

— PA — Environment Digest

*An Update on
Environmental
Issues in
Pennsylvania*

Edited By David E. Hess, Holston & Crisci

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[PA Environment Digest Video Blog](#)

Legislation Extending the Recycling Fee Through 2012 Goes to Governor's Desk

[House Bill 1902](#) (Rubley-R-Chester) that would extend the \$2 per ton fee on municipal waste to support the state's recycling and waste planning programs through 2012 was given final action this week and sent to the Governor for his action.

The fee had been set to expire in 2009 which would have curtailed the amount of new recycling grants that could be issued starting in 2007.

The bill adds new provisions related to issuing Section 904 Recycling Performance Grants requiring municipalities receiving more than \$10,000 in 904 grants to—

- Show they have fully complied with Act 101 through the adoption of an ordinance requiring all residents to have waste and recycling services;
- Have implemented a program that facilitates commercial recycling program or that they participate in a similar county or multi-municipal program;
- Has provisions for educating residents on recycling and an enforcement program;
- Participates in a program that facilitates the recycling of special materials; and
- Sponsors a program or supports a program to address illegal dumping and littering problems.



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Session Schedule

With only nine days before the election, there are no committee meetings scheduled in Harrisburg and no scheduled session days before the November 7 election.

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The Senate is scheduled to be in session on November 20 and 21. The House previously announced it will return to session on November 13 after the election.

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See & Hear

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Feature

- This Grocery Store Does More than Whet the Appetite

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Halloween Special – Season of the Bat



Learn the real story behind bats and their benefits in this special [“Season of the Bat” webpage](#) by the GreenTreks Network.

[An online video](#) dispels the myths and explains the facts behind one of nature's most interesting creatures.

Video Blog

Ed Wytovich Talks About Watershed Restoration, Partnership



Ed Wytovich is a middle school science teacher from Schuylkill County who has been active in watershed restoration, particularly projects involving abandoned mine discharges.

Recently Ed won the [2006 Chevron Conservation Award](#) which recognized the work he and his partners have done to clean up their watersheds.

David Hess, Editor of *PA Environment Digest*, caught up with Ed at a recent celebration of the award and watershed work this year. As always, food, music (the Down to Earth Band) and friends highlight the celebration.

Video Blog: [Ed Wytovich Wins Chevron Conservation Award](#)

On the Hill

Senate/House Bills Moving/Bills Introduced

Bills extending the recycling fee and requiring a review of regulations for their impacts on small business moved to the Governor's desk this week. Other environmental bills were also moving, so here's the rundown...

Note: With only nine days before the election, there are no committee meetings scheduled in Harrisburg and no scheduled session days before the November 7 election.

On the Governor's Desk

Clean Streams Penalties: [House Bill 2042](#) (Reichley-R-Berks) that would increase penalties for water pollution under the Clean Streams Law was signed into law by Gov. Rendell. **NewsClip:** [Corbett Praises General Assembly for Updated Penalties](#)

Recycling Fee: [House Bill 1902](#) (Rubley-R-Chester) extending the \$2/ton Recycling Fee sunset date through 2012 was concurred by the House and now goes to the Governor for his action.

Regulatory Impacts: [House Bill 236](#) (Pickett-R-Bradford) requiring the review of regulations for their impact on small business by the Independent Regulatory Review Commission was passed by the Senate unamended and now goes to the Governor for his action.

House

Infrastructure Record Disclosure: [House Bill 854](#) (Rubley-R-Chester) establishing the Terrorism Infrastructure Disclosure Protection Act prohibiting the release of certain

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infrastructure records was amended by the House and returns to the Senate for a concurrence vote. **NewsClip:** [Bill Would Protect Data on Security at Utilities](#)

Multi-Municipal Agreements: [House Bill 2063](#) (Boyd-R-Lancaster) that provides for multi-municipal Planning Code implementation agreements to deal with a local issue was passed by the House and now moves to the Senate for action.

Miner’s Day: [House Resolution 795](#) (DeWeese-D-Greene) is a concurrent resolution designating December 19 as “Coal Miner’s Day” which was adopted by the House this week after being passed by the Senate.

Environmental Ed Center: [Senate Bill 410](#) (MWhite-R-Venango) establishing the Pennsylvania Center for Environmental Education in law was reported from House Appropriations Committee.

Access to Land for Recreation: [House Bill 3007](#) (Sommel-R-Berks) limits the liability of landowners who open their property to hunting was reported from the House Game and Fisheries Committee and tabled.

Windmill Farm Assessments: [Senate Bill 514](#) (Gordner-R-Columbia) amending the Tax Reform Act related to property tax assessments for windmill farms and other issues was reported from House Appropriations Committee.

Mercury Thermostats: [House Bill 2658](#) (Rubley-R-Chester) prohibiting the sale and restricting the disposal of mercury thermostats was amended to add a requirement for a manufacturers collection program was tabled in the House.

California Car Standards: [Senate Bill 1025](#) (Madigan-R-Bradford) to establish a Clean Vehicle Program that gives automakers two options to comply— use the California II or federal Tier II vehicle emissions standards and forming a stakeholders group was reported from House Appropriations Committee.

Natural Gas Decoupling: [House Bill 2954](#) (Evans-R-Erie) prohibiting revenue decoupling in setting rates for the sale of natural gas was reported from House Appropriations.

Clean Diesel Technology: [House Bill 2997](#) (Beyer-R-Monroe) providing a tax credit of up to \$5,000 for new diesel technology was reported from the House Appropriations Committee.

Clean Diesel Tax Credit: [Senate Bill 1139](#) (Browne-R-Lehigh) providing a tax credit for the installation of clean diesel technology was reported from House Appropriations.

Healthy Schools: The House Agriculture & Rural Affairs Committee reported out [Senate Bill 1209](#) (Waugh-R-York) Healthy Foods, Healthy Schools was referred to House Appropriations Committee.

NOTE: Links to Senate and House bills in past editions of the *PA Environment Digest* might not work because the webmasters of the General Assembly’s website changed the URLs. You can find bills by going to the [Pennsylvania General Assembly website](#) and putting in the bill number in the box at the top of the page.

