

# **—PA —** **Environment Digest**

*An Update on  
Environmental  
Issues in  
Pennsylvania*

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**Edited By David E. Hess, Crisci Associates**

**December 3, 2007**

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[\*PA Environment Digest Video Blog\*](#)

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## **Senate Moves Alternative Energy Investment, 8 Other Energy Bills**

[Special Session Senate Bill 1](#) (MJ.White-R-Venango), the Alternative Energy Investment Act, and eight other Special Session energy bills were considered this week setting the stage for final Senate action on key bills by the end of the year.

The Senate Appropriations Committee amended Special Session Senate Bill 1 and unanimously reported the bill to the full Senate. The amendment increased the original investment in alternative energy, energy efficiency and low-income energy assistance programs to \$650 million over ten years.

The Commonwealth Financing Agency would receive \$25 million a year for 25 years to fund these kinds of projects: \$210 million for loans to businesses and loans or grants to political subdivisions for clean energy projects; \$15 million to the Ben Franklin Technology Development Authority to invest in developing new energy technologies; and \$25 million for upgrading pollution controls on small coal-fired power plants.

\$100 million would be earmarked for the Low-Income Heating Assistance Program and another \$100 million for residential energy conservation projects.

A \$200 million tax credit program would support alternative energy production projects using waste coal, biofuels, biomass, solar power, wind energy, geothermal technologies, clean coal technologies or to distribute renewable energy.

The amended deleted a provision that would provide Sales Tax exclusions for certain energy efficient appliances.

Senate Majority Leader Dominic Pileggi (R-Delaware) said his objective is to work on further improvements to the bill and see a final Senate vote next week on the measure.

The Senate Special Session Committee on Energy Policies this week reported out eight bills addressing a variety of energy issues. They included:

- [Special Session Senate Bill 4](#) (Browne-R-Lehigh) establishing alternative energy research and development tax credits;
- [Special Session Senate Bill 6](#) (Erickson-R-Delaware) establishing a solar installation tax credit;
- [Special Session Senate Bill 8](#) (Wozniak-D-Cambria) excluding insulation and other energy conservation materials from Sales Tax;
- [Special Session Senate Bill 22](#) (Tomlinson-R-Bucks) increasing the reimbursement for alternative vehicle fuels from five to ten cents per gallon was amended by the Committee;
- [Special Session Senate Bill 25](#) (Waugh-R-York) adding “sugars, lignins” to the Alternative Energy Portfolio Standards;

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- [Special Session Senate Bill 26](#) (Wonderling-R-Montgomery) requiring state-owned vehicles to be fueled with biofuels;
- [Special Session Senate Bill 31](#) (D.White-R-Indiana) adding a more specific definition of low-impact hydropower was amended by the Committee; and
- [Special Session Senate Bill 36](#) (MJ.White-R-Venango) Biodiesel Study and Production Incentive Act which will trigger mandates for the use of biodiesel based on biodiesel fuel production capacity for production sold to distributors in Pennsylvania was amended by the Committee.

"We're committed to making this a productive special session, and moving these bills forward will allow for broad review, discussion and debate in the full Senate," said Sen. Mary Jo White (R-Venango), chair of the Committee.

The [Energy Policies Committee](#) is chaired by Sen. Mary Jo White and Sen. Ray Musto (D-Luzerne).

**NewsClips:** [Senate Bill Boosts Alternative Energy](#)  
[Wonderling's Biodiesel Bill Passes Senate Committee](#)  
[Musto- Some Form of Energy Independence Plan Will Pass](#)

**Link:** [Critical Role of Conservation Districts in Energy Independence](#)

### PA Christmas Tree Growers Contribute "Trees for Troops"

Military families may have a happier holiday thanks to thousands of evergreen donations from [Pennsylvania Christmas Tree Growers](#) and the Department of Agriculture.

Agriculture Secretary Dennis Wolff this week joined the Pennsylvania Army National Guard 1067 Transportation Company of Lehigh, as well as FedEx volunteers and local Christmas tree growers in Carbon County to collect evergreens at Yenser's Tree Farm as part of a national effort to provide military families with real Christmas trees.

"Pennsylvania Christmas trees are some of the finest in the nation," said Secretary Wolff. "I thank our local growers for providing cheer to military families who may be away from their loved ones during Christmas. These trees will allow them to enjoy the fresh scent and holiday spirit that comes with the season."

[More than 30 Pennsylvania tree farms](#) will participate in this year's "Trees for Troops" program, sponsored by the Christmas SPIRIT Foundation and FedEx. Fleming's Christmas Tree Farms, Indiana County, joined Yenser's Tree Farm as a drop-off location.

More than 15,000 trees will be delivered to troops stationed in the United States and abroad. Trees from Pennsylvania will be delivered to Fort Campbell, Ky., and Fort Bliss, Texas.

Pennsylvania is home to over 2,000 Christmas tree farms that produce 1.7 million cut trees and contribute \$13.9 million to the state's economy annually.

**Video Blog:** [Watch the Placement of the Holiday in the Capitol Tree Online](#)

### Video Blog: Holiday Season Begins at the Capitol

The holiday season began at the Capitol this week with the placement of the holiday tree in the Capitol Rotunda.

Pennsylvania ranks first in the nation in the number of Christmas tree farms and ranks fourth in the nation in the number



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of Christmas trees cut each year and the acres of production. Pennsylvania has over 2,000 farms covering 44,905 acres that produce 1.7 million cut trees each year. These farms have more than \$13.9 million in sales annually.

The [Pennsylvania Christmas Tree Growers' Association](#) donated the 21-foot tall Douglas Fir. The tree will again this year be decorated with 7,000 white mini lights and includes nearly 500 ornaments supplied by 64 senior centers across Pennsylvania.

**Video Blog:** [Watch the Placement of the Holiday in the Capitol Tree Online](#)

**NewsClips:** [Greener Christmas Tree Lights Will Cost More Green](#)  
[Kitchen Waste Helps Light Up Holidays at Hershey](#)  
[PECO Official: LED Lights Are Wave of the Future](#)

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### Session Schedule

The Senate and House will return to voting session December 3. The House has 9 voting

days left (although the last three are maybes). The Senate has 6 days left in the year.

