

—PA — Environment Digest

*An Update on
Environmental
Issues in
Pennsylvania*

Edited By David E. Hess, Crisci Associates

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[PA Environment Digest Video Blog](#)

Over 400 Learn About REAP Farm Conservation Tax Credit Program – Video Blog



Several events designed to educate farmers, agribusinesses and others interested in learning more about the [Resource Enhancement and Protection Act](#) (REAP) Tax Credit Program attracted over 400 interested people 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.

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.

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.

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.

On November 1, Rep. Jerry Stern (R-Blair) held a public meeting for individuals interested in REAP in Morrison’s Cove Memorial Park, Martinsburg.

Visit the [*PA Environment Digest Video Blog*](#) to watch the remarks made by several speakers at the event, including—

- [Rep. Jerry Stern](#) (R-Blair);
- [Dennis Wolff](#), Secretary Department of Agriculture;
- [Matt Ehrhart](#), Pennsylvania Director, Chesapeake Bay Foundation;
- [Cathy Curran Myers](#), Deputy Secretary for Water Management, DEP;
- [Karl Brown](#), Executive Secretary, State Conservation Commission; and
- [Joe Diamond](#), Pennsylvania Farm Bureau

At a second event this week, Binkley & Hurst, LP in Lititz, Pa held a two-day “Crops, Soils and Planting Days” farm conservation program that attracted over 300

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members of the farm community to learn about REAP, crops, soils and conservation plantings.

Chesapeake Bay Foundation representative Lamonte Garber provided an overview of REAP and answered questions about the new program.

Binkley and Hurst had many farm implements on display, including no-till corn planters and grain drills, which are eligible for a 50 percent REAP tax credit. Used no-till planters are also eligible.

No-till agriculture benefits both the farmer and the environment by reducing erosion, building soil organic matter and reducing fuel requirements at planting time. A representative from the Pennsylvania No-Till Alliance was on hand to answer farmers' questions and invite others to join this farmer-based educational organization.

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

NewsClip: [Event Helps Farmers Make Smart Conservation Decisions](#)

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Session Schedule

The Senate and House will return to session November 13.

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[Professional Services Directory](#)**

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[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 November 13—

Calendars – November 13

House: [House Bill 1281](#) (Freeman-D-Lehigh) requiring municipalities to protect the Appalachian Trail; [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."

Senate: [House Bill 43](#) (Rubley-R-Chester) providing for uniform environmental covenants for brownfields projects;.

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 Consumer Affairs Committee holds two hearings in Philadelphia on [Special Session House Bill 18](#) (Kessler-D-Berks) providing for clean air taxicabs in Philadelphia and natural gas distribution and Philadelphia Gas Works takeover; the Local Government Committee scheduled a hearing on [House Bill 397](#) (Petri-R-Bucks) providing for development impact fees. Middletown Township Building, Langhorne

Other: Public Utility Commission briefing by natural gas suppliers on reliability of supply this winter; Chesapeake Bay Commission meeting

Senate/House Bills Moving/Bills Introduced

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

Senate

HSCA Funding: [Senate Bill 1100](#) (Pileggi-R-Delaware) that would provide a dedicated source of funding for the Hazardous Sites Cleanup Program was passed by the Senate and now goes to the House for consideration.

HSCA Penalties: [Senate Bill 1068](#) (M.White-R-Venango) requiring fines and penalties to be deposited in the Hazardous Sites Cleanup Fund was reported out of Senate Appropriations Committee and passed by the Senate. It now moves to the House for consideration.

Keystone Fund: [Senate Bill 1069](#) (M.White-R-Venango) requiring an annual report on the Keystone Recreation, Park and Conservation Fund was reported out of Senate Appropriations Committee and passed by the Senate. It now moves to the House for consideration.

Historic Preservation: [House Bill 221](#) (Tangretti-D-Westmoreland) establishing a Historic Preservation Incentive Grant Program was referred to the Senate Community, Economic and Recreational Development Committee.

Climate Change: [Senate Bill 266](#) (Erickson-R-Delaware) requiring DEP to inventory greenhouse gases and create a climate change action plan was referred to the Senate Appropriations Committee.

House

Climate Change: [House Bill 110](#) (Vitali-D-Delaware) requiring DEP to inventory greenhouse gases and create a climate change action plan was amended and passed by the House 182-15 and moves to the Senate for consideration.

Fishing License: [House Bill 948](#) (Rohrer-R-Berks) providing for a fishing license gift certificate was passed by the House and moves to the Senate for consideration.

GIS Week: [House Resolution 467](#) (Thomas-D-Delaware) designating November 11-17 as “National Geography Awareness Week” and November 15 as “Pennsylvania GIS Day” was adopted by the House.

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

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Energy Efficiency: [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 was reported out of the House Environmental Resources and Energy Committee.

Phosphate Ban: [Senate Bill 1017](#) (Brubaker-R-Lancaster) removing the exemption for dishwasher detergent in the Phosphate Detergent Act was reported out of the House Environmental Resources and Energy Committee.

Great Lakes Compact: [House Bill 1705](#) (Harkins-D-Philadelphia) authorizing Pennsylvania to join the Great Lakes Water Resources Compact regulating water withdrawals from the Great Lakes was reported from the House Intergovernmental Affairs Committee with a request to re-refer the bill to the House Environmental Resources and Energy Committee.

Fluoride in Water: [House Bill 1649](#) (Barrar-R-Chester) requiring the fluoridation of public water supplies was referred to the House Appropriations Committee.

Bills Introduced

High Performance Buildings: [Special Session Senate Bill 27](#) (Ferlo-D-Allegheny) establishing a tax credit for high performance green buildings.

Green Building Standards: [Special Session Senate Bill 28](#) (Pippy-R-Allegheny) setting green design standards for buildings funded with state appropriations.

Alternative Energy Production: [Special Session Senate Bill 29](#) (Browne-R-Lehigh) providing for an alternative energy production tax credit.

Home Energy Investment: [Special Session Senate Bill 30](#) (Fumo-D-Philadelphia) establishing the Home Energy Savings Investment and renewable energy rebate programs

Flood Grants: [House Bill 1989](#) (Wansacz-D-Luzerne) establishing the PA Flood Grant and Assistance Program.

Power Plant Emissions: [Special Session House Bill 37](#) (Pyle-R-Armstrong) establishing the PA Coal and Air Quality Improvement Tax Credit providing incentives to install advanced air pollution control equipment on power plants.

Rate Caps: [House Bill 1984](#) (George-D-Clearfield) extending electric rate price caps until January 1, 2013 and requiring a least-cost portfolio approach at the end of the rate cap period.

House Passes PA Climate Change Action Plan, Senate Moves Companion Bill

The House this week amended and passed [House Bill 110](#) (Vitali-D-Delaware) that would require the Department of Environmental Protection to create a Climate Change Action Plan with the help of an advisory board.

Meanwhile a companion bill-- [Senate Bill 266](#) (Erickson-R-Delaware)—reported out of the Senate Environmental Resources and Energy Committee last week, was re-referred to the Senate Appropriations Committee this week.