Bills Introduced

GIS Day: [Senate Resolution 380](#) (C.Williams-D-Montgomery) designating November 15 as “Pennsylvania GIS Day” was adopted by the Senate.

New Joint Committee Synopsis Focuses on Sewage Task Force Activities

The [October Environmental Synopsis](#) published by the Joint Air and Water Pollution and Conservation Committee provides an update on activities by the Sewage Task Force and on roadside aesthetics.

Other topics include the economic and environmental value of coal gasification, consistent enforcement actions at EPA and contamination of domestic wells.

The [Joint Committee](#) is chaired by Rep. Scott Hutchinson (R-Venango), with Sen. Ray Musto (D-Luzerne) serving as vice-chairman.

In Other News

EPA Recognizes Land Conservancy of Adams County for Drinking Water Protection



The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency presented an award to the [Land Conservancy of Adams County](#) for its efforts to protect drinking water sources for more than 12,000 residents in the Gettysburg area.

“The Land Conservancy of Adams County is receiving this source water protection award for taking proactive measures to help ensure that residents will continue to have access to safe and healthy drinking water,” said Donald S. Welsh, regional administrator for EPA’s mid-Atlantic region. “Drinking water is a finite and precious resource so we applaud these efforts.”

“We know that the health of our community depends upon clean drinking water so we are committed to protecting the sources,” said Dean Shultz, past president of the land conservancy.

By focusing its efforts on protecting large parcels of land in the Marsh Creek watershed from development, the conservancy has been protecting valuable drinking water sources in an area where soil and groundwater had been previously threatened by a nearby Superfund site.

In 1983, the soil and groundwater in Cumberland Township near Gettysburg were found to be contaminated from industrial compounds coming from the [Westinghouse Elevator Plant](#), which was listed as a Superfund site in 1986. In 1999, Westinghouse was fined nearly \$3.3 million for multiple violations of the Pennsylvania Clean Streams Law.

Bicky Redman, a founding member of the conservancy, worked with the [Gettysburg Municipal Authority](#), [Adams County Conservation District](#), [Adams County](#)

[Office of Planning and Development](#), and the [Watershed Alliance of Adams County](#) to ensure that a portion of the penalty money be used to protect the Gettysburg water supply.

In 2001 the Department of Environmental Protection provided an \$850,000 grant to the Adams County Conservancy District to protect the Marsh Creek Basin. The conservancy used these funds and additional support for public outreach and to set up conservation easements. The easements allow landowners to continue to own the land while it is protected from potentially polluting land use. Currently, about 800 acres and two miles of stream bank are covered by easements.

EPA's source water protection awards encourage organizations and communities to take steps to protect drinking water sources. The awards are open to individuals, and public and private organizations throughout EPA's mid-Atlantic region, which includes Pennsylvania, Virginia, West Virginia, Delaware, the District of Columbia and Maryland. Recipients have voluntarily gone beyond what the law requires to protect their communities.

In 1996, the federal Safe Drinking Water Act was amended to give greater protection to millions of Americans who rely on public drinking water systems. By law, all states must develop source water assessments for every public water supply, but it is up to the local authorities to develop plans and measures to protect drinking water sources from contamination.

For more information visit the [source water protection webpage](#), and the [Land Conservancy of Adams County](#).

Green Ribbon Cutting Celebrates Stormwater Demo Project Opening

A "green ribbon" cutting was held this week to celebrate the Upper Darby Township's Second Ward Park Stormwater Demonstration Projects opening in Delaware County.

State-of-art stormwater Best Management Practices were installed during recent park renovations that will help manage stormwater, reduce pollution from entering nearby Cobbs Creek and minimize flooding in the area during heavy rains.

The stormwater BMPs at Second Ward Park include:

Porous pavement basketball courts – Upper Darby's new basketball courts have an underground stormwater storage/infiltration system. That means rain water landing on the courts will percolate through tiny spaces, or pores, in the asphalt and collect in an underground storage bed. From there, rain water soaks into the ground below.

This stormwater management practice reduces the amount of stormwater that flows into the storm sewer system during storms, while slowly recharging groundwater and creeks over time in a more natural and less damaging manner. For players, this means more court time since porous asphalt will dry more quickly after a rain.

Shallow grassy infiltration basin – The newly planted basin area will help control flooding and protect nearby Cobbs Creek from the damaging effects of stormwater runoff. Tree trench - Lining the park's southern edge, this stormwater management practice will control stormwater runoff from the parking lot, increase evaporation of stormwater runoff and has the added benefit of providing some shade in the hot summer months.

"This is a great opportunity to showcase a stormwater BMP retrofit," said Gwyn Rowland, Director of the Pennsylvania Environmental Council's Watershed Programs,

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“Upper Darby Township responded to its residents’ desire for basketball courts, which also presented itself as an opportunity to improve the stormwater management of an existing site. It’s a win for both the community and its [natural resources.](#)”

[The Pennsylvania](#) Environmental Council served as an advisor for this project.

Smith Middle School Students To Evaluate Muddy Run’s Health

Smith Middle School students in Lancaster County will soon be knee deep in a local creek as they pitch in to help the environment as part of Solanco's annual STREAM project.

Working with the [Chesapeake Bay Foundation](#), more than two dozen students will perform a stream study, then they will work with SEPCOM Landscaping to plan a riparian buffer to help improve stream quality. STREAM stands for Smith Teaching Respect for the Environment using Alternative Methods.

The hands-on environmental STREAM Project is part of the Chesapeake Bay Foundation’s Susquehanna Watershed Education Project (SWEP).

SWEP explores local waterways to monitor the effect of agriculture and other land uses on the water quality of the Susquehanna River, which leads to the Chesapeake Bay. The students determine the stream quality by using macro-invertebrate surveys, and other samplings and observations.

Last fall the students evaluated the stream that flows through A. Dale and Fay Herr's farm. The Herrs have been active for years in the Young Farmer program. The Herrs own over 300 acres in Colerain and Eden Townships.

STREAM Project will take place November 9 from 8:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. in Muddy Run on Penny Road, just off of Route 372, west of the 372 / 272 intersection at Buck.