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### [PA Environment Digest Video Blog](#)

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- Environmentally Advanced Roofing System Tops Rohm and Haas Headquarters
- DEP Presents Grant for Green Building in Union County
- Southwest PA Air Quality Partnership to Meet December 6
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### Feature

- 178 Bird Species Put on WatchList 2007 by Audubon, Including 7 in PA

### Spotlight

- Farm Credit Tax Credit Applications Available December 3, *By Agriculture Secretary Dennis Wolff*

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- Hazardous Sites Cleanup Program Demands Prompt Attention, *By Brian J. Hill, President, Pennsylvania Environmental Council*

## Grants & Awards

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

## On the Hill

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### On the Senate/House Agenda

The Senate and House have the following committee meetings scheduled next week and published Calendars for December 3—

### Calendars – December 3

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

**Senate (Regular Session):** [Senate Bill 1020](#) (Wonderling-R-Montgomery) updating the Conservation District Law.

**Senate (Special Session):** [Special Session Senate Bill 1](#) (MJ.White-R-Venango), the Alternative Energy Investment Act; [Special Session Senate Bill 4](#) (Browne-R-Lehigh) establishing alternative energy research and development tax credits; [Special Session Senate Bill 6](#) (Erickson-R-Delaware) establishing a solar installation tax credit; [Special Session Senate Bill 8](#) (Wozniak-D-Cambria) excluding insulation and other energy conservation materials from Sales Tax; [Special Session Senate Bill 22](#) (Tomlinson-R-Bucks) increasing the reimbursement for alternative vehicle fuels from five to ten cents per gallon; [Special Session Senate Bill 25](#) (Waugh-R-York) adding “sugars, lignins” to the Alternative Energy Portfolio Standards; [Special Session Senate Bill 26](#) (Wonderling-R-Montgomery) requiring state-owned vehicles to be fueled with biofuels; [Special Session Senate Bill 31](#) (D.White-R-Indiana) adding a more specific definition of low-impact hydropower and [Special Session Senate Bill 36](#) (MJ.White-R-Venango) Biodiesel Study and Production Incentive Act which will trigger mandates for the use of biodiesel based on biodiesel fuel production capacity for production sold to distributors in Pennsylvania.

## Committees

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**House:** the Environmental Resources and Energy Committee meets to consider [Special Session House Bill 15](#) (King-D-Bucks) setting minimum energy efficiency standards for appliances; and [Special Session House Bill 36](#) (George-D-Clearfield) establishing a State Energy Office; the Local Government Committee meets to consider [House Bill 904](#) (Freeman-D-Lehigh) authorizing local temporary development moratoriums; the House Republican Policy Committee has a public hearing on the Hazardous Sites Cleanup Fund.

**Senate:** the Environmental Resources and Energy Committee meets to consider [House Resolution 410](#) (DeWeese-D-Greene) that would designate December 19 “Coal Miner’s Day,” [Senate Bill 497](#) (Robbins-R-Mercer) making changes to landowner liability opening land to recreation and hunting and [Senate Bill 1050](#) (Baker-R-Luzerne) transferring \$3 million to a new Used Tire Pile Remediation Account from the Recycling Fund; the Local Government Committee meets to consider [House Bill 1329](#) (Kessler-D-Berks) further providing for challenges to the validity of zoning ordinances.

### Senate/House Bills Moving/Bills Introduced

The following bills and resolutions moved in the Senate this week--

#### Senate

**Alternative Energy Investment:** [Special Session Senate Bill 1](#) (MJ.White-R-Venango), the Alternative Energy Investment Act, was amended and reported from the Senate Appropriations Committee and is now on the Senate Special Session Calendar for action.

**Alternative Energy Tax Credit:** [Special Session Senate Bill 4](#) (Browne-R-Lehigh) establishing alternative energy research and development tax credits was reported from the Senate Environmental Resources and Energy Committee and is on the Senate Special Session Calendar for action.

**Solar Tax Credit:** [Special Session Senate Bill 6](#) (Erickson-R-Delaware) establishing a solar installation tax credit was reported from the Senate Environmental Resources and Energy Committee and is on the Senate Special Session Calendar for action.

**Sales Tax Exclusion:** [Special Session Senate Bill 8](#) (Wozniak-D-Cambria) excluding insulation and other energy conservation materials from Sales Tax was reported from the Senate Environmental Resources and Energy Committee and is on the Senate Special Session Calendar for action.

**AFIG Incentives:** [Special Session Senate Bill 22](#) (Tomlinson-R-Bucks) increasing the reimbursement for alternative vehicle fuels from five to ten cents per gallon was amended and reported from the Senate Environmental Resources and Energy Committee and is on the Senate Special Session Calendar for action.

**AEPS Changes:** [Special Session Senate Bill 25](#) (Waugh-R-York) adding “sugars, lignins” to the Alternative Energy Portfolio Standards was reported from the Senate Environmental Resources and Energy Committee and is on the Senate Special Session Calendar for action.

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**AEPS Changes:** [Special Session Senate Bill 31](#) (D.White-R-Indiana) adding a more specific definition of low-impact hydropower was amended and reported from the Senate Environmental Resources and Energy Committee and is on the Senate Special Session Calendar for action.

**State Vehicle Efficiency:** [Special Session Senate Bill 26](#) (Wonderling-R-Montgomery) requiring state-owned vehicles to be fueled with biofuels was reported from the Senate Environmental Resources and Energy Committee and is on the Senate Special Session Calendar for action.

**Biodiesel Mandate:** [Special Session Senate Bill 36](#) (MJ.White-R-Venango) Biodiesel Study and Production Incentive Act which will trigger mandates for the use of biodiesel based on biodiesel fuel production capacity for production sold to distributors in Pennsylvania was amended and reported from the Senate Environmental Resources and Energy Committee and is on the Senate Special Session Calendar for action.

**Conservation Districts:** [Senate Bill 1020](#) (Wonderling-R-Montgomery) updating the Conservation District Law was amended and reported from the Senate Agriculture and Rural Affairs Committee and is on the Senate Calendar for action.

### Bills Introduced

**Pharmaceutical Disposal:** [House Bill 2073](#) (O’Brien-R-Philadelphia) requiring retailers of pharmaceutical drugs to accept drugs for proper disposal.

### Energy Efficient Appliances, State Energy Office on House Committee Agenda

The House Environmental Resources and Energy Committee meets on December 4 to consider bills setting minimum energy efficiency standards for appliances and establishing a State Energy Office. The bills include:

- [Special Session House Bill 15](#) (King-D-Bucks) setting minimum energy efficiency standards for appliances; and
- [Special Session House Bill 36](#) (George-D-Clearfield) establishing a State Energy Office.