Citing the fact that Pennsylvania is responsible for producing a full 1 percent of the entire world's greenhouse gases, Rep. Vitali said his proposal would lay the groundwork necessary for a plan to address the issue.

"This bill, which has enjoyed broad bipartisan support, would provide a detailed and organized action plan for dealing with the impact of global warming and climate change, and set greenhouse gas standards and a timetable to achieve goals to reduce the state's contribution to the problem. It is critical for the state to begin formulating a plan right away," Rep. Vitali said.

House Bill 110 would require the state to take a broad look at the issue of global warming by doing the following: inventory the greenhouse gas emissions of various economic sectors in the state, create a voluntary greenhouse gas registry, develop and publish a global warming impact statement for Pennsylvania, and develop an action plan for reducing greenhouse gas emissions in the state.

The bill also would provide state officials with a more complete picture of greenhouse gas emissions by economic sector. If the bill is enacted, Pennsylvania would be the 23rd state to establish a Climate Change Action Plan.

The measure also would establish a voluntary greenhouse gas registry that, Rep. Vitali said, would allow the Commonwealth to recognize companies that are already acting to limit their greenhouse gas emissions.

Once the advisory group identifies key sources of greenhouse gas emissions in the Commonwealth, it will be responsible for creating an action plan – including possible legislative initiatives – to address climate change in Pennsylvania.

The bill was amended on the House floor by Rep. David Reed (R-Indiana) to broaden the scope of participation on the advisory board creating the Climate Action Plan.

The bill calls for the Governor to appoint 12 members – four each from the business, environmental and scientific communities – and the House and Senate will each appoint three members. In addition to these 18 members, the advisory board will include the secretary of DEP and the majority and minority chairmen of both the House and Senate Environmental Resources and Energy committees.

"If the intent is to have the board offer legislative proposals, then it makes sense to me to involve the Legislature from the outset," Rep. Reed said. "Neither the governor nor the Legislature will be able to solve this problem alone. This is such a complex issue that we're going to have to work together to make meaningful progress."

Rep. Reed's amendment will also ensure that the advisory board considers existing federal rules and regulations when drafting the climate change plan. Specifically, the advisory board will have to identify where any proposal made in the plan would exceed existing federal rules.



The amendment also directs the advisory board to look at existing sources of information on greenhouse gas emissions and recommendations and specifically mentions the [Pennsylvania Climate Change Roadmap](#) developed by the Pennsylvania Environmental Council and a stakeholder group.

Finally, Rep. Reed's amendment will ensure that the elected representatives of the people of Pennsylvania will have the final say about what's included in the report. Under Reed's amendment, the report will come before the Legislature after it is approved by the governor.

"Pennsylvanians deserve a climate change action plan that is agreed upon by both the executive and legislative branches of their state government," Rep. Reed said. "Working together is the only way to ensure that we have the actionable plan that Pennsylvania needs to address this issue in a comprehensive manner."

NewsClip: [House OKs Statewide Effort to Curb Greenhouse Gases](#)
[Op-Ed: Let's Have a Prescription to Reduce Global Warming](#)
[Climate Change Already Affecting Chesapeake Bay, Experts Say](#)

Third Hazardous Sites Cleanup Funding Proposal Passes Senate

Legislation to provide funding for the Hazardous Sites Cleanup Program passed the Senate unanimously this week, making it the third Hazardous Sites Cleanup Program funding plan the Senate has unanimously approved.

[Senate Bill 1100](#) (Pileggi-R-Delaware) would transfer about \$17 million to HSCA from legislative accounts for the current fiscal year. Recent estimates indicate that amount is enough to keep the program afloat through the end of June.

The other Senate proposals passed over the last two years include [Senate Bill 913](#) (MJ White-R-Venango) and [Senate Bill 149](#) (MJ White). The House has not passed a funding plan.

"By using money from legislative accounts, we ensure that no state program is cut to fund HSCA," said Sen. Pileggi. "And no taxes are increased."

Funding for HSCA, a vital program which finances cleanups at contaminated sites and the investigation of illegal hazardous waste disposals, was not included in the final state budget adopted by the General Assembly in July. The Department of Environmental Protection has indicated that the HSCA program will be shut down if a funding solution is not found.

"Senate Republicans have consistently supported funding for this critical program," said Sen. White. "Today's action will enable DEP to meet its obligation to protect our residents and ensure communities have access to the resources they need in times of an emergency."

Under Senate Bill 1100, \$40 million in existing revenues from the Capital Stock and Franchise Tax will be earmarked for HSCA beginning in fiscal year 2008-2009 and continuing through 2010-11. This proposal will not change the scheduled phase-out of the Capital Stock and Franchise Tax.

In the House, Representatives Steil (R-Bucks) and Shapiro (D-Montgomery) introduced [House Bill 1974](#) which would provide \$35 million to fund HSCA through transfers from legislative accounts and Rep. Milne (R-Chester) proposed a new Hazardous Sites Cleanup Program funding alternative that would transfer funding from the State Stores Fund to HSCA.

Detergent Ban, Energy Efficiency Bills OK'd By House Environmental Committee

The House Environmental Resources and Energy Committee reported out 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).

Solobay Introduces Bill To Study Impact of Alternative Energy Portfolio Standards

As the issue of reducing greenhouse gases continues to capture the headlines, Rep. Tim Solobay (D-Washington) wants to make sure Pennsylvania's efforts to help the environment are not hurting the economy.

Rep. Solobay has introduced House Bill 2014 that would provide for a study of how the Alternative Energy Portfolio Standards Act of 2004 is impacting the Commonwealth's manufacturing economy, energy prices, energy production and consumption and personal income.

"It is very difficult for one state to reduce emissions within its borders due to leakage from surrounding states," Rep. Solobay said. "Therefore, I think we need to look before we leap, study the issue, and make sure our efforts to clean the air are not placing undo burden on our citizens and businesses."

House Bill 2014 would examine whether mandated reductions in Pennsylvania's emissions would actually lead to a real reduction in national greenhouse gasses. The legislation would also examine both the economic impact and emission reduction potentially achieved by Pennsylvania's participation in the Northeast Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative.

Enacted in November 2004 and amended earlier this year, AEPS requires that by 2020 at least 18 percent of electric energy sold by a distribution company or generation supplier to a retail customer in the Commonwealth must be from alternative energy sources.

House Bill 2014 is supported by the United Mine Workers and the Pennsylvania Coal Association.

Wansacz Introduces Plan to Fund Flood Prevention, Recovery

Aiming to prevent recurrent floods in northeastern Pennsylvania and help victims recover, Rep. Jim Wansacz (D-Luzerne) has introduced a plan to generate and provide funding for flood mitigation projects across the state.

[House Bill 1989](#) would establish the Flood Assistance Program and Fund.



“Recurring floods in recent years have caused severe destruction and irreparable damage across Pennsylvania and had staggering costs for residents and businesses, totaling in the millions of dollars,” Rep. Wansacz said.

"Some communities across our state have been devastated repeatedly due to flood waters," Rep. Wansacz said. "It is often the same homes and small businesses over and over again, and sadly a lot of the damage is preventable if we just employed the proper prevention measures in advance of heavy rains."