Rural Dumping Summit Set for COALS Partners November 29

Department of Environmental Protection, [Pennsylvania Environmental Council](#) and other COALS partners are hosting a COALS Summit on November 29 at the Luzerne County Community College Educational Conference Center.

COALS stands for Clean Up Our Anthracite Lands and Streams.

The purpose of the Summit is to bring together the partners of the COALS Program to share their ideas and experiences in dump cleanup efforts, enforcement strategies, as well as generating community support and local media interest to promote the COALS efforts.

The Summit will be a day filled with discussions and presentations highlighting the COALS Program. The agenda includes presentations by partners that are currently involved in specific projects with the COALS program:

- Information on the illegal dump surveys being conducted around the state. These surveys demonstrate the severity of the illegal dump problem while providing a planning tool for future dump cleanups;
- Beautification projects on sites that have been cleaned up under the COALS program and wait till you see the results presented at the Summit. These sites have gone from “Dumps to Diamonds;”
- Information how COALS is involving local high school students to participate in cleanups and how COALS will reward students for their efforts;

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- The winner of the COALS logo contest competition conducted among several school districts in the region will be announced;
- Information on surveillance and enforcement activities to prevent future dumping; and
- Announcing the winner of the COALS logo contest competition conducted among several school districts in the region will be announced.

To register for the COALS Summit, please Contact Angela Vest-Vitoski at the Pennsylvania Environmental Council by telephone at 570-718-6507 or send email to: vitkoski@pecnepa.org .

Clinton County CleanScapes Reschedules Cleanup to November 4



[Clinton County CleanScapes](#), [PA CleanWays](#) and other partners have rescheduled its cleanup of Sinnemahoning Creek in Sproul State Forest for November 4.

The cleanup will begin at 10:00 a.m. and a complementary lunch will be served for all volunteers. Free shuttle service is being donated by the Wayne Twp. Landfill and will depart from Lock Haven at 9 a.m. Call for pickup site locations and space is limited so pre-registration is required.

As a special project, photographers are invited to take photos of the event for later use in educational displays. The cost of film developing will be reimbursed.

Pre-registration for all events are required no later than 2 days prior to the cleanup event. Gloves, bags and safety vests will be provided. Long pants, shirts and close toed shoes are mandatory. Children 17 and under must be accompanied by an adult.

Funding for this project was provided through the Department of Conservation and Natural Resources, Forest Lands Beautification Program, Susquehanna River Basin Commission, Department of Community and Economic Development, Dominion, Wayne Township Landfill and the Department of Transportation.

Event registration and questions should be directed to Clinton County CleanScapes Project Director Elisabeth Lynch at 570-893-4123 or elynch@clintoncountypa.com .

Chesapeake Bay Citizens Advisory Committee Seeks Youth Representatives

The Citizens Advisory Committee to the Chesapeake Executive Council is seeking motivated young residents from Virginia, Maryland, the District of Columbia and Pennsylvania with a strong interest in providing perspectives on restoring/preserving the Chesapeake Bay and its tributaries to fill vacancies in their [Young Delegates program](#).

Applications are due January 12.

The mission of the CAC—a 25-member committee composed of residents of Virginia, Maryland, Pennsylvania and the District of Columbia—is to advise the governors of these states, the D.C. mayor, the EPA administrator, and the Chesapeake Bay Commission on the activities, progress and priorities of the Chesapeake Bay Program.

This is a volunteer position. Delegates, who must be at least 18 years old, shall serve without compensation.

Applicants should submit a cover letter stating why they are interested in this position and a resume (two pages maximum) with three references and sent to: Alliance for the Chesapeake Bay, 6600 York Road, Suite 100, Baltimore, MD, 21212, or fax 410-377-

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7144, or e-mail (Adobe Acrobat or MS Word) to jblackburn@acb-online.org , c/o Jessica Blackburn.

For more information, visit the [Youth Representatives announcement webpage](#).

EASI Database Joins List of Those Included in PA Watersheds Data System

After months of work, adding nearly 600 sites, and uploading over 408,000 records, PA Organization of Watersheds and Rivers is excited to announce that a copy of the [Environmental Alliance for Senior Involvement \(EASI\)](#) database has been included in the [PA Watersheds Data System](#).

[POWR is also beginning another round of outreach with watershed groups.](#)

With the addition of this database, there are over 600,000 records from 39 watershed associations and monitoring groups for the 271 registered users to view. This database includes water quality and quantity data, as well as physical attribute data for 591 sites in Pennsylvania monitored by senior citizens involved in the EASI program. Monitoring data ranges from 1998 up to early 2006.

POWR and EASI are eager to share these data with other Pennsylvania monitors through the PA Watersheds Data System. The Data System is serving as a warehouse for all water data across Pennsylvania, whether collected by a watershed association, community volunteers, or a service provider. Increased accessibility to the data will ensure that the data get used to make a difference in Pennsylvania's watersheds.

These data are available for any registered user to view. To register, click on Register As A New User on the splash screen of the [Data System](#).

To view data, log into the Data System, click on View Data By My Watersheds Orgs, and the Subscribe button to request permission. POWR's Program Coordinator will grant permission to all requests to view EASI data.

If you have any questions about this process, feel free to contact Angie McCracken at POWR (amccracken@pawatersheds.org ; 717-234-7910, ext. 3). For questions about the EASI program, contact Pennsylvania's statewide coordinator, Beth Grove at PaGreatSEC@aol.com .

Philadelphia Global Water Initiative Kick-Off Conference November 13

The University of Pennsylvania, Aqua America, Pennoni Associates and the Philadelphia Water Department are sponsoring a one-day Global Water Initiative Conference on November 13 in support of the [United Nations Millennium Development Goals](#) project.

Every 20 seconds, someone in the world, usually a child, dies from a water-related problem. 1.2 billion people do not have access to safe drinking water and 2.4 billion people do not have basic sanitation.

The Philadelphia area has much to offer in meeting the Millennium goals: technical know-how, organizational skills and educational opportunities. Water supply and sanitation experts, universities, consulting firms and individuals involved with non-governmental organizations are all making contributions to solving these problems around the world.

To increase the impact of these contributions, the Philadelphia Global Water Initiative is being formed. This kick-off conference will explore how Philadelphia parties

can coordinate and increase efforts towards attainment of the U.N. Millennium Development goals.