Rep. Bud George (D-Clearfield) serves as Majority Chair and Rep. Scott Hutchinson (R-Venango) serves as Minority Chair.

### Senate Committee Considers Landowner Liability, Tire Recycling, Miner Day Bills

The Senate Environmental Resources and Energy Committee has scheduled a meeting on December 4 to consider these bills—

- [House Resolution 410](#) (DeWeese-D-Greene) that would designate December 19 “Coal Miner’s Day;”
- [Senate Bill 497](#) (Robbins-R-Mercer) making changes to landowner liability opening land to recreation and hunting; and

- [Senate Bill 1050](#) (Baker-R-Luzerne) transferring \$3 million to a new Used Tire Pile Remediation Account from the Recycling Fund.  
Sen. Mary Jo White (R-Venango) serves as Majority Chair of the Committee and Sen. Ray Musto (D-Luzerne) serves as Minority Chair.

## Other News

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### Rendell Withdraws Insurance Dept. Gasoline Tax Increase for Tank Cleanups

Gov. Rendell this week withdrew a Department of Insurance regulation that would have almost doubled the per gallon fee on gasoline to support underground storage tank cleanups.

"While I appreciate the board's intent to ensure the solvency of the fund, given the cost of gas at the pump and the fact that there is no insolvency issue confronting the fund in the short term, I think the action was ill-advised," Gov. Rendell said. "As such, I have directed the Department of Insurance to withdraw the fee increase regulation."

The Department of Insurance representative on the Underground Storage Tank Indemnification Board formally proposed the increase of the fee from \$.011 to \$.02 per gallon, which would generate about \$45 million annually.

The final-omitted regulation containing the fee increase, which is not subject to public comment, was submitted to the Independent Regulatory Review Commission and was set to consider the regulation December 6.

"The Governor has taken the correct step by recalling the proposal to impose a 1-cent increase in Pennsylvania's gas tax to bolster the USTIF," said Sen. Don White (R-Indiana), Chair of the Senate Insurance Committee. "At a time when consumers are being hit hardest at the gas pump by ever-increasing prices, the last thing the Administration needs to do is to increase this burden by imposing any increase in Pennsylvania's gas tax."

"The severity of the fiscal crisis facing the USTIF fund is not completely clear, but in any event the potential deficit is something that could occur many years in the future. Even a study commissioned by the USTIF board states "... no change in fees is necessary as the projection shows USTIF having positive Cash and Invested Assets through the middle of the July 1, 2015-2016 fiscal year."

Milliman, the actuarial firm, reported to the Underground Storage Tank Indemnification Board on September 21 that, "On September 29, 2003, the Board established an objective of having positive Cash and Invested Assets for a projection period of at least five years. Based on this criterion, no change in fees is necessary as the project shows USTIF having positive Cash and Invested Assets through the middle of the July 1, 2015-2016 fiscal year."

**NewsClips:** [Rendell Kills Proposed Penny Per Gallon Gasoline Tax](#)  
[PA Fund May Squeeze Extra Cent Per Gallon](#)  
[Another Penny Per Gallon Could Trickle Down to Pumps in PA](#)

### Farming For Clean Water Report Recommends More Help for Farmers

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Fundamental changes are needed in both public policy and private practices in order to save the Chesapeake Bay by giving farmers more help in adopting conservation practices, according to a new report by the non-profit group Environmental Defense.

The report, [Farming for Clean Water](#), outlines a roadmap for Chesapeake Bay restoration efforts, which have been moving far too slowly in spite of widespread understanding that the Bay is in trouble.

The primary focus of the study is improving conservation efforts to reduce soil and nutrient runoff from farms, which offer one of the greatest opportunities to restore the health of the Bay. The report includes specific [recommendations for Pennsylvania](#).

“The Chesapeake Bay is in critical condition, but we can take steps to restore its health by cleaning it up faster and more cost-effectively than we are now,” said Suzy Friedman, a report co-author and agricultural projects manager for Environmental Defense. “Farms are the largest and the most indispensable part of the solution. We must help farmers, who already are taking steps to help the Bay, deliver even greater benefits.”

“We have a long way to go, but we can restore the Bay – if we fundamentally change how we fund, deliver, credit and verify agricultural conservation,” said Eileen McLellan, a report co-author and Chesapeake Bay project coordinator for Environmental Defense. “We need more money, but we also must do a better, more cost-effective job with the limited resources at our disposal.”

The report’s recommended objectives include:

- Targeting funds and attention to conservation practices that have proven most cost-effective in reducing farm runoff;
- Making traditional conservation practices -- such as nutrient management, conservation tillage, and cover crops -- more effective by shifting emphasis to performance and outcomes, and by finding ways to make practices pay for themselves;
- Increasing research and education on practices -- such as dairy feed management and alternative cropping systems -- that can help both the Bay and farmers’ bottom lines;
- Increasing technical assistance resources for farmers, and creating market-based financial rewards for farmers who produce clean water and other environmental benefits; and
- Improving our abilities to track conservation funding, verifying what practices are actually implemented, and determining the nutrient and sediment load reductions they generate.

“It is critical that we remain focused on delivering the agricultural piece of a clean Bay,” concluded Friedman. “We hope that the city, federal and state representatives of the Chesapeake Executive Council take advantage of their meeting next Wednesday to increase attention on the role farms can play in developing innovative and cost-effective initiatives.”

“Cleaning up the Chesapeake Bay is essential to the economy, heritage, and community fabric of the entire region,” said Ann Swanson, executive director of the [Chesapeake Bay Commission](#). “We need to find and promote those practices that are good for farmers.”

A copy of [Farming for Clean Water](#) is available online.

**NewsClip:** [Environmental Group Reports Ag Is Key to Bay Cleanup](#)

**Link:** [REAP Farm Conservation Tax Credit Applications Accepted Beginning Jan. 2](#)



## **National Wetlands Awards Program Nominations Due January 15**

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and other partners are now accepting nominations for the [2008 National Wetlands Awards](#). Nominations are due January 15.

The National Wetlands Awards Program celebrates individuals who have demonstrated extraordinary dedication, innovation or excellence in wetlands conservation. Their work covers programs or projects on the regional, state, and local levels.

National Wetlands Awards nominees and recipients educate their communities about the value of wetlands, lead programs to protect and restore wetlands, and demonstrate the value of cooperation among grassroots organizations, educational organizations, private landowners, and government agencies to enable the successful protection of wetland resources. National Wetlands Awardees show how individuals can and do make a difference.