Rep. Wansacz's proposal has two parts. It would provide money for flood prevention projects -- for example, to dredge river and creek beds, and to construct, maintain or improve dams, reservoirs and levees. Secondly, the fund would provide assistance to residents, businesses and municipalities that sustain damage as a result of a flood.

The initiative would be funded through an annual \$1 surcharge on all homeowners' insurance and business owners' property insurance policies.

"With the small investment of \$1 per year, we can support innovative projects to mitigate flood damage before it occurs and to help those whose property is damaged or destroyed as a result of flood waters," Rep. Wansacz said. "Because the flooding is a statewide issue, the small fee would be shouldered by the many instead of the few."

Wansacz's plan has over 65 co-sponsors representing both parties and all regions of the state.

Other News

Fayette County Mine Reclamation Project Wins Federal Award

For the second straight year, a Pennsylvania mine reclamation project has been named the most outstanding in the eastern United States by the federal government.

The U.S. Department of the Interior awarded the Office of Surface Mining's 2007 Appalachian Regional Award to the Kalp and Melcroft mine drainage abatement project in Saltlick Township, Fayette County.

"This award is a tribute to the expertise and dedication of our abandoned mine reclamation staff and that of our partners in this important environmental work," said Environmental Protection Secretary Kathleen A. McGinty.

DEP worked with the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Natural Resources Conservation Service and the [Mountain Watershed Association](#) on the project.

"This project will lower the mine pools, collect and treat acid mine drainage and ultimately restore Indian Creek. And returning the Indian Creek watershed to environmental health means increased property values, a better quality of life and more economic opportunities through recreation and tourism," said Secretary McGinty.

A cost/benefit analysis conducted by the USDA shows that each dollar spent reclaiming the Indian Creek Watershed generates \$2.40 in economic benefit for the community. With a total project cost of \$1.1 million—which includes support from the federal Abandoned Mine Lands Fund and the USDA Natural Resource Conservation Service Environmental Restoration Program—that means an economic benefit of more than \$2.6 million.

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The Kalp and Melcroft project used directional drilling in the coal seam to tap into the mines. The mine pools were lowered and the mine discharges were collected and directed to areas where ponds and wetlands could filter contaminants naturally.

Lowering the two mine pools relieved pressure that was causing mine drainage to enter the basements of about a dozen homes in the Village of Melcroft and flow into yards and public roadways at a number of locations in the area.

This is the first time this technology has been used in a Pennsylvania abandoned mine lands reclamation project.

Since 2003, nearly \$173 million has been invested to restore abandoned mine lands in Pennsylvania, reclaiming more than 5,900 acres in 34 counties. This funding includes \$121.7 million from the federal Abandoned Mine Lands Fund, coming from a fee placed on mining activity, and \$51 million from the state, primarily through the Growing Greener and Growing Greener II programs.

For more information, visit DEP's [Abandoned Mine Reclamation webpage](#).

Pilot Project Encourages Private Firms to Treat Acid Mine Drainage

The cost of treating the acid mine drainage that has damaged more than 6,000 miles of Pennsylvania streams has kept many companies from getting into the cleanup business, but that may change with the state's support of innovative technology now being used in Cambria County.

Environmental Protection Secretary Kathleen A. McGinty this week visited a pilot project where a portion of the polluted St. Michael's mine shaft discharge is being treated and materials are being extracted so they can be used in other products.

If successful, Secretary McGinty said, more companies will pursue stream restoration work because of the financial incentive, which would relieve the demand on limited state and federal government resources.

"Historically, treating acid mine drainage has been an expensive proposition that produced the environmental benefit of cleaner water," said Secretary McGinty, "There was little incentive for private companies to engage in this kind of work, so state and federal governments had to pick up the tab. The technology demonstrated by this pilot project could change all of that."

The project, which is a joint effort of the Winner Technology and Research Institute—part of Winner International—and the Battelle Memorial Institute, benefited from a \$1.5 million state investment through Growing Greener II.

Scientists from the two groups are adapting a process used in the heavy metals industry to extract materials from the acid mine water discharge that are common in many abandoned Pennsylvania mines.

At the St. Michael's site, workers are extracting potassium sulfate for use as commercial fertilizer and ferrous sulfate to treat wastewater. The process also eliminates the sludge that is typically created when iron and other minerals are removed from the acid mine drainage.

Traditionally, this sludge must be pumped into an underground mine pool or disposed of in a landfill.

NewsClip: [Pilot Project Encourage Private Firms to Treat Mine Acid](#)

Farmers Can Benefit from New USDA Technical Assistance Services

Pennsylvania Farmers and Technical Service Providers have an opportunity to work together to develop [Comprehensive Nutrient Management Plans](#) under a new USDA initiative.

USDA-Natural Resources Conservation Service staff have worked with farmers to develop CNMPs for many years. This new initiative will give farmers the option to have a CNMP plan developed by a private industry consultant rather than a USDA-NRCS employee.

A maximum of \$7,000 can be contracted with a farmer through the Environmental Quality Incentives Program for CNMP development.

Farmers can apply for EQIP at any time; applications submitted by November 30 will be considered for the next round of funding. This date applies for other EQIP funding requests as well.

This initiative is for development of a CNMP plan only, there is no requirement for farmers to implement the plan. Farmers who want to implement practices in their plan can submit another funding request for that.

Farmers who have developed a CNMP plan, whether through this initiative or by working with NRCS directly, will receive preference when requesting funding for practice implementation.

Funding for EQIP practice implementation funding is limited, so farmers can take this step to make their EQIP applications more competitive in the ranking process.

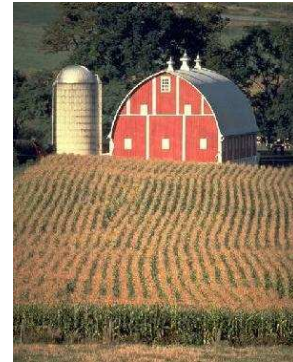
According to USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service State Conservationist Craig Derickson, “TSPs stand to benefit from this program because it will put more dollars in the hands of the private sector that will do the planning work. It will help to build the capacity and expertise for doing conservation work for non-USDA employees. The more people we have involved in doing quality conservation work, the better it is for the farming community and the environment. NRCS welcomes TSPs to assist us in getting conservation work accomplished.”

Four issues are addressed in a Comprehensive Nutrient Management Plan: 1) Manure and Wastewater Storage and Handling, 2) Nutrient Management, 3) Land Treatment including Conservation Planning, and 4) Record Keeping. A fifth optional element is Feed Management.

Nutrient Management Planning and some of the Manure Handling and Waste Water Storage can be accomplished through the State Conservation Commission’s Act 38 Nutrient Management Planning process. There should be no duplication of services or confusion between the state and federal programs since the two agencies have worked together to make the programs compatible.

Since TSPs need to be certified by NRCS to do the work, starting the training and certification process early will better ensure certification can be confirmed by the time farmers begin to receive contracts and are seeking qualified TSPs to do their CNMP plan.