To register or for more information, [download conference brochure](#) or send email to: niva@sas.upenn.edu .

\$74 Million in Drinking Water, Wastewater Cleanup Grants Announced

The [Pennsylvania Infrastructure Investment Authority](#) this week announced \$74 million in grants and low-interest loans for 19 clean water projects in 13 counties.

The awards approved by PENNVEST range from a \$1 million loan to upgrade the existing sewage treatment plant for a community in Erie County to a more than \$9.3 million loan to construct almost 17 miles of sewage collection lines for a community in Luzerne County.

Also approved were two brownfields cleanup projects:

- Foulk Warehousing Inc., Northampton County, received a \$3,126,141 loan to put a cap more than 17 acres of a contaminated industrial site to prevent rain from contaminating a nearby stream. As a result of this, the business will be able to continue operations and retain 11 jobs at the facility.
- First Philadelphia Holdings LLC, Philadelphia, received a \$5.5 million loan to remediate a vacant site in the Tacony section of Philadelphia that is contaminated by various chemicals. The project will allow for future development of the site.

[A list of all the projects funded is available online.](#)

PPL Electric Utilities Receives Forestry Award



PPL received the [Pennsylvania Urban and Community Forestry Council's](#) annual Community Forestry Industry Award October 20.

The award, presented during the 14th annual Pennsylvania Community Forestry Conference in State College, recognized the company for its tree care practices and support of community forestry programs.

“We’re proud to receive this award,” said John F. Sipics, president of PPL Electric Utilities. “Trees add beauty to our communities, and they’re essential to our environment. That’s why we work hard to protect the trees we prune and to support tree replacement programs.”

The award specifically recognized the company’s involvement with the council’s Municipal Tree Restoration Program. Through the program, PPL Electric Utilities assists in municipal tree replacement projects by removing — rather than just pruning — trees that interfere with power lines. Municipalities prepare plans with the cooperation of utility foresters and can receive funds to purchase replacement trees.

The program helps communities select the right trees to plant near power lines. These are trees that will have plenty of room to reach their mature height and shape without encroaching on the lines.

In presenting the award, the Pennsylvania Urban and Community Forestry Council also recognized the company’s use of pruning techniques that minimize the stress to trees and leave as many branches as possible. In addition, it recognized the company’s efforts to educate customers and contractors about proper pruning techniques.

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The Pennsylvania Urban and Community Forestry Council is a nonprofit organization dedicated to improving community forests and green spaces. It receives support from partners such as the Pennsylvania Bureau of Forestry, the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Forestry Service and Penn State University.

Public Invited to Meetings on Southern Alleghenies Greenway Plan

The Southern Alleghenies Regional Greenways Committee invites the public to attend three more meetings to review the final draft of the [Southern Alleghenies Greenways and Open Space Network Plan](#) in November.

The meetings will be held on November 2 at these times and locations: 1:30: Pennsylvania Highlands Community College, Ebensburg, 7:00: Bedford Area High School, Bedford and 7:00 Isett Acres, Huntingdon.

The Plan is intended to promote the development of a regional greenways network of trails and waterways in Bedford, Blair, Cambria, Fulton, Huntingdon and Somerset counties.

For more information contact Chris Allison, SARGC, 814-949-6263 or send email to: callison@sapdc.org.

Joseph T. Rothrock Award Presented to DCNR Forester Alex Day

Alex Day, Penn Nursery's Forest Nursery Operations Manager for the Department of Conservation and Natural Resources, received the [Pennsylvania Forestry Association's Dr. Joseph Trimble Rothrock Conservationist of the Year Award](#) at the association's 120th Annual Meeting.

Day spent his formative years in McVeytown (the birthplace of Rothrock), and graduated from the Penn State School of Forest Resources. Following service in both the Peace Corps and the Army, he joined DCNR's Bureau of Forestry in 1971.

His career with DCNR includes assignments with the Forest Advisory Services in Harrisburg and as forester on the Michaux and Coudersport districts. He has been at Penn Nursery, his current position, since 1989. During Day's tenure at the nursery millions of vigorous forest tree seedlings have been produced for reforestation efforts throughout the State.

Dr. Rothrock, often referred to as the "Father of Forestry in Pennsylvania," was the first president of The Pennsylvania Forestry Association-the nation's oldest state organization devoted to forest conservation.

The award, a tribute and affirmation of the life and contributions of Dr. Rothrock, recognizes the recipient's outstanding contributions to the conservation of the Commonwealth's forest resource.



Joseph T. Rothrock III , Alex Day , and Joseph Banard, PFA Treasurer.

[PA Environment Digest Video Blog](#)

Companies Come Clean On Environmental Violations Under EPA Self-Audit Policy

Five Pennsylvania companies and organizations that [voluntarily disclosed](#) and corrected environmental violations had penalties waived by the U. S. Environmental Protection Agency, the result of an EPA policy that has been successful in getting companies to make good-faith efforts in self-policing their own environmental compliance.

These recent ‘self-audit’ cases handled by EPA’s mid-Atlantic regional office had potential penalties ranging from \$1,000 to about \$764,000 for environmental violations that the agency determined caused no harm to human health or the environment.

Altogether, the eight companies located in Pennsylvania, Maryland and Virginia avoided about \$1.2 million in fines.

“EPA wants to acknowledge companies that make a concerted effort to protect the environment,” said Donald S. Welsh, EPA’s mid-Atlantic regional administrator. “Promptly disclosing violations, correcting them, and acting to prevent future problems is the responsible thing to do.”

EPA’s audit policy can cover most regulatory requirements under the agency’s environmental statutes, such as reporting on using or storing toxic chemicals, proper record keeping, oil spill prevention measures, and notifying residential tenants about the presence of lead-based paint.

In the cases announced this week, each company discovered its potential violations during an environmental compliance audit and reported these violations to EPA. Because the companies satisfied all of the conditions of EPA’s self-disclosure policy and the amount of economic benefits gained were insignificant, EPA waived potential penalties.

In self-audit cases, EPA determines if a company qualifies for a penalty waiver under the agency’s audit policy, which substantially reduces, and often eliminates, penalties for a company that takes action to report and correct violations. The policy excludes criminal acts, violations resulting in significant harm to public health or the environment, or violations that economically benefit the company.