Since 1989, the National Wetlands Awards Program has honored exceptional individuals who have demonstrated a commitment to wetland conservation, research, or education through programs or projects.

The awards program is co-sponsored by the Environmental Law Institute, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Army Corps of Engineers, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, USDA Forest Service, USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service, Federal Highway Administration, and NOAA Fisheries.

For more information about the program and a copy of the 2008 National Wetlands Awards nomination form, visit the [National Wetlands Awards website](#).

## **DCNR Approves Conservation Plan for Conodoguinet Creek Watershed**

The Department of Conservation and Natural Resources this week formally placed the Middle Conodoguinet Creek Watershed on the [Pennsylvania Rivers Conservation Registry](#).

DCNR approved the Rivers Conservation Plan for the watershed which covers over 162 square miles in Cumberland County ([official notice](#)).

## **Lower Perkiomen Valley Sewer Authority Recognized for Excellence**

The [Lower Perkiomen Valley Regional Sewer Authority](#) in Montgomery County received the Pretreatment Excellence Award from the [Eastern Pennsylvania Water Pollution Control Operators Association](#).

The award recognized the Authority as the owner and operator of the Oaks Wastewater Treatment Plant for achieving, for four years in a row, the best rating for pretreatment as measured by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Region 3.

Pretreatment processes are used to reduce, eliminate, or alter the nature of wastewater pollutants from non-domestic sources before they are discharged into publicly owned treatment works.

## **Conservation Districts Winter Meeting Set for January 16-18**

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The PA Association of Conservation Districts will hold their winter meeting on January 16-18 at the Ramada Inn and Conference Center, State College.

The meeting will feature a special panel discussion on finding additional funding for districts, a new conservation district director orientation and a briefing on the new Resource Enhancement and Program (REAP) farm conservation tax credit initiative.

A meeting program and registration information is available at the [PACD website](#).

### **\$500,000 in Grants Awarded in Municipal Flood Mitigation Projects**

The Department of Environmental Protection this week announced the award of nearly \$500,000 in grants to help local municipalities improve operations at 17 flood protection projects in 15 counties.

The Department of Environmental Protection oversees approximately 100 flood protection projects, ranging from simple culverts to engineered channels, detention and debris basins, and major levee systems. The department conducts yearly inspections, provides technical assistance, and manages the state's flood protection grant program.

Flood protection grants are awarded annually to municipal sponsors of existing flood protection projects. The grants provide up to 65 percent of the costs for project improvements and non-routine maintenance, and up to 50 percent of the cost for specialized equipment to maintain these projects in a state of readiness.

Sponsors become responsible for the long-term operation and routine maintenance of flood protection projects once construction of a federal or state-funded project is completed. Grants are awarded based on anticipated benefits to the project, such as extending project life, improving functionality or emergency response capabilities.

There are an estimated \$475 million needed in state and federal funding for potential flood protection projects across the Commonwealth, with another \$800 million needed to repair high hazard dams.

[A complete list of grants awarded is available online.](#)

For more information, visit DEP's [Flood Protection webpage](#).

### **PPL to Develop Renewable Energy Generating Facility at Shippensburg Landfill**

[PPL Renewable Energy](#) will develop and install a 6.4- megawatt methane-to-electricity power generation system at the Community Refuse Service Landfill in Shippensburg, Pa.

Community Refuse Service Landfill, an affiliate of Interstate Waste Services, will provide 3.2 million cubic feet of methane gas every day to power four Caterpillar generators at the 250-acre facility. The companies expect the project to be operational by December 31, 2008.

Methane-to-energy systems at landfills have a dual benefit for the environment -- they generate electricity from renewable fuel while also eliminating emissions of methane, a gas that contributes to global warming.

Methane is created when refuse in landfills decomposes.

"This renewable energy project will generate electricity in an environmentally friendly way," said Kurt Zwerko, vice president for PPL Renewable Energy. "When completed, this plant will prevent the equivalent of 39,000 tons of carbon dioxide emissions each year. That's equal to removing 53,000 cars from the road or planting 76,000 acres of new forest."

The power generated by the facility will be purchased by PPL EnergyPlus, which will market the generation output and renewable energy credits as part of a coordinated effort to increase development of renewable energy projects.

"Our company is committed to developing renewable energy projects that reduce methane gas emissions and have a positive impact on the environment," said Frank E. Celli, chief executive officer of Interstate Waste. "I am particularly excited about the inclusion of an educational facility at this site, which will help teach children about the benefits of renewable energy."

PPL Renewable Energy already has developed renewable energy projects that total more than 15 megawatts of generation -- enough to power 12,000 homes. These include solar panel installations and landfill gas projects in Pennsylvania and New Jersey.

In addition, PPL EnergyPlus purchases energy from the 24-megawatt Bear Creek wind farm near Wilkes-Barre, Pa., and the 26-megawatt Locust Ridge project in Mahanoy City, Pa. Other projects -- including new solar, landfill gas, wind and biomass -- are under development by PPL Renewable Energy.

PPL Renewable Energy develops, owns, operates and maintains renewable energy projects in the northeastern United States. The company will invest at least \$100 million in additional renewable energy projects in the next five years.

**NewsClip:** [PPL to Develop Renewable Energy Generating Facility at Landfill](#)

### **Environmentally Advanced Roofing System Tops Rohm and Haas Headquarters**

Practicing what they preach has prompted specialty materials company Rohm and Haas to update the 40,000 square foot roof of their global headquarters in Philadelphia with an energy saving [advanced polymer lastomeric roof coating](#).

"Elastomeric roof coatings are one of the main thrusts in our environmentally advanced portfolio," says Colin Gouveia, marketing director for Industrial and Construction, North America. "By helping to reduce the urban heat island effect by providing a cool, reflective surface, elastomeric coatings are a sustainable technology that demonstrates the way people need to think and act in regard to the environment. We are doing our part not only in providing these products to our customers, but also by applying them to our own buildings."

"This is critically important for a number of reasons," says Liz Robinson, executive director of [Energy Coordinating Agency](#), a non-profit organization that specializes in energy conservation, education programs and policy work. "Our summers have gotten warmer and warmer, and that poses a health risk to the elderly, in particular. By using this roof coating technology, we reduce the indoor air temperature as well as the urban heat island effect, reducing energy costs and slowing the pace of global warming by increasing the reflectivity of the earth's surface. It is a very simple concept, but a really powerful and fantastic technology."