Additional information about USDA NRCS programs can be obtained through the USDA [NRCS Pennsylvania website](#) or by contacting the local USDA Service Center. The Spanish/English toll free number is 1-866-232-0690.



F&M Professors Present Legacy Sediments Webinar on November 13

Dr. Robert Walter and Dr. Dorothy Merritts of Franklin & Marshall College will present a webinar on November 13 from 1 to 3 p.m. on their work demonstrating the importance of considering the impact of 18th and 19th century mill dams and legacy sediments on stream restoration in the Eastern U.S.



Past assumptions about sediment distribution in streams and streambank erosion are challenged with serious implications for current water quality and wetland restoration efforts.

The importance of these findings will be seen in a stream that was returned to pre-settlement conditions resulting in growth of 200 year old seed into natural wetlands and greatly improved water quality.

This work has important implications for both water quality improvement and increasing natural wetland acreage. The goal will be to understand the history and stream science and hopefully identify other potential sites to demonstrate these restoration techniques.

To register, visit the [Legacy Sediments Webinar webpage](#).

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

Grants Available to Upgrade Municipal Sewage Facilities, Drinking Water Systems

The Department of Environmental Protection announced this week that municipalities, municipal authorities and public school districts have until December 15 to apply for [Growing Greener Innovative Technology Grants](#).

\$1 million is available to help finance improvements to existing sewage facilities and drinking water systems using new or innovative technologies through grants of up to \$500,000.

Preference will be given to wastewater treatment projects that use new or innovative technology to reduce energy consumption compared to conventional processes. Incorporating advanced technologies also improves the efficiency, effectiveness and reliability of existing facilities.

New or innovative technology refers to an approach that is commercially available but is not yet used widely in Pennsylvania, and should provide one or more significant advantages over conventional technology.

The application form is available at DEP's [Growing Greener Innovative Technology webpage](#).

Western Pennsylvania Conservancy, Dominion Seek Watershed Grant Applications

Proposals for the 2007-2008 Watershed Mini Grant program are now being accepted by the Western Pennsylvania Conservancy and Dominion.

The deadline for applications is December 14.

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The program offers funding to watershed organizations in Allegheny, Armstrong, Beaver, Bedford, Blair, Butler, Cambria, Centre, Clarion, Clearfield, Crawford, Cumberland, Elk, Erie, Fayette, Forest, Franklin, Fulton, Greene, Huntingdon, Indiana, Jefferson, Juniata, Lawrence, McKean, Mercer, Potter, Somerset, Tioga, Venango, Warren, Washington, and Westmoreland counties.

Watershed Mini Grants may be used for expenses in three categories: operating costs, organizational promotion and outreach, and/or restoration projects. A cash or non-cash match is preferred but not required. Grants of up to \$1,000 may be awarded for operating expenses. Up to \$2,500 is available for promotion and outreach or restoration projects.

The grant application and proposal guidelines may be viewed at the [WPC Freshwater Conservation Program webpage](#).

Or please contact Western Pennsylvania Conservancy to have an application mailed to your organization or to ask questions regarding the application, contact: Western Pennsylvania Conservancy, c/o Michael Kurosky, 246 South Walnut Street, Blairsville, PA 15717, 724-459-0953 (ext. 102)

Fish and Boat Commission Invites Applications for Sportfishing/Aquatic Ed Grants

The Fish and Boat Commission is looking for fishing and aquatic education programs that could use some financial assistance and invites applications under its [Sportfishing and Aquatic Resource Education Program](#).

The deadline for applications is December 31.

Grantees can receive up to \$5,000 that can be applied to the purchase of equipment, materials and costs associated with field trips.

“[Re-engaging youth](#) in outdoor activities is critical to the future of sportfishing and building a more environmentally connected citizenry,” says PFBC Executive Director Doug Austen. “Research clearly shows that good, well-structured youth fishing programs lead to kids increasing their interest in fishing more, improving their skills, and helping them build a greater sense of aquatic stewardship and outdoor ethics. It’s not enough for us as an agency to talk about wanting more and better programs to involve Pennsylvania’s youth in fishing and aquatic education. Funding must be made available for programs and services benefiting youth and this grant program is a start.”

Training workshops to teach skills and best practices to youth leaders, purchase of equipment and materials for youth angling education programs, and the development of materials for youth club use and support for implementation of youth programs are other examples of activities that the Commission would like to see expanded.

Funding for such programs could be provided through enactment of [House Bill 1436](#) (Gergely-D-Allegheny).

The Commission spends about \$450,000 annually on such youth education efforts. Currently 45,000 children receive the [Pennsylvania League of Angling Youth](#) (PLAY) newsletter from the Commission four times a year; 5,000 Pennsylvania schoolteachers



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have been trained and use the PFBC's aquatic education curriculum; and more than 400 PFBC fishing skills instructors teach thousands of children in angling basics annually.

In addition, the Commission provides equipment and support for 49 [free tackle loaner sites](#) statewide.

Successful applicants will be notified by April 15 and funding will be awarded four to eight weeks after all agreements are finalized.

Applications, program rules and eligibility information visit the [Sportfishing and Aquatic Resource Education Program webpage](#) or call 717-705-7835.

Apply Now for Schoolyard Wetland Habitat Grants

[Environmental Concern](#), a non-profit wetlands education and restoration organization, is now accepting applications for grants of up to \$2,000 for [schoolyard wetland habitat construction and training](#) under the WOW! The Wonders of Wetlands & POW! Program.

Applications will be accepted on a rolling basis.

The sites can be schools or education centers, but must be in Pennsylvania and within the Chesapeake Bay Watershed. Through these grants EC can help with every step of the planning and installation process.

In order to be considered as a candidate, EC needs to make sure that the entire school is on board with the project. There must be a project leader that will be the main contact person as well as a support team including as many others as possible.

EC will need a letter of support signed by the principal and maintenance staff of the school. The school needs to be willing to host a full-day WOW! The Wonders of Wetlands and/or POW! The Planning of Wetlands workshop for their staff and others in the community (including staff, students, parents and teachers).

The current project cycle is to be completed by June 30, 2008.

The funding would cover the design, construction and planting of the wetland. Separate grant monies cover the educator trainings, consultation fees and travel costs. There are slots available for this school year, and more next year.

For more information, contact Sarah Toman for an application form by sending email to: pow@wetland.org or call 410-745-9620.

Wildlands Conservancy Dinner Celebrates PA's River of the Year – The Lehigh

Wildlands Conservancy invites you to celebrate the Lehigh River being proclaimed by the Department of Conservation and Natural Resources as the "2007 River of the Year" and other preservation pursuits at the [26th Annual Dinner Auction](#) to be held on November 16.

Every year, more than 250 Wildlands Conservancy supporters attend this event to share in fellowship and to show support for the work the Conservancy is doing throughout the Lehigh Valley and Lehigh River Valley.



To date, as the driving force behind scores of collaborative public and private land

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preservation and water conservation initiatives, Wildlands has sheltered over 45,000 acres preserved for public and agricultural use and improved the quality of the river system throughout eastern Pennsylvania.