The companies and organizations from Pennsylvania include:

- **Widener University School of Law Harrisburg Campus, Harrisburg, Pa.** -- In March 2004, Widener University self-reported violations to EPA under three environmental statutes. EPA found three violations - - non-compliance with three requirements for managing waste. A \$1,650 penalty was waived. EPA has made additional efforts to encourage compliance and self-disclosure in an agreement with the Association of Independent Colleges and Universities of Pennsylvania.
- **Waynesburg College, Waynesburg, Pa.** -- Waynesburg College self-disclosed violations under five statutes. Violations were found for failure to notify tenants about the presence of lead-based paint, not following the proper procedures for managing hazardous waste, and failure to follow necessary oil spill prevention requirements. The corrections have been made. Through an agreement with the Association of Independent Colleges and Universities of Pennsylvania, EPA encourages compliance and self-disclosure of violations at college facilities and campuses. As a participant under that agreement and due to EPA’s self-audit policy, Waynesburg College received a \$74,524 penalty waiver.
- **Cheetah Chassis Corporation, Berwick, Pa.** -- In June 2006, Cheetah Chassis notified EPA that it had failed to submit toxic chemical release inventory forms for xylene at its facility for 2000, 2001, 2002 and again in 2004. The company makes steel

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frames with wheels and tires to carry shipping containers. Cheetah has now filed the correct reports. The total civil penalty of \$77,905 for these violations has been waived.

- **PolyOne Corporation, Bethlehem, Pa.**-- In June 2006, PolyOne, a polymer services company, disclosed that it had failed to submit a toxic release inventory form for barium compounds for 2004. Since PolyOne satisfied all of the conditions of EPA's self-disclosure policy the \$21,922 penalty for these violations has been waived.
- **National Railroad Passenger Corporation (Amtrak), Morrisville, Pa.** - Amtrak self-disclosed and cited a violation of the Clean Water Act as amended by the Oil Pollution Act designed to prevent oil spills at its Morrisville maintenance facility. Under the EPA audit policy, the \$1,000 penalty was waived.

For more information, visit the [EPA Voluntary Audit webpage](#) and for tools on how to conduct audits see: [The Environmental Self-Audit for Small Businesses](#) and [DEP's Environmental Compliance Audit Policy](#).

Winners of Governor's Biofuels Leadership Award Announced

Gov. Rendell this week announced 14 Pennsylvania business and community leaders have been presented with Governor's Biofuels Leadership Awards.

The awards were presented at the "Biofuels – A Pennsylvania Reality" event focusing on biodiesel and ethanol fuel development and deployment. The seminar was hosted by the Governor's Agriculture Renewable Energy Council and the Regional Economic Development District Initiatives of Southcentral Pennsylvania in York.

The winners are:

- **Philadelphia Fry-O-Diesel LLC** -- Nadia Adawi, president. Philadelphia Fry-O-Diesel is an industry leader, proving that it is technically and economically viable to produce high-quality biodiesel from restaurant trap grease. Fry-O-Diesel is currently working toward development of a commercial production facility.
- **Keystone BioFuels Inc.** -- Race Miner, chief executive officer. Cumberland County-based Keystone BioFuels shipped the first commercial load of biodiesel made in Pennsylvania and has been an industry leader in promoting the utilization of biodiesel-blended fuel to the general public.
- **Worley & Obetz Inc.** -- Jeff Lyons, chief executive officer. Lancaster County-based Worley & Obetz has worked hard to grow Pennsylvania's renewable fuels industry. Worley & Obetz has installed the only two injection blending facilities in the commonwealth, greatly facilitating access and utilization of biodiesel blends. They are pioneers in offering ethanol to the transportation industry, and have played a key role in incorporating biofuels into the Northeast home heating oil market.
- **York City** -- Mayor John Brenner. Mayor Brenner has been a leader in advancing biofuels use by city government. York, under the mayor's leadership, has made major commitments to use biofuels in every department. The city began using a 20 percent biodiesel blend (B20) in October 2005 and has committed to using 56,000 gallons of B20 over a three-year period.
- **United Oil Co.** -- Charles Cross, president. This 100-year-old, family-owned company based in Pittsburgh was Pennsylvania's first commercial biodiesel producer.
- **United Biofuels** -- Nicholas Kukrika, founding partner. York-based United Biofuels was founded in 2005 and anticipates producing close to 2 million gallons of biodiesel

by October 2007. UB has worked closely with Rabbit Transit, West Shore EMS and York City to set up storage and delivery at their locations and to secure state funding for their biodiesel projects.

- **Cumberland County** -- Commissioner Rick Rovegno. The commissioner has introduced county government to biofuels. Under his leadership, Cumberland County has taken great strides to incorporate biofuels into its generators and trucks.
- **West Shore Emergency Medical Services** -- H. Larry Roberts, chief operating officer. The West Shore EMS in Camp Hill, Cumberland County, initiated a project in 2005 to use B20 in 25 of its emergency vehicles. It has committed to using 41,100 gallons of B20 over a three-year period.
- **John W. Gleim Jr. Inc.** – John W. Gleim Jr. The Carlisle, Cumberland County-based excavating contractor is committed to using biofuels in its business operations. Gleim has also been a major advocate for biofuels and energy independence and has taken every opportunity to educate the public about biofuels.
- **Sheetz Inc.** -- Mike Lorenz, vice president of petroleum and supply, and Colleen DeVooris. Altoona-based Sheetz has demonstrated its commitment to biofuels by offering 85 percent ethanol blends (E85) at three retail locations in Allegheny County.
- **Rabbit Transit** -- Richard H. Farr, executive director. The authority is responsible for introducing biodiesel to the public transportation sector, a heavy user of petroleum-based diesel fuel. Its project to use almost 1.3 million gallons of B20 over a three-year period was launched in Oct. 2005. Those efforts have helped to reduce costs and improve air quality in York County.
- **The Pennsylvania State University** -- Glen R. Cauffman, manager of farm operations and facilities. Under Cauffman's leadership, Penn State has switched all their tractors and trucks to biodiesel. They have also switched most campus elevators and heavy equipment to biodegradable hydraulic fluid. Cauffman had dedicated a large amount of his time to public speaking and educational outreach on biofuels.
- **Export Fuel Co.** – Richard Morchesky, co-owner. Export Fuels was the first company in Pennsylvania to begin selling biodiesel to the public.
- **Moyer Plumbing and Heating Co.** – Steven T. Moyer, president. Moyer Plumbing and Heating has been offering a B10 heating oil blend to its customers for several years, and its heating oil is low sulfur, voluntarily exceeding minimum specifications for the fuel.