The City of Philadelphia is currently seeking to increase standards for new and replacement roofs above the current state building code. The new Rohm and Haas roof coating exceeds the current state regulations and would meet the proposed city regulations, should they be adopted.

According to Javier Banos, marketing manager for the company's elastomeric coatings division, the new elastomeric roof coating reflects a broad spectrum of UV, visible and infrared light and emits nearly 90 percent of any absorbed heat, all of which

contribute to the degradation of traditional roofing materials. It also protects against expansion and contraction cracks in the roof, which lead to roof deterioration and leaks, because it is elastic and can bridge cracks that form as temperatures fluctuate.

"The result is a cooler and longer-lasting roof, lower air temperatures and energy savings for the entire building," says Banos. "The lower roof of our building is EPDM [ethylene propylene diene monomer], a thick, rubber membrane-type black roof, and the upper roof is a traditional built-up (asphalt) roof with a smooth APP Mod-Bit Capsheet," explains Lou Velez, P.E., Rohm and Haas building manager. "We are coating both surfaces with two thick coats of elastomeric product to prevent ultraviolet degradation. That coating also adds an extra layer of impermeable material, so water runs off readily and not into the building structure where it could cause damage."

Rohm and Haas expects significant energy savings between May and October, based on the way the building's air conditioning system is configured. "The air intakes are at roof level," explains Banos. "Currently, the system has to bring in the hottest air and work harder to cool it. By lowering the air temperature around the intakes, we will lower the amount of energy needed without having any effect on the comfort level of the occupants."

Not only does an elastomeric-coated roof save energy, but it reduces landfill waste and provides substantial savings in maintenance and replacement costs. Roof repair used to mean tearing off the aging roof and replacing it, but with proper maintenance, elastomeric-coated roofs can last much longer than traditional roofs. Such maintenance is limited to occasional cleaning with a hose or power washer and reapplication of the coating on average every 7 to 10 years.

The summer cooling offsets any heat gain by a black roof in winter more than tenfold, among other reasons because the potential for heat gain is so much lower during the winter when sunlight is much less intense than during the summer. The project will be completed by the end of October and will include monitoring devices that will enable Rohm and Haas to track energy savings.

"We occupy almost a whole block," says Banos. "That is significant. But any contribution is good. There are still a lot of black roofs around us. We are trying to make sure that we are doing what we can to lower our energy footprint."

Rohm and Haas has occupied the building at Sixth and Market streets since 1965, but over the past year, the company set out on a floor by floor renovation to revitalize their headquarters.

The contemporary concrete, steel and glass building was designed by the late Pietro Belluschi, a leading world architect who served as dean of MIT's School of Architecture and Planning for 14 years, and has recently been granted Historic Landmark Building status.

For more information, visit the [Elastomeric Roof Coatings website](#).

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Department of Environmental Protection this week presented \$440,000 in financial assistance to the [SEDA-Council of Governments](#) for energy-related features in the construction of its expanded headquarters in Union County.

The new SEDA-Council headquarters in East Buffalo Township will be a Gold-certified Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design facility that will incorporate numerous renewable and energy-efficient elements.

The grant, provided by the [Pennsylvania Energy Development Authority](#), will pay for a closed-loop, geothermal heat pump system; triple-glazed windows with low-conducting wood frames; a solar photovoltaic panels; and radiant floor slab heating systems.

“Our new facility will actively introduce the public to the economic and environmental value of green building practices and provide a model for shaping future building methods throughout central Pennsylvania,” SEDA-Council of Governments Executive Director Dennis Robinson said. “It will serve as an example that builders, developers, educators, contractors, businesses, and local governments can study and replicate.”

### Southwest PA Air Quality Partnership to Meet December 6

The [Southwest Pennsylvania Air Quality Partnership](#) will meet on December 6 to recap the group’s yearly activities, review the past summer season and what’s ahead on the weather front for next year.

The partnership’s weatherman, DEP meteorologist Sean Nolan, will provide the overview. Other speakers will include DEP Southwest Region’s Maggie Hall who will discuss energy efficiency opportunities for business. The City of Pittsburgh’s Jim Sloss will brief everyone on Pittsburgh’s Solar Initiative. Jill Merrill from Air Compliance Consultants Inc will present information about CAIR (the Clean Air Interstate Rule).

The meeting will also include an update on the Woodstove Changeout Program. The partnership received one of only two U.S. Environmental Protection Agency grants in the nation for the [Woodstove Changeout Program](#) along with an \$80,000 grant from Allegheny County Health Department.

The meeting will be held on at 500 Waterfront at the Department of Environmental Protection’s office on Washington’s Landing in Pittsburgh. Breakfast begins at 8:30 a.m., with the annual meeting program to start at 9 a.m.

To attend, please sign up by December 3 with Michelle Rupert at Conservation Consultants Inc. at 412-431-4449, ext 202 or send e-mail to: [micheller@ccicenter.org](mailto:micheller@ccicenter.org) .

### New Online System for Air Quality Permit Determinations, Workshop Set

The Department of Environmental Protection announced the successful completion of over 200 determinations of whether air quality permits or plan approvals are needed from the agency through its new RFD\*Online system.

And on December 18, DEP’s Bureau of Air Quality is offering a free workshop to industrial representatives, consultants and interested participants to learn about DEP’s new RFD\*Online system.

The RFD\*Online workshop will include presentations on entering data into the system, automatic data validation and error checking, document attachment and notes

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capabilities, online help, user manual and the submission process. The workshop will also explain how to self-register at the [DEP GreenPort](#) to use the system.

The workshop will be presented from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., December 18 in the 2nd Floor Auditorium, Rachel Carson State Office Building, 400 Market St., Harrisburg.

RFD\*Online was released in May, with the aim of getting business owners and operators the answers they need more quickly while still protecting the air Pennsylvanians breathe.

This system allows the owners and operators of companies who are uncertain of whether they need to apply for an air quality operating permit or plan approval, or either, to fill out a web-based request for determination form. Air quality staff at DEP will electronically interact with company staff to determine the firm's exemption status by reviewing the information provided on the web-based form.

In certain cases, which are defined in state regulations, the Web-based system can provide the applicant with an immediate determination that the company is exempt from needing air quality permits or a plan approval, without requiring air quality staff review, thus allowing the company to move forward with its plans more quickly.