Wildlands Conservancy's annual dinner auction has grown into the premiere fundraising event, with more than \$50,000 in net proceeds going toward land, rivers, parks, preserves, trails, and environmental education programs serving the Lehigh Valley and Lehigh River watershed.

From 6 p.m. to 7 p.m., guests may enjoy a cocktail hour and butlered hors d'oeuvres while viewing the array of items, and gift baskets on the silent auction tables. Featured themes of the silent auction are "The Great Outdoors," "Happy Holidays," and "The Shoppes on the Terrace."

Jack Cooney will serve as master of ceremonies for the evening and Frank DiBussolo will be providing live entertainment during the reception.

Wildlands Conservancy's president, Christopher Kocher, will be presenting the Charles H. Nehf, Sr. Conservation Leadership Award to Gloria Pool and the late Leonard Parker Pool. A representative from the Department of Conservation and Natural Resources, will read the proclamation that officially claims the Lehigh River "2007 River of the Year."

As of October 31, sponsors of this year's 26th Annual Dinner Auction are: Gross, McGinley, LaBarre & Eaton, LLP; East Penn Bank; The Gehring Corporation; Campbell, Rappold & Yurasits, LLP; Advanced Innovative Marketing; Valley Preferred; UGI Utilities; Farr Healey Consulting; Sparhawk Corporation; Susan Williams & Associates; Ott Consulting, Inc.; Dorney Park and Wildwater Kingdom; and Armetta's.

To make dinner reservations or volunteer at the event, please call 610-965-4397 ext. 16, or visit the [Wildlands Conservancy website](#).

Delaware Estuary Partnership Names Jennifer Adkins New Director

After serving as interim executive director for almost four months, Jennifer Adkins has been appointed to the position of executive director of the [Partnership for the Delaware Estuary](#).

"After a nationwide search that yielded many applicants from a wide variety of business sectors, the search committee and the entire Partnership board feel extremely confident we selected the most qualified candidate to lead this organization in its advocacy of the Delaware Estuary," said Robert Goldman of Duffield Associates and chairman of the Partnership's board.

Adkins began her tenure with the nonprofit organization in 2005 when she began managing a \$1.15 million grant from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency to fund a series of projects undertaken by the [Schuylkill Action Network](#), a coalition of more than 100 member-organizations that is currently working to improve water quality throughout the Schuylkill River watershed in Southeastern Pennsylvania.

"I'm thrilled to take the helm of this dynamic organization with such a bright future," said Adkins. "The many relationships I've built throughout the environmental community in this region should come in handy during our efforts to bridge many



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jurisdictions throughout three states to increase awareness, understanding, and scientific knowledge about the Delaware Estuary.”

In addition to working as a self-employed contractor and consultant for a number of nonprofit organizations, Adkins has held positions with The Nature Conservancy of Delaware, the Land Trust Alliance, and the Brandywine Conservancy during her 15-year career in conservation.

Adkins is a graduate of the University of Delaware and holds a master of public administration degree, specializing in environmental and energy management, as well as a bachelor of science degree in economics. Today she resides in the City of Wilmington near the Partnership’s Riverwalk headquarters.

For more information, visit the [Partnership for the Delaware Estuary website](#) or call 800-445-4935.

PA Land Trust Assn. Conservation Leadership Award Nominations Due December 7

The Pennsylvania Land Trust Association is soliciting nominations to honor individuals for decades of leadership and dedication in conserving our special places and landscapes with its annual Conservation Leadership Award.

The deadline for nominations is December 7.

To nominate an individual, please visit the [Conservation Award webpage](#).

Green Building Alliance Grant, New Directory to Promote Green Building Products

[Green Building Alliance](#) received a \$750,000 grant from the Ben Franklin Technology Development Authority for Year Two of its [Green Building Product Initiative](#) and its role with the Pennsylvania Green Growth Partnership.

The Green Building Products Initiative is a program that engages, educates, and energizes manufacturers, product representatives, and service providers in western Pennsylvania to increase their share of the green building marketing.

This week the GBA also announced an online version of a [Pennsylvania Green Building Product Directory](#). Listings in the Directory are free.

"This grant from the Ben Franklin Technology Development Authority is rewarding for two reasons: first, it recognizes the progress made during the inaugural year of the Green Building Products Initiative; and second, it allows GBA to continue with a program that positions Pennsylvania and Pittsburgh as a leader in the green building market," Rebecca Flora, Executive Director, Green Building Alliance.

“The green market represents a significant economic stimulus for Pennsylvania, which ranks 2nd in the country in the number of LEED certified buildings. Through the work of GBA's Green Building Products Initiative and the Pennsylvania Green Growth Partnership, substantial progress is being made as the commonwealth moves towards improved conservation and energy independence measures. It is because of this pro-active effort in a growing industry that we are making this second year allocation," said Dennis Yablonsky, Secretary of the Department of Community and Economic Development and chair of the BFTDA board.

During the past year dozens of Pennsylvania based product manufacturers have begun to work with the Green Building Alliance to explore and develop green building

products. Their motivations for joining in these efforts vary but one of the highlights is that the green building product market is expected to be a \$30-\$40 billion market by 2010.

The Green Building Alliance is providing consultation and education services, a building product directory, and funding support for the development of new products. The GBA is actively recruiting additional product manufacturers and architectural services providers to be involved in the initiative.

For more information, visit the Green Building Alliance [Green Building Product Initiative webpage](#).

NewsClip: [Sustainability Week Highlighted By Green Building Two New Local Housing Developments Anticipate Greener Times](#)

Links: [Build Green Schools – U.S. Green Building Council](#)
[The Green Home Guide – U.S. Green Building Council](#)

Mount Carmel Saves Money, Electric With New LED Traffic Lights

The Borough of Mount Carmel will save over \$1,300 a year in electric costs by installing LED (light emitting diode) traffic lights in just five intersections.

The Borough partnered with the [Sustainable Energy Fund of Central Eastern Pennsylvania](#) and Econ Opportunities, Inc. of Reading on the project.

The energy savings and maintenance cost savings generated over five years will enable the municipality to pay for the cost of installation, save energy and money and required no out-of-pocket costs.

According to Jennifer Hopkins, President of the SEF, “This project is a natural fit with Fund’s mission of promoting renewable, clean energy technologies, and energy conservation. Projects like these illustrate how municipalities throughout the Commonwealth and the country can make a huge difference in reducing energy consumption and costs, one LED at a time. The SEF is delighted to contribute to the growth of these technologies through investment in innovation.”

Joseph Bass, Mount Carmel Borough Manager said, “This project was ideal because the Borough is constantly evaluating ways to provide better service to residents while being fiscally conservative. We are pleased that the SEF and ECON provided the technical expertise and financial assistance needed to complete the project. We are projecting to reduce energy consumption by 11,400 kilowatt hours per year”. Bass added that the “greening of a municipality can prove to be both financially and environmentally rewarding”.

The Sustainable Energy Fund is a COSTARS approved vendor for the state of Pennsylvania, which means that Pennsylvania municipalities can deal directly with the SEF as approved by the Department of General Services.