DCNR Carbon Management Advisory Group Reviews Policy Options



The [Pennsylvania Carbon Management Advisory Group](#) formed by the Department of Conservation and Natural Resources [met this week](#) to review proposed policies and initiatives designed to respond to concerns about global climate change.

The Group focused on two primary areas within DCNR's purview— projects and initiatives related to identifying geological resources suitable for

sequestering carbon and changes in forest management policies to promote sequestration and substituting wood for petroleum-based fuels and building products.

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A [set of decision criteria](#) was presented and discussed that the group would use to help prioritize programs and initiatives to address climate change issues and to review a [catalog of state level greenhouse gas reduction policies](#).

The criteria include greenhouse gas reductions to be achieved, cost effectiveness, feasibility and actions that could provide Pennsylvania with a competitive advantage.

Among the recommendations related to geological resources were sequestration pilot projects in [Greene County](#) and the [anthracite coal region](#), [developing an online tool](#) to help decisions makers identify geologic area suitable for sequestration and locating the [infrastructure needed](#) to access those areas, filling in data gaps on [geologic formation with sequestration potential](#), [protocols for siting and operating](#) geologic sequestration projects and [promoting research](#) into the potential of chemical sequestration.

The Group considered about [two dozen priority initiatives](#) with respect to forest management for carbon sequestration and fuels in several categories: forest conservation, forest establishment and restoration, ecosystem management/health, wood/biomass energy, wood products, urban forestry and education.

Also discussed at the meeting was an update of the state's Greenhouse Gas Inventory and issues related to the state joining a greenhouse gas registry so the initiatives DCNR does adopt can generate marketable credits that can be sold to others needing carbon sequestration reductions.

[Papers and presentations considered by the Group are available online.](#)

The next meeting of the Advisory Group is January 26.

Voluntary Programs Cut Emissions and Save Consumers Billions



this week.

Highlights of the report, "Energy Star and Other Climate Protection Partnerships 2005 Annual Report" include savings from the government's Energy Star program.

Americans, with the help of Energy Star, avoided greenhouse gas emissions equivalent to those from 23 million automobiles in 2005 – up from 20 million in 2004 – while saving about \$12 billion on their energy bills. Americans also saved a significant amount of energy in 2005 – 150 billion kilowatt hours (kWh) – or about 4 percent of the total 2005 electricity demand.

Other voluntary climate protection programs included in the report are the Climate Leaders Program, the Green Power Partnership, Methane Programs and initiatives that develop clean energy solutions and minimize emissions of other non-carbon dioxide gases.

The report details the environmental and economic accomplishments of these programs and outlines goals for 2006 and beyond.

For a copy of the report and more information, visit the [voluntary climate protection programs webpage](#) or call the Energy Star Hotline at 1-888-STAR-YES (1-888-782-7937)

Link: [EPA – Climate Leaders](#)

Five Ways to Protect Children From Lead Poisoning

There's an old saying, "An ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure." When it comes to [lead poisoning](#), prevention makes sense.

The week of October 22 was been designated as National Lead Poisoning Prevention Week and the U. S. Environmental Protection Agency encourages parents and property-owners who own housing built prior to 1978 to get their homes tested for lead risks and their children tested for lead poisoning.

"Our message to parents is that EPA wants to help make your home healthy and safe for your children," said Donald S. Welsh, mid-Atlantic regional administrator. "While childhood lead poisoning remains a major environmental health problem in the United States, the good news is that it is entirely preventable."

EPA suggests the following ways to prevent lead poisoning:

1. Wash It Out! - Wash your children's hands often, and their toys, as well. Wash your floors and windowsills with water and detergent.
2. Eat It Out! - Serve a diet high in calcium (milk and dairy products) and iron (beef, leafy vegetables, eggs). This will reduce the amount of lead the body will hold.
3. Run It Out! - Always run cold tap water for 2-3 minutes before using for cooking or drinking and never use hot tap water to drink, eat, or cook.
4. Keep It Out! – Don't let children play in the dirt because lead in soil can be a hazard. In addition, the children can track the soil into the house where it could become a hazard. Hire trained workers for any job that disturbs the paint. If you plan to rent housing built before 1978, ask the landlord about lead poisoning and known lead hazards.
5. Check It Out! - Have your children (age 6 or younger) tested for lead! It is the only way to detect for lead poisoning!

For additional information, [visit EPA's Lead Poisoning webpage](#) or call 1-800-424-LEAD.

Beverage Association Joins National Recycling Partnership

The [American Beverage Association](#) announced this week it has become a founding member in the [National Recycling Partnership](#) created to reinvigorate recycling in America.

This historic partnership—which includes the National Recycling Coalition, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, the American Beverage Association, the Food Marketing Institute, the Grocery Manufacturers Association and the International Bottled Water Association—aims to revive consumers' interest in recycling by educating them on what, how and why to recycle.

"Recycling is of vital importance to our industry, our customers and our suppliers," said Susan K. Neely, ABA's president and chief executive officer. "The beverage industry has a long history of involvement in recycling issues and because of our commitment, we are proud to be a partner in this innovative and progressive coalition that will reinvigorate recycling in this country and further protect our environment."

A top priority for the National Recycling Partnership coalition will be the development and dissemination of consumer-friendly recycling icons as well as accurate and standardized recycling terminology for use in product labeling and advertising.

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“ABA’s involvement with the National Recycling Coalition partnership opens a new and important chapter in the beverage industry’s promotion of recycling,” Neely said. “The partnership promises a concerted effort to rebrand recycling and involve stakeholders from the recycling world, EPA and the food and beverage industry. ABA is proud of its leadership role in helping to make the rebranding project a reality.”