DEP recently received this feedback from John Romero, Environmental Manager, of the Procter & Gamble Paper Products Company:

“The Procter & Gamble Paper Products Company operates a large production facility in Northeastern Pennsylvania. Our facility recently had a piece of equipment fail that could not be replaced with an identical component. We submitted an RFD\*Online application for an updated piece of equipment. From the time it was determined that an RFD was required, through the application process, to the time an official approval was received took less than three hours! We had a complete official response faster than we could have filled out the paper applications, much less made the copies and driven the package down to the DEP's regional office to begin the review. The electronic routing saved substantial effort and allowed the rapid restoration of production while still following all permit review procedures. The Procter & Gamble Paper Products Paper Plant touches over 1 million Consumers every day, and we appreciate the fast response we get via the new RFD\*Online system to minor changes in our process that lets us better meet the changing needs of our consumers.”

208 RFD applications have been submitted and were approved through the RFD\*Online program.

The systems follows implementation of the successful AES\*Online system to submit annual emission inventory reports online.

For more information, go to DEP's [Air Permit webpage](#) and look for the RFD\*Online link.

### **PUC Keystone Connection Newsletter Now Online**

The Public Utility Commission published a new edition of its [Keystone Connection](#) online newsletter which highlights recent activities by the Commission covering electric, natural gas, transportation, telecommunications and water systems.

This issue highlights the Special Session on Energy in the General Assembly, electric rate cases, electric transmission lines, the Verizon-MCI merger, recommendations on improving natural gas infrastructure, heating fuel cost projections and other issues.

For more information, visit the [PUC website](#).

### **Audubon Society Offers Reward for Killer of Bald Eagle**

The [Audubon Society of Western Pennsylvania](#) this week offered a \$500 reward and the Humane Society of the U.S. and The Wildlife Land Trust have pledged a \$2,500 reward for information leading to the arrest of the person responsible for killing a bald eagle in Butler County.

Game Commission officers found the injured eagle on November 19 in a field along Route 8 in Center Township. The bird died of its wounds a few days later at the Crawford County wildlife rehabilitation center.

Anyone with information should contact the Northwest Office of the Game Commission at 814-432-3188 or the Audubon Society at 412-963-6100 or [by email](#).

### **Agriculture Provides Update on Kudzu Noxious Weed Eradication Program**

The Department of Agriculture this week released a [one-page update](#) on its efforts at eradicating Kudzu, an invasive species, in 17 counties across the Commonwealth.

Kudzu became a PA Noxious Weed in 1989. Current sites are most often roadside banks, forest-edges, quarries, slag mine deposits, homeowner property boundaries and rarely open space locations such as pipelines.

As of October 2007, 121 properties consisting of 80 spatially distinct populations of kudzu are known in Pennsylvania.

Due to the complexity of control options and the expansiveness of kudzu growth, most property owners are not equipped to manage kudzu eradication without technical assistance.

The Department of Agriculture began assisting property owners in 2000 and these efforts have evolved into the statewide Pilot Kudzu Eradication Program.

As of October 2007, 34 spatially distinct populations in 13 counties are enrolled.

For more information, visit Agriculture's [Weed Program webpage](#).

**Link:** [DCNR Invasive Exotic Plant Website](#)  
[Governor's Invasive Species Council](#)

### **Save This Date: Creative Approaches to Ecological Landscaping February 21**

The Bowman's Hill Wildflower Preserve will host the 8th Land Ethics Symposium with the theme of [Creative Approaches to Ecological Landscaping](#) at the Sheraton Bucks County Hotel in Langhorne, Pa on February 21.

This informative day-long symposium will focus on the ways in which landscape architects, designers and contractors, and land managers, planners and developers can create economical and ecologically balanced landscapes using native plants and restoration techniques.

Stay ahead of the curve with innovative ideas & successful solutions from these experienced landscape practitioners:

- Preserving Land in the Face of Development - Ann Hutchinson, Natural Lands Trust;
- Stewardship Planning for Natural Lands - Holly M. Harper, Natural Lands Trust;

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- Gardens Past, Present & Future: Sustainable Sites Initiative - John Peter Thompson, Behnke Nurseries;
- One Drop at a Time: New Paradigms for Home Gardens - Marcus de la fleur, Conservation Design Forum;
- Queens Botanical Garden's Sustainable Landscapes and Buildings Project - Jennifer Ward Souder, Queens Botanical Garden; and
- Stormwater, Stream Restoration & Native Plants: The Ecological Context & Designer's Challenge - John W. Munro, Munro Ecological Services.  
CEUs available. Pre-registration required.

Sponsors of the Symposium include: County of Bucks, Office of the Commissioners, Gilmore & Associates, Natural Lands Trust, North Creek Nurseries, Schumacher Associates and Temple University Ambler.

For more information, visit the [Bowman's Hill Wildflower Preserve website](#) or call the Preserve at 215-862-2924 or send e-mail to Hildy Ellis at [ellis@bhwp.org](mailto:ellis@bhwp.org).

### **Help Wanted: Enterprising Environmental Solutions, Inc. Seeks Executive Director**

[Enterprising Environmental Solutions, Inc.](#), a unique public-private partnership that works to identify best practices in environmental protection, is seeking an executive director.

EESI projects involve pollution prevention, sustainable energy, green building design, land use, brownfields and climate change.

The Executive Director of EESI reports to a Board of Directors and is responsible for outreach, program development, overall administrative and financial oversight, fundraising, and increasing EESI's visibility.

The Executive Director is also responsible for working closely with the staff of [Pennsylvania Environmental Council](#) (the parent company), including the President and the Chief Operating Officer.

The ideal Executive Director candidate has an enterprising and entrepreneurial spirit and track record; is an accomplished, results-driven leader in business or nonprofit arenas; demonstrates expertise in seeking funds for nonprofits from a range of sources; is a financially astute manager with supervisory abilities and successes; is a dynamic and personable leader who represents our cause well to donors; manages by example with clear objectives for service and support; provides oversight to work plans and results; possesses strong capacity to collaborate with a board of directors, project heads, partners and staff; demonstrates a keen ability to build partnerships that increase resources to the field.

To apply send cover letter, resume and compensation requires to: Pennsylvania Environmental Council, 130 Locust Street, Harrisburg, PA 17101, Michael Hudson, Chief Operating Officer or send email to: [mhudson@pecpa.org](mailto:mhudson@pecpa.org) or call 717-230-8044, ext 13.

### **Help Wanted: Bowman's Hill Wildflower Preserve Student Intern**

The [Bowman's Hill Wildflower Preserve](#) in New Hope, Pa is looking for a student to fill a paid intern position in native plants and public gardens. Applications are due February 22.