COSTARS is the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania’s cooperative purchasing program designed to assist local governments and other non-profit agencies to reduce their cost of doing business.

Unlike traditional light bulbs, LED’s use semiconductors (computer chips) to convert electrical energy into light. Installation of LED’s can provide up to 90 percent savings on lighting electricity bills, increase signal life up to 10 times over incandescent bulbs, and reduce harmful greenhouse gas emissions.

The SEF has partnered with other municipalities in the LED retrofitting program including: Pottsville, City of Allentown, Bloomsburg, Hamburg, Minersville, Northampton Borough, St. Clair, Borough of Clarion, Danville, and Shenandoah.

For more information, visit the [Sustainable Energy Fund website](#).

PPL to Give Away 120,000 Compact Fluorescent Light Bulbs

PPL is giving away two [free energy efficient fluorescent light bulbs](#) to the first 60,000 customers visiting their Energy Analyzer webpage designed to help homeowners save energy.

According to government estimates, these EnergyStar qualified bulbs use about 75 percent less energy than standard bulbs, and last up to 10 times longer. Homeowners could save up to \$100 in electricity costs over the life of the two bulbs. The 13-watt bulbs generate the same amount of light as standard 60-watt bulbs.

This free light bulb offering is one part of PPL's e-power program to promote efficiency and help you find ways to save energy.

For more information, visit the [PPL Energy Analyzer webpage](#).



Energy Theft Kills, Costs Innocent Pennsylvanians Millions

[Energy theft](#) is one of Pennsylvania's most dangerous and costly crimes. It occurs when home and business owners tamper with meters, or use other means to steal electricity and natural gas.

It can kill innocent people, and it costs honest energy service customers millions of dollars annually.

Energy industry leaders are urgently seeking changes to strengthen current Pennsylvania law, Title 18 Chapter 39 "Theft and Related Offenses," with specific utility references, restitution, and penalties to address this growing safety issue.

"Pennsylvania's energy utilities want the legislature to address this threat to the safety of fire and police personnel," says J. Michael Love, President and CEO, Energy Association of Pennsylvania. "We need our legislators to strengthen the laws to protect innocent Pennsylvanians from the potential dangers and high costs of energy theft."

Electrocution, natural gas explosions and fires have all resulted from the dangerous conditions created by energy theft. Theft of utility service has increased as costs have risen and in addition there are energy contractors who will tamper with meters and advertise these illegal services on the internet.

"Meter tampering, bypassing, and other means used to steal energy service place those committing the theft, their families, emergency service personnel, and innocent bystanders in grave danger," explains Love. "The majority of Pennsylvanians are not aware of the dangers, but the electric current sent to an average household can injure a person, and if altered, the gas running to a house can be the source of carbon monoxide poisoning."

The FBI and International Utilities Revenue Protection Association estimate that losses due to energy theft are at 6 billion dollars in the United States.

The costs of energy theft are borne by paying customers who not only pay for every kilowatt hour of electricity and every cubic foot of gas stolen, but also cover the costs for

investigation and prosecution of offenders, as well as the replacement of meters and reconections.

For additional information, go to: [EAPA Website - Energy Theft](#).

Governor Asks U.S. DOE to Reconsider Electric Transmission Corridor Decision

Gov. Rendell this week asked the U.S. Department of Energy to reconsider its decision to designate a vast swath of the northeast — including 52 counties in Pennsylvania — as part of the National Interest Electric Transmission Corridor.

The Governor said the broad designation exceeds what lawmakers had originally intended, and the department exceeded its authority by ignoring the Federal Powers Act while failing to consider alternatives.

"This overly broad designation does a tremendous disservice to many Pennsylvania residents," said Gov. Rendell. "The federal government erred in making this designation, and we're asking that it reconsider its decision and take into full account our arguments and the public's opposition."

The application for a rehearing, which was filed by the Department of Environmental Protection at the Governor's direction, specifically asks for a rehearing of the Department of Energy's October 5 order designating the Mid-Atlantic Area National Corridor.

The state cited the following reasons for its request:

- The Federal Powers Act requires that any corridor be narrowly drawn and limited only to those areas that are experiencing electric energy transmission constraints or congestion. In many parts of the 52 Pennsylvania counties affected, that is not the case. The Department of Energy, or DOE, failed to consider any alternatives prior to designating the corridor;
- DOE never prepared an environmental impact statement prior to making its decision as required in the National Environmental Policy Act;
- The federal government neglected to consult with the commonwealth in a timely fashion while studying transmission congestion, and failed to consider the state's comments; and
- The DOE abused its discretion in choosing to designate the corridor.

Gov. Rendell previously had filed comments in opposition to the plan on July 6. That filing granted Pennsylvania "party status" in the case, allowing today's application.

"This designation and action by the federal government is a blatant abuse of states' rights," said Gov. Rendell. "There is no evidence to suggest that Pennsylvania's Public Utility Commission has ever obstructed a siting process or refused a proposed transmission project, so is unnecessary that such a large area of the state — and the citizens who live in those areas — be put in a position to accept transmission lines through their back yards.

"These transmission lines will be on our land and depreciate our property values, but they may not offer any benefit to Pennsylvania consumers," the Governor said.

"Furthermore, they will be delivering dirtier, fossil-fuel-derived power from states to the south and west of Pennsylvania at a time when we're trying to protect the environment and meet our energy needs through clean and renewable technologies. This is simply unacceptable."

To view the electric transmission corridors, visit the [Mid-Atlantic Area National Corridor webpage](#).

Erie Insurance Issues Warning on Deer-Vehicle Collisions

[Erie Insurance](#) this week issued a warning that November 3 to 14 is most dangerous time for deer-vehicle collisions.

Based upon claims information collected and analyzed by Erie Insurance since 1999, about one in every 100 drivers is likely to have a collision with a deer -- and the first two weeks in November have more claims than any other two-week period during the year. In fact, in 2006 seven of the top 10 deer claims took place between November 3 and 14.

For the past seven years Erie Insurance has launched an aggressive awareness and education campaign among our policyholders and the general public, offering a variety of recommendation on how to avoid collisions with deer.

By being aware of the risks and following precautionary measures, drivers can reduce their likelihood of colliding with a deer.

Know the facts:

- Deer aren't just found on rural roads near wooded areas; many deer crashes occur on busy highways near cities;
- Highest-risk periods are from sunset to midnight and the hours shortly before and after sunrise; and
- Deer are unpredictable and often dart into traffic.

Be cautious:

- Stay awake, alert and sober, and always wear your seatbelt;
- Drive at a safe, sensible speed for conditions;
- Increase the distance between yourself and the vehicle in front of you, especially in wooded areas;
- Be extra alert in areas where deer commonly cross roads and where roads divide fields from forests; and
- When driving at night, use high-beam headlights -- which illuminate deer eyes -- when there is no opposing traffic.