Beverage containers are America’s most recycled consumer packaging. In fact, the aluminum beverage can is the most recycled consumer product package on the market today.

Currently, more than half of all aluminum beverage containers are recycled. Aluminum cans also are the most valuable commodity in the waste stream, so revenue from the sale of collected cans helps support recycling programs all over the country. PET (plastic) beverage containers also are widely recycled and very valuable for communities and recyclers. Glass beverage containers can be recycled over and over again, and are in great demand in the areas around glass processing plants in the United States.

Currently, packaging produced by ABA members represents about 1.7 percent of all municipal waste generated each year. The beverage industry strives to produce packaging that is recyclable and to reduce the amount of packaging used through lightweighting; if the industry uses less packaging to begin with, it can successfully reduce its overall environmental footprint.

Links: [Pennsylvania Soft Drink Association](#)

Help Wanted: ALLARM at Dickinson Seeks New Director

Dickinson College is seeking candidates for the position of Director of its [Alliance for Aquatic Resource Monitoring Program](#).

Housed in the College’s Environmental Studies Department and founded in 1986, ALLARM is a nationally-recognized technical and programmatic support center for community organizations interested in watershed assessment, protection, and restoration.

Through the work of student and professional staff, ALLARM offers comprehensive services to enable groups to use critical scientific tools to enhance environmental quality and fully participate in community decision-making.

The program staff includes a Director, a Project Coordinator, a faculty Science Advisor, and 12 undergraduate student staff.

The Director of ALLARM is responsible for leadership of all ALLARM activity including overseeing the operation, managing the budget, fundraising, training, and supervising the staff.

The Director builds the program by identifying opportunities for new partnerships with community organizations; facilitating student involvement through paid positions, course projects, independent study, and research; and developing and maintaining cooperative efforts with other service providers.

For more information, visit the [ALLARM Director job webpage](#).

See & Hear

Webcast on Integrating Drinking Water Into Watershed Protection Nov. 29

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Watershed Academy is hosting a free webcast on November 29 entitled, “[Integrating Drinking Water Into Watershed Protection.](#)”

The program will feature presentations by Beth Hall from EPA's Office of Ground Water and Drinking Water; Chris Crockett, Technical Advisory Work Group Chair for American Water Works Association and Manager of Watershed Protection for the Philadelphia Water Department; and Sherrie Stewart, Source Water Coordinator, Oregon Department of Environmental Quality.

Registration will open in mid-November.

For more information, visit the [Integrating Drinking Water Into Watershed Protection webpage.](#)

Feature

This Grocery Store Does More than Whet the Appetite



Green Roof on Shadyside
Giant Eagle

The smells are enticing — the aroma of ripe tomatoes and shiny apples mingling with freshly baked breads and cakes... Even though you just ate, your stomach is already growing....

The recently renovated Giant Eagle located in the Shadyside neighborhood of Pittsburgh is much the same as many other grocery stores, yet, oh, so different. While customers may notice the atypical outdoor bike racks and the attached condominium tower, they may not perceive the store's green features, such as skylights, windows, air quality sensors, or the fact that Steel City Biofuels reuses the cooking oil from Giant Eagle's kitchen as an alternative energy source.

“This is not a departure from what we've been doing,” says Jim Lampl, director of conservation at Giant Eagle. “Some of the elements at this store are simply more visible. Overall, we hope it culminates in a wonderful shopping experience for our customers.”

By using green standards for its design, this store hopes to be the second Giant Eagle to become LEED-certified. (The first supermarket in the nation to receive that designation was the Brunswick Giant Eagle near Cleveland.) The goal at the Shadyside location is to obtain the premier LEED-CI (Commercial Interiors) certification for a grocery store in the United States.

A large part of this plan was the implementation of an energy modeling process that allowed Giant Eagle to simulate how various design strategies would affect energy efficiency. According to a study by Gregory H. Katz (“Green Building Costs and Financial Benefits,” 2003), total financial benefits of green buildings surpass their average initial investment for design and construction ten times over. The study also states that energy savings alone exceed the average increased cost associated with building green.

“Most everything we promote and work to incorporate has a payback of some sort,” said Marc Mondor, principal of evolveEA, the architectural firm engaged to green this Giant Eagle, “but the returns on investment vary in how long they might take.”

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This store is packed with strategies aimed at saving energy, including a lighting system linked to skylights that dim fluorescent bulbs in relation to natural lighting. Overall, it boasts about 20 percent greater energy efficiency than the ASHRAE (American Society for Heating, Refrigeration and Air-conditioning Engineers) 90.1-1999 energy standard.

Structurally, the building contains sustainably-harvested FSC wood and a significant amount of recycled content, such as fly-ash in the concrete and drywall made from coal plant waste. Low-VOC (volatile organic compounds) finishes have been applied throughout and the concrete slab floors have been machine-finished, rather than tiled over.

Also, visible only to neighbors above, is a [planted green roof](#), the largest in Pittsburgh. An emerging component of green construction in North America, these types of roofs have a history spanning back decades in Europe. The 12,300-square-foot vegetated roof atop Giant Eagle is being used as a local example of nationwide research to monitor water, temperature, weather and solar absorption.

The study, led by the University of Pittsburgh School of Engineering and funded by the 3 Rivers Wet Weather Demonstration Program and the Environmental Protection Agency, will determine the benefits of this roof specific to the Pittsburgh region.

More information on this research, as well as real-time data, [can be found at this webpage](#).

Creating an enjoyable shopping experience for customers is Giant Eagle's mission and by promoting daylight, chemical-free, healthier buildings, the company is taking that promise further than other retailers. Their environmental commitment is reflected through their leadership and continued adoption of green building principles.

As you leave the Shadyside Giant Eagle, you will surely agree that the store and its Market District banner is "new and improved"—but, if you pay close attention, you will also see it as a cutting-edge green supermarket. Tours and brochures are available upon request.

