Award](#).
- **April 2** – **NEW**. [WREN Water Resources Education Project Grants](#)

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

Quick Clips

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

[Penn State Harrisburg Fund Honors Former DER Secretary Cliff Jones](#)

[First Person: Green Kids](#)

[Penn State Solar Team Wins Fourth Place](#)

[Penn State Solar Home Receives Grant](#)

[Montgomery County Community College Reduces Energy Costs](#)

[PA Moves Toward Reducing Greenhouse Gasses](#)

[On Bucks Brownfield, A Green Office Center](#)

[Pennsylvania 4th in Car-Deer Collisions](#)

[State Expands Access to Remote Forest Lands](#)

[PA May Lift Ban on Gas Wells in State Forests](#)

[Op-Ed: Support Your Local Trees](#)

[Bucks Open Space Vote Recalls Recent Past](#)

[Nearly 400 Acres Preserved in Adams](#)
[Protecting Toads](#)
[Editorial: Graffiti Removal Serious Business](#)
[Editorial: Energy Sources](#)
[Farmer Finds Power in Small Wind](#)
[House Approves Two Energy Conservation Bills](#)
[Casey Blocks Bush Nomination to Oppose Power Line Plan](#)
[Casey Loses One Bid to Block Transmission Line](#)
[Franco's LIHEAP Army Holds Rally for Heating Bill Aid](#)
[Energy Theft Kills, Costs Innocent Pennsylvanians Millions](#)
[Remaining Tires From Starr Property To Be Finished in 2008](#)
[Let There Be Less Light](#)
[Can't Find Colorful Foliage? Blame Warm Weather](#)
[Mountain Ridges Are More Than A Pretty View](#)

Watershed NewsClips

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

[Homer City Man Recognized for Environmental Service](#)
[Use of Mine Water May Help Avert Pollution Disaster](#)
[\\$40 Million Earmarked for Benezette Area Mine Cleanup](#)
[Editorial: Reconnecting With the Delaware](#)
[Nestle Open New Green Plant for Bottling Water](#)
[State, Coal Company, Agree to Treat Drainage at Flight 93 Site](#)
[Susquehanna River Gets Health Check](#)
[Nature Demands Respect- Or Else](#)
[Awash in Freshwater Data Streams](#)
[Franklin County Farmer Earns Annual Award](#)
[Editorial: Growing Need to Conserve Water Resources](#)

Regulations

The Department of Agriculture published proposed rules on [Odor Management Certification Program](#), the Environmental Quality Board published notice of change in public hearing dates for [Air Quality Rules on Consumer Products](#) and notice accepting a [rulemaking petition](#) on stream redesignations.

[Pennsylvania Bulletin – October 27, 2007](#)

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 it is reissuing the [General Permit for beneficial use](#) of alternative fuels in fluidized bed boilers, a [General Plan Approval](#) for pharmaceutical and specialty chemical production,

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

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

Calendar of Upcoming Events

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

- **October 29** – **NEW**. Senate Appropriations Committee meets to consider [Senate Bill 1100](#) (Pileggi-R-Delaware) that would provide a dedicated source of funding for the Hazardous Sites Cleanup Program, [Senate Bill 1068](#) (M.White-R-Venango) requiring fines and penalties to be deposited in the Hazardous Sites Cleanup Fund, [Senate Bill 1069](#) (M.White-R-Venango) requiring an annual report on the Keystone Recreation, Park and Conservation Fund. Room 461. 12:30.
- **October 30** – **NEW**. House Environmental Resources and Energy Committee meets to consider [Special Session House Bill 22](#) (R.Miller-R-York) requiring a reduction in energy use by state buildings and increased efficiency in state motor fleet, [Senate Bill 1017](#) (Brubaker-R-Lancaster) removing the exemption for dishwasher detergent in the Phosphate Detergent Act. Room G-50 Irvis Building. 9:15.
- **October 30** – **NEW**. Senate Appropriations Committee meets to consider [House Bill 1589](#) (Evans-D-Philadelphia) 2007-08 Capital Budget. Room 461. 12:30.
- **October 31** – **NEW**. House Local Government Committee meets to consider [House Bill 904](#) (Freeman-D-Lehigh) providing for temporary development moratoriums, [House Bill 1525](#) (Steil-R-Bucks) amending the Municipalities Planning Code dealing with county compliance with comprehensive plans and providing for impact fees. Room 205 Ryan Building. 9:30.
- **November 1** –DEP [Low-Level Waste Advisory Committee](#) meeting. Room 105 Rachel Carson Building. 10:00.
- **November 1** – **NEW**. DEP [Small Water Systems Technical Assistance Center Advisory Board](#) meeting. Room 105 Rachel Carson Building. 10:00.
- **November 2** – House State Government Committee hearing on [House Bill 397](#) (Petri-R-Bucks) providing for development impact fees. Middletown Township Building, Langhorne. 10:00.
- **November 15** –House Commerce Committee hearing on [House Bill 1742](#) (Pashinski-D-Luzerne) requiring scrap and recycling facility operators to collect information on scrap material. City Hall Counsel Chambers, Wilkes-Barre. 10:30.

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- **November 15** – House Health and Human Services Committee hearing on [House Bill 798](#) (Phillips-R-Northumberland) creating a Lyme Disease Task Force. Room 205 Ryan Building. 11:30.
- **November 19** – **NEW**. Environmental Issues Forum presentation by Goodwill Industries of Pittsburgh’s E-Waste Recycling Program sponsored by the Joint Air Pollution Control and Conservation Committee. Room 60 East Wing. Noon.
- **November 29** – **NEW**. [DEP Mining and Reclamation Advisory Board](#) meeting on the Alternative Bonding System. Delaware Conference Room, Rachel Carson Building. 10:00.
- **December 4** – [Delaware River Basin Commission](#) hearing on [numeric values for existing water quality](#) in the Lower Delaware River. 25 State Police Dr., West Trenton, NJ. 2:30.
- **December 13** – **NEW**. DEP [Small Water Systems Technical Assistance Center Advisory Board](#) meeting. Room 105 Rachel Carson Building. 10:00.
- **February 22-23** – 2008 [Keystone Coldwater Conference](#). State College.

[DEP Calendar of Events](#)

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

[Environmental Education Workshop/Training Calendar](#)

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

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

Helpful Web Links

[PA Environment Digest Video Blog](#)

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

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

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

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

Stories Invited

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

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