When deer are near, be careful:

- Slow down and blow your horn to urge the deer to leave the road -- never rely on devices such as deer whistles, deer fences, and reflectors to deter deer;
- Keep an eye out for other deer, as they frequently travel single-file in groups;
- If the deer stays on the road, stop, put on your hazard lights and wait for the deer to leave the roadway; and
- Never try to drive around a deer while it's on the road or swerve your vehicle to avoid striking a deer.

"Always keep your eyes on the road, doing a visual sweep for deer," advises Darrin Birtciel, Erie Insurance rate analyst. "If you're going 60 mph, you can cover a lot of ground in just a few seconds -- 30 yards per second or the length of a football field in the time it takes to change a CD or reach for your travel mug."

If you do collide with a deer, keep your distance to avoid injuries. If the deer is blocking the roadway, contact the Game Commission or a local law enforcement agency.



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For more information, visit [Erie Insurance Deer-Vehicle Collision webpage](#).

Link: [PA Again Leads U.S. in Deer-Car Collisions, Over 98,000](#)

EPA Offering Graduate, Undergraduate Environmental Research Grants

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency is now accepting applications for its [Greater Research Opportunities Student Grants](#). The deadline is December 14.

Greater Research Opportunities students receive support for their last two years of undergraduate study and an internship at an EPA facility during the summer between their junior and senior years. Most GRO recipients have gone on to work in the environmental field, and a number now work for EPA.

For more information and application guidelines, visit [Greater Research Opportunities Student Grants webpage](#).

Hard to Recycle Collection Event Set in Robinson for November 17

The [Pennsylvania Resources Council](#), the [Mall at Robinson](#), [Appliance Warehouse](#), [Reclamere](#) and [Abitibi Consolidated](#) are sponsoring a collection event for hard to recycle items on November 17 from 10-2 p.m.

Drop off appliances, electronics, cell phones, ink cartridges, paper products and cardboard to be recycled. There is no charge for recycling these items, except for electronics, which for which a nominal \$5 per item fee will be charged.

For more information 412-431-4449 ext. 236.

U.S. Composting Council Invites Entries for Composting Poster Contest

The International Compost Awareness Week Committee is inviting entries into the [Compost Awareness Week Poster Contest](#) with the theme, “The Possibilities Are Endless...Compost!”

Entries are due December 14.

The competition is open to everyone and anyone who wants to help the U.S. Composting Council celebrate composting and promote the benefits of composting and compost for effective resource management, soil health and plant growth.

Municipal, facility, or state agency representatives can join in the fun, as well as students (middle school, high school, college), homeowners, commercial composters, green industry businesses and youth groups.

The winning poster artist will have his/her name posted on the USCC website and will be included on all print material and featured in any press coverage that the USCC releases in association with our 13th Annual International Compost Awareness Week.

Visit the [Compost Awareness Week Poster Contest webpage](#) for more information.

PA Historical and Museum Commission Grant Applications Due December 3

Non-profit organizations and local governments have until December 3 to apply for [history and museum project grants](#) from the Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission.

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Projects eligible to be funded by the grants include historic preservation, organization development, collections management and local and public history, among other areas.

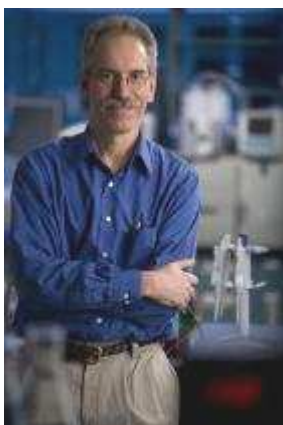
"The grants can help organizations learn how to maintain records and collections and support them in exhibit planning and more." PHMC Executive Director Barbara Franco said. "I urge eligible organizations to apply for this funding to support their programs."

The competitive grants range from \$5,001 to \$15,000 and are made annually, based on a peer review process. For 2007, the commission awarded more than \$675,000 to more than 70 non-profit organizations and local governments throughout the Commonwealth.

Project grant applications must be submitted via eGrant. Assistance in preparing grant applications is available at 717-787-4363.

For more information, visit the [PHMC Grants webpage](#).

Thomas Richard to Head Penn State Institutes of Energy and the Environment



Thomas L. Richard, associate professor of agricultural and biological engineering and director of the Biomass Energy Center, will become the new director of the [Penn State Institutes of Energy and the Environment](#), effective January 1.

Penn State Institutes of Energy and the Environment aims to expand the University's capacity to pursue the newest frontiers in energy and environmental research by encouraging cooperation across academic disciplines and the participation of local, state, federal, and international stakeholders. PSIEE brings together eight Penn State academic colleges and several University research institutes and centers.

Richard received his master of science in agricultural engineering and doctoral degree in biological engineering from Cornell University in 1987 and 1997 respectively, and his bachelor of science in political economy of natural resources from UC-Berkeley in 1978. He was appointed as an assistant professor of agricultural and biosystems engineering at Iowa State University in 1997 and was promoted to associate professor in 2003, also serving as chair of the graduate program in sustainable agriculture.

In 2004 he came to Penn State as an associate professor in the Department of Agricultural and Biological Engineering, and in 2006 became director of the Biomass Energy Center, a university-wide center fostering interdisciplinary and stakeholder collaborations on production, processing and utilization of sustainable bioenergy systems.

Richard's research interests lie in the application of bioprocess engineering to agricultural and environmental problems, including microbial conversion of biomass, agricultural byproducts and manures for nutrient, energy, and organic matter recovery and value-added manufacturing; design and analysis of composting processes; and nutrient, carbon, and energy flows in agricultural ecosystems.

His research has received support from multiple sources including National Science Foundation, U.S. Department of Agriculture and the U.S. Department of Energy.

Help Wanted: McKeever Environmental Learning Center

Slippery Rock University is seeking applicants for a full-time, [environmental educator](#) at the [McKeever Environmental Learning Center](#) (a State University Administrator I position), located in Sandy Lake, Pa, approximately 70 miles north of Pittsburgh. Starting salary \$34,093 plus competitive benefits package.

Send letter of interest, resume, transcripts (official transcripts required before hiring) and the names, addresses and phone numbers of three professional references to: Environmental Educator Search Committee, McKeever Center, 55 McKeever Lane, Sandy Lake, PA 16145.

Candidate Sought for Game Commission Board in District 6

The Governor's Advisory Council for Hunting, Fishing and Conservation is seeking a qualified candidate to represent the District 6 on the Game Commission's board of directors.

Applications will be accepted until December 3.

The district includes Adams, Cumberland, Dauphin, Franklin, Juniata, Lancaster, Lebanon, Mifflin, Perry, Snyder and York counties.

"Gov. Rendell is looking for an individual who knows about wildlife conservation and restoration and who is adept at listening to the needs and concerns of the hunting, trapping and conservation community," said Ed Grasavage, chairman of the council's game and wildlife subcommittee. "To quickly fill this vacancy with the best qualified individual, we're reaching out to sportsmen and women throughout the region."

Stephen L. Mohr of Bainbridge, Lancaster County, last represented District 6 but his term has expired.

Commissioners serve eight-year terms without compensation. They receive travel reimbursement and are not eligible for reappointment.