Green Highlights-- Sustainable Site: urban location, adjacent residential property, proximity to local public transit, native landscaping, green roof, Water Efficiency: efficient fixtures, native landscaping, stormwater management; Energy and Atmosphere: immable lighting linked to skylights, green power, active measurement and verification; Indoor Environmental Quality: low-VOC paints and finishes, CO2 sensors, IAQ tests, daylight modeling, clerestory glazing, skylights; Green Housekeeping Materials and Resources: FSC-certified wood, high recycled materials content, emphasis on local materials.

(Originally Published in [Fall 2006 Cornerstone](#), Green Building Alliance)

Links: [Giant Eagle Hopes to Become the New Green Giant](#)

Quick Clips

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

[Cliff Jones: Remarkable Man](#)

[Dr. Wangari Masthal Makes Stand for Trees](#)

[Goodwill Rebuilds Computers, Careers](#)

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[Green Study: Task Force Targets Energy Use, Emissions](#)
[National Preservation Confab Focuses on Sustainable Design](#)
[Household Hazardous Waste, Electronics Collection Grants Awarded](#)
[Penn State Students Build Unique Home](#)
[Sun, Wind, Rain Offer Energy Alternatives](#)
[Investigation Begins Into Explosive Derailment of 23 Rail Cars Carrying Ethanol](#)
[Penn State Creates Energy Center to Coordinate Green Fuels Research](#)
[Pennsylvania Energy Initiatives to be Featured at China Showcase](#)
[First Business Opens in Rehabilitated Erie Industrial Park](#)
[Bradford County Brownfield Project Planned](#)
[COALS Partners Return Site to Natural Beauty](#)
[Editorial: Filthy Roads Should be Cleaned](#)
[Nine Year Old Environmentalist Honored by Delaware Water Gap](#)
[Hunters Supply Food Pantries with Deer Meat](#)
[Hawk Spotters at Ft. Washington](#)
[Love of Birds Give Art Wings](#)
[Aviary Researcher finds Eagles Need a Closer Look](#)
[Kittatinny Ridge Under Pressure from Developments](#)
[Schuylkill Mine Explosion Kills 1](#)
[Sticker Sets 3 Goals for Federal Mine Safety Agency](#)

Watershed NewsClips

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

[Lewisburg Science Students Sample Rivers, Creeks](#)
[Reading Council Awards Contract to Build Angelica Wetlands/Ed Center](#)
[Stream Watch Training to be Held](#)
[Vision Forms for Giant Riverfront Park](#)
[Riverfront Park Proponents Foresee Economic Gains](#)
[South Side Riverfront Park Underway in Pittsburgh](#)
[Grant Paves Way for new Riverfront Center in Pottstown](#)
[Editorial: Update PA's Flooding Maps](#)
[Abandoned Mine Sites Endangering Blair](#)
[Bradford Commissioners Support Reauthorizing Mine Reclamation Fee](#)
[DEP's Hollywood AMD Abatement Project Background](#)
[Heinz Refuge Announces Availability of Draft Restoration Plan](#)

Regulations

The Environmental Quality Board [met on October 17](#) and approved several rulemakings and petitions in addition to the final mercury emission reductions from power plants. The EQB also published notice of its [acceptance of a rulemaking petition](#) to study Shermans Creek. Here's the rundown...

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A petition to redesignate Shermans Creek, Perry County, postponed from last month's meeting, was accepted for review along with a new petition to redesignate Grinnage Run in Greene County.

The Board also approved a final rulemaking package making changes to stream designations in Bucks, Carbon, Centre, Chester, Clearfield, Fayette, Lancaster and Warren counties and a proposed regulation for public comment dealing with locating waste facilities close to airports drafted in response to a Department of Defense rulemaking petition.

[Handouts on each agenda item are available online.](#)

The November EQB meeting has been cancelled due to the lack of agenda items.

[Pennsylvania Bulletin – October 28, 2006](#)

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

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

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

Technical Guidance & Permits

The Department of Environmental Protection published a notice opening a public comment period on changes to the state [Coastal Zone Management Program](#).

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

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

Calendar of Upcoming Events

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

- **October 31-November 5** – [National Historic Preservation Conference](#). National Trust for Historic Preservation. Pittsburgh.
- **November 2** - [Joint Air and Water Pollution Control and Conservation Committee](#) public hearing on the [Kilbuck landslide](#) in Pittsburgh. Sewickley Country Inn. 9:00.
- **November 2** – [Independent Regulatory Review Commission](#) meets to consider Public Utility Commission rules relating to implementing the Alternative Energy Portfolio Standard and Interconnection Standards for Customer-Generators, Environmental Quality Board regulation adopting the California Vehicle Emission Standards. 14th Floor Conference Room, 333 Market Street. 10:30.
- **November 8** – [DEP Water Resources Advisory Committee](#) meeting to continue discussions of the Chesapeake Bay Tributary Strategy and the Draft Manual for Land Treatment of Wastewater. ([meeting notice](#)) Room 105 Rachel Carson Building. 9:30.

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- **November 16** – [Independent Regulatory Review Commission](#) meets to consider Environmental Quality Board regulation reduce mercury emissions from power plants. 14th Floor Conference Room, 333 Market Street. 10:30.
- **November 20** – Environmental Issues Forum, [Joint Air and Water Pollution Control and Conservation Committee](#) featuring J. Kent Crawford, USGS, to discuss the emerging contaminants project. Room 205 Ryan Building. Noon.
- **November 21** – **CANCELLED** – Environmental Quality Board meeting.
- **December 1** – [State Planning Board meeting](#). Room 105 Rachel Carson Building. 10:00 a.m.
- **December 12** – **CANCELLED**. [Coal and Clay Mine Subsidence Insurance Board meeting](#).
- **December 14** – [Coal and Clay Mine Subsidence Insurance Board meeting](#). 14th Floor Conference Room, Rachel Carson Building, Harrisburg. 10:00.

[DEP Calendar of Events](#)

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

[Environmental Education Workshop/Training Calendar](#)

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

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

Helpful Web Links

[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@HolstonCrisci.com or go to www.PaEnvironmentDigest.com .

PA Environment Digest is edited by David E. Hess, former Secretary Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection, and is published as a service to the clients of Holston & Crisci and the public. Holston & Crisci is a Harrisburg-based government and public affairs firm whose clients include Fortune 500 companies and non-profit organizations. For more information on Holston & Crisci call 717-234-1716.

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