Two years of college or equivalent with a background in botany, horticulture or environmental studies is required.



[Applications are available online](#) and should be returned to: Hildy Ellis, Education Coordinator, BHWP, PO Box 685, New Hope, PA 18938. Applicants with questions may call Hildy at the Preserve at 215-862-2924 or send email to [ellis@bhwp.org](mailto:ellis@bhwp.org).

### **Transition: Fish & Boat Commissioner Frederick P. Osifat**

The Fish and Boat Commission this week announced the passing of Commissioner Frederick P. Osifat, Vice President of the Commission.

Commissioner Osifat was appointed by Gov. Rendell as a member of the Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission on February 13, 2006 and represented Commission District Seven, comprised of Carbon, Lackawanna, Luzerne, Monroe, Pike, Susquehanna, Wayne and Wyoming counties.

A resident of Carbon County, Osifat, 64, was an ardent fly fisherman active in several fishing and sportsmen's organizations over the years. He was a member of the Paradise Hunting and Fishing Club, Lehigh River Stocking Association, Northampton-Lehigh-Carbon Outdoor Sportsmen Association, and the Western Pocono Chapter of Trout Unlimited serving as Director.

Community interest had him serving on the Kline-Banks-McAdoo Regional Authority, Banks Township Municipal Authority, Tri-County (Carbon-Schuylkill-Luzerne) Airport Study Advisory Board, and the Department of Transportation Citizen Advisory Board.

Commissioner Osifat obtained an Associate Degree in engineering from the Pennsylvania State University. At the time of his death he was Director of the Office of Planning and Development for Carbon County and had been employed with the County since 1993. Previously, he served as Executive Vice-President and partner in the former PennEast Corporation, a multi-disciplined engineering firm based in Pottsville.

In the biography he provided at the time of his appointment to the Commission, he noted the sentiments of Henry David Thoreau who observed...“Many men go fishing all of their lives, without knowing it is not fish they are after.”

He is survived by his wife, Carmella, and two children, Fred, Jr. and Sharon.

## **Spotlight**

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### **Farm Credit Tax Credit Applications Available December 3 By Agriculture Secretary Dennis Wolff**



Most of us are familiar with the saying ‘farmers are the original conservationists,’ and we are also constantly seeking ways to save money, especially in this time of increased production and energy costs.

The new [Resource Enhancement and Protection program](#), or REAP, was developed to combine these top priorities of saving the environment and saving money to help Pennsylvania agricultural businesses remain viable and growing.

REAP is a tax credit program, administered by the State Conservation Commission and designed to encourage producers to use conservation best

management practices, or BMPs, that reduce erosion and sedimentation impacting our state's streams and watersheds. By adopting these practices, not only will farm production and profitability improve, but we will be further protecting our natural resources.

REAP applications will be available through the State Conservation Commission after December 3, and completed applications will be accepted beginning January 2. The applications can be found on the [REAP webpage](#), along with the guidelines and other reference materials about REAP. If you don't have access to the Internet, the commission can mail you an application packet.

Also, the commission won't consider any applications postmarked before December 26.

Please send the applications through the mail or deliver in person to the State Conservation Commission at 2301 N. Cameron Street, Harrisburg, PA 17110. The commission will review all applications on a first-come, first-serve basis, keeping in mind incomplete applications will be returned for re-submittal.

We recommend producers work with their local county conservation district or Natural Resources Conservation Service to ensure they have current plans in place – including a conservation plan, an agricultural erosion and sedimentation control plan or a nutrient management plan, if one is required.

Also, in order to be eligible for REAP, animal concentration areas such as barnyards, loafing areas or feedlots must be properly protected with BMPs to abate runoff and loss of sediment and nutrients.

Think of the REAP tax credits as a gift card. The credits provide a dollar-for-dollar reduction in state income or corporate tax in 2008 or later, and are good for up to 15 years. There are two ways to use the tax credits. One option is to use the credits to pay taxes in the year they were issued and save the rest for future years. The other option is to sell the credits for cash one year after they are issued.

Another great bonus of REAP is that eligible producers interested in purchasing no-till planting equipment may qualify for a 50 percent tax credit.

We invite those producers and equipment dealers interested in learning more about this option to attend an educational meeting from 10 a.m. to noon on Tuesday, Dec. 18 in the V.I.P Room at the Pennsylvania Farm Show Complex & Expo Center. Make a reservation by calling the State Conservation Commission at 717-787-8821.

For more information, visit the [REAP Program webpage](#) or call the State Conservation Commission at 717-787-8821.

**Link:** [Chesapeake Bay Foundation REAP webpage](#).

## **Opinion**

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### **Hazardous Sites Cleanup Program Demands Prompt Attention**

**By Brian J. Hill**

**President, Pennsylvania Environmental Council**

Pennsylvania's Hazardous Sites Cleanup Fund is responsible for cleaning up nearly 150 toxic waste sites across the state, but unless the General Assembly acts before they go home for the year, it will run out of money by the end of December.

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The Hazardous Sites Program cleans up those sites that are seriously contaminated by toxic materials and owned by bankrupt or out-of-business companies. In other words, we the citizens own a lot of nasty liabilities that will continue to endanger public health if the state doesn't clean them up.

To understand how critical it is for the General Assembly to act, consider what is funded by the soon-to-be bankrupt Hazardous Sites program:

- Funding to cleanup toxic waste sites and to pay Pennsylvania's share of federal Superfund cleanups;
- It enables the Department of Environmental Protection to cleanup chemical spills and respond to emergencies;
- Supports Pennsylvania's nationally-recognized Land Recycling brownfield redevelopment efforts; and
- Pays for investigations of illegal hazardous waste disposal and methamphetamine labs.

Everyone in Harrisburg agrees the program is important. What they have not been able to agree on is how to fund the program.

Governor Rendell had proposed a \$2.25 fee on municipal waste disposed in the state. Other legislators suggested earmarking part of the Corporate Net Income or Capital Stock and Franchise businesses taxes to support the program. Still others proposed using a small part of the \$650 million budget surplus for the year, or part of the state's Rainy Day Fund.

Senate Majority Leader Dominick Pileggi and Senator Mary Jo White introduced and the Senate unanimously passed legislation to provide \$17 million to keep the program afloat this year by taking money from legislative accounts and to keep the program going at \$40 million a year for the next four years by earmarking funds from the Capital Stock and Franchise Tax on businesses.

That legislation or similar legislation needs to be passed – and passed before the General Assembly adjourns.

We also need to keep our hands off the Keystone Recreation, Parks and Conservation Fund and other existing environmental funds to finance the Hazardous Sites Program. Unfortunately, taking money from these funds was proposed in July, but a coalition of groups and legislators beat back the attempt. Robbing Peter to pay Paul by funding one environmental program with another will only take funds away from dealing with critical environmental problems in the Commonwealth.

The bottom line is pretty simple: the Hazardous Sites Cleanup Program needs to be funded and it needs to be funded now. This cannot wait for the New Year

**Brian J. Hill**, is President and CEO of the [Pennsylvania Environmental Council](http://Pennsylvania Environmental Council), and can be contacted at 717-230-8044 ext. 16 or by sending email to: [BHill@pecpa.org](mailto:BHill@pecpa.org).

The Pennsylvania Environmental Council promotes the protection and restoration of the natural and built environments through innovation, collaboration, education and advocacy with the private sector, government, individuals and communities as partners to improve the quality of life for all Pennsylvanians.

The Council was founded in 1970 and serves the entire state through offices in Meadville, Wilkes-Barre, Pittsburgh, Harrisburg and Philadelphia.

### **Feature**

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## 178 Bird Species Put on WatchList 2007 by Audubon, Including 6 in PA

One hundred seventy-eight species in the continental U.S. and 39 in Hawaii have the dubious distinction of landing on [WatchList 2007](#), the newest and most scientifically sound list of America's most imperiled birds, including 6 species found in Pennsylvania.

"All of us in Pennsylvania have an opportunity and responsibility to help protect our birds at greatest risk - including the golden-winged warbler, Henslow's sparrow, and the wood thrush," says Tim Schaeffer, Executive Director of Audubon Pennsylvania. "We need conservation action now, while there is still time - and WatchList helps focus that action where it is most needed."

"Habitat loss due to development, energy exploration and extraction, and the impact of global warming remain serious threats for the most imperiled species, along with others on both the red and yellow lists," said David Pashley, American Bird Conservancy's Director of Conservation Programs and co-author of the new list. "Concerted action will be needed to address these threats."

In Pennsylvania, species of highest national concern include:

- **Golden-winged Warbler:** The golden-winged warbler is suffering from loss of suitable successional habitat, dense shrubs and young saplings, due to reforestation and development. The species, down 98 percent in Pennsylvania, also faces competition from the closely-related blue-winged warbler, which is expanding its range to the north.
- **Henslow's Sparrow:** Between 1966 and 2005, Breeding Bird Survey data indicates an average range-wide decline in Henslow's sparrows of 7.9 percent each year. The species has declined by almost 70 percent in Pennsylvania over the past 40 years. Dependent on grassland habitat with standing dead stems, they are threatened by the loss of agricultural land to development and the intensified cropping of remaining farmland. Their highest densities in the Commonwealth now occur on former strip mines that are large, open, and grassy.

Pennsylvania species in the declining category include:

- **Semipalmated Sandpiper:** This tiny shorebird is a new addition to the WatchList. It depends on mudflats for stopover and staging areas while undertaking its remarkable migration between the Arctic tundra and South America. The loss of stopover habitat is an important factor in its population decline. At the John Heinz National Wildlife Refuge at Tinicum, Audubon Pennsylvania has assisted with developing land management techniques to provide additional stopover habitat for semipalmated sandpipers and other migrant shorebirds.
- **Short-eared Owl:** This ground-nesting owl, which inhabits large open meadows and other open habitats, has declined drastically in Pennsylvania in recent decades due to loss of suitable habitat. Rampant development and changing agricultural practices have been the primary causes of habitat loss for this species, which is currently considered to be endangered in Pennsylvania.
- **Wood Thrush:** Wood thrushes rely on large interior forests and are threatened by habitat fragmentation, deforestation, and nest parasitism. Each year wood thrushes, down 62 percent in Pennsylvania over the past 40 years, migrate from Central America to the U.S., where Pennsylvania houses 8.5 percent of the world's breeding population.



**Short-Eared Owl**

Audubon Pennsylvania is actively engaging landowners and helping them improve their deer management practices as well as advocating statewide improvement to deer management. A deer herd out of balance with Penn's Woods hinders healthy forest regeneration and serves as a contributing factor to habitat loss for forest-dwelling species, like the wood thrush, and other wildlife.

- **Cerulean Warbler:** The cerulean warbler is found in the forests of riparian valleys and ridge top habitats in the eastern United States. Over the past half century it has steadily declined in numbers primarily due habitat loss directly associated with numerous types of human activities on both breeding and wintering grounds. In more recent years large areas of both types of breeding habitat have been destroyed through a practice of coal extraction known as mountaintop removal mining. Audubon Pennsylvania supports alternate placement of wind power turbines, many of which are currently sited along ridge tops. Such placement further promotes fragmentation of ridge top habitats utilized by cerulean warblers.

WatchList 2007, a joint effort of Audubon and American Bird Conservancy, reflects a comprehensive analysis of population size and trends, distribution, and threats for 700 bird species in the U.S. It reveals those in greatest need of immediate conservation help simply to survive amid a convergence of environmental challenges, including habitat loss, invasive species and global warming.

"We call this a 'WatchList' but it is really a call to action, because the alternative is to watch these species slip ever closer to oblivion," said Audubon Bird Conservation Director and co-author of the new list, Greg Butcher. "Agreeing on which species are at the greatest risk is the first step in building the public policies, funding support, innovative conservation initiatives and public commitment needed to save them."

The new Audubon/American Bird Conservancy WatchList identifies 59 continental and 39 Hawaiian "red list" species of greatest concern, and 119 more in the "yellow" category of seriously declining or rare species.

It is based on the latest available research and assessment from the bird conservation community along with data from the [Christmas Bird Count](#) and the annual [Breeding Bird Survey](#).

The data were analyzed and weighted according to methods developed through extensive peer review and revision, yielding an improved assessment of actual peril that can be used to determine bird conservation priorities and funding.

"Adoption of this list as the 'industry standard' will help to ensure that conservation resources are allocated to the most important conservation needs," said David Pashley, American Bird Conservancy's Director of Conservation Programs and co-author of the new list. "How quickly and effectively we act to protect and support the species on this list will determine their future; where we've taken aggressive action, we've seen improvement."

Despite ongoing challenges and their continued place on the list, the status of some WatchList species is improving, according to the new data, as broader awareness of their plight has spawned effective conservation action.

Several species have benefited from federal protection under the Endangered