Candidates will first interview with the game and wildlife subcommittee of the advisory council and will be rated not only on responses, but also on professional and volunteer experience with wildlife conservation, youth recruitment and hunter retention, land conservation and other similar activities.

Gov. Rendell will select the final candidate. His nominee must be confirmed by the Senate.

Individuals interested in applying should send a résumé and detailed cover letter to Robb Miller, Governor's Advisory Council for Hunting, Fishing and Conservation, Rachel Carson State Office Building, 400 Market St., 7th Floor, P.O. Box 8767, Harrisburg, Pa., 17106-8767.

Transition: Friends Mourn Passing of Mazie Mohney

Former Executive Deputy Secretary for the Department of Mines and Mineral Industries [Mazie Mohney](#) passed away on October 28 at her Camp Hill home.

Mohney, 85, was the first women in the nation to hold an executive deputy position at a governmental agency.

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After her retirement she was a special consultant for the Director of U.S. Bureau of Mines in Washington, D.C., the Anthracite Industry, and two engineering firms in the Harrisburg area.

She was a recipient of the Touchstone Award issued by the Pennsylvania Society of Women Environmental Professionals, and served as a member of Citizens Advisory Council to the Department of Environmental Resources.

In 1968 she was the first woman to give the principal address at the Annual Meeting of the Coal Mining Institute of America in Pittsburgh.

She is survived by her husband Franklin H. Mohney of Camp Hill, a son and three grandchildren.

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—

- **November 27** – PennVEST [Infrastructure Loans/Grants for January 22 Meeting](#).
- **November 30** – **NEW**. USDA [Environmental Quality Incentive Program Grants](#)
- **November 30** – DEP [New or Innovative Water/Wastewater Grants](#).
- **November 30** – [U.S. Composting Council Composting Awards](#).
- **December 3** – **NEW**. [PA Historical and Museum Commission Grants](#)
- **December 7** – [2008 Philadelphia Sustainability Awards](#)
- **December 7** – **NEW**. PA Land Trust Assn. [Conservation Leadership Award](#)
- **December 13** – **NEW**. [Western PA Conservancy, Dominion Watershed Grants](#)
- **December 14** – [Coldwater Heritage Partnership Grants](#).
- **December 14** – [PA Parks/Forests Foundation 2008 Awards](#)
- **December 14** – **NEW**. U.S. EPA [Greater Research Student Opportunities Grants](#)
- **December 15** – **NEW**. DEP [Growing Greener Innovative Technology Grants](#)
- **December 15** – DEP [Environmental Education Grants](#).
- **December 31** – **NEW**. Fish & Boat Commission [Sportfishing/Aquatic Ed Grants](#)
- **January 1** – **NEW**. Environ. Concerns [Schoolyard Wetland Habitat 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** – [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

[Shikellamy Students Clean County Road](#)

[Council Considers Turning Chicken Waste Into Fuel](#)
[Penn State Gains Rankings for Improving Sustainability](#)
[Eaton Green Building Expansion to Create 30 Jobs](#)
[Sustainability Week Highlighted By Green Building](#)
[Two New Local Housing Developments Anticipate Greener Times](#)
[Majestic Star Casino Pressured to Go Green](#)
[Lackawanna County Touts Energy Initiative – Ground Source Heating](#)
[Inspecting Home Heating Oil Tanks Can Save Money, Energy](#)
[PPL Proposes Phasing in Expected 2010 Rate Increases](#)
[Beetles to Be Used for Biofuels](#)
[Coal-To-Oil Project Takes Big Step](#)
[Chester County Dentist Saves Money, Energy](#)
[Op-Ed: Let’s Have a Prescription to Reduce Global Warming](#)
[Dozens of Deer Accidents Reported in Pittsburgh Area](#)
[Lake Managers Want to Study Invasive Species](#)
[Invasive Plant Species Threaten Upper Delaware](#)
[E. Pikeland EAC Looks to the Future](#)
[Fulton County Adopts Greenways Resolution](#)
[Luzerne, Lackawanna Counties Launch Joint Planning Initiative](#)
[Proposals Abound for How to Fund Hazardous Site Cleanups](#)
[Op-Ed: Funding for HSCA Still a Priority](#)
[Editorial: Lawmakers Step Up With Short-Term Funding for Pollution Cleanup](#)

Watershed NewsClips

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

[Indiana County Honors Senior Volunteer](#)
[To Ease Bushkill’s Troubles, Volunteers Grab Their Shovels](#)
[Iron-Clad Improvement on the Lehigh](#)
[Wetland Complex Working on Lausanne Tunnel](#)
[Pilot Project Encourage Private Firms to Treat Mine Acid](#)
[Trout Take to Newly Cleaned Sewickley Creek](#)
[Project to Examine Toxic Levels in Fish From Allegheny](#)
[High Levels of Toxin Found in Fish in Allegheny River](#)
[State Bill Will Aid Flood Victims](#)
[Senate Farm Bill Provides Increased Conservation Funding for Bay States](#)
[Op-Ed: Why Pass Federal Water Resources Development Act?](#)
[Climate Change Already Affecting Chesapeake Bay, Experts Say](#)
[Editorial: Work Needed on Floods...](#)
[Editorial: ...And to Plan Against Droughts](#)

Regulations

The Public Utility Commission [proposed a regulation](#) for comment requiring electric distribution companies and active electric generation suppliers to file electricity choice activity reports.

[Pennsylvania Bulletin – November 3, 2007](#)

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

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

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

Technical Guidance & Permits

No new guidance documents published this week.

[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](#)

- **November 6** – **Election Day**. (Capitol is Closed)
- **November 7** – **NEW**. House Local Government Committee hearing on [House Bill 397](#) (Petri-R-Bucks) providing for development impact fees. Middletown Township Building, Langhorne. 10:00.
- **November 8** – **NEW**. House Consumer Affairs Committee hearing on [Special Session House Bill 18](#) (Kessler-D-Berks) providing for clean air taxicabs in Philadelphia. Embassy Suites, 1776 Franklin Pky., Philadelphia. 1:00.
- **November 8** – **NEW**. Public Utility Commission briefing by natural gas suppliers on reliability of supply this winter. Room 5 Keystone Building. 1:30.
- **November 8-9** – **NEW**. [Chesapeake Bay Commission](#) meeting (*agenda*). Sayre, Pa.
- **November 9** – **NEW**. House Consumer Affairs Committee hearing on Natural Gas Distribution and Philadelphia Gas Works Takeover. Embassy Suites, 1776 Franklin Pky., Philadelphia. 1:30.
- **November 14** – **NEW**. House Intergovernmental Affairs Committee meets to consider [House Resolution 300](#) (Bennington-D-Allegheny) urging Congress to ban the use of organic or inorganic arsenic and arsenic derivatives in poultry feed. Room 302. 8:30.

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- **November 14** – **CANCELLED**. DEP [Water Resources Advisory Committee](#) meeting. Next scheduled meeting January 9.
- **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.
- **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** – 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 20** – **CANCELLED**. Environmental Quality Board. Room 105 Rachel Carson Building. 9:00.
- **November 29** – [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** – 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](#)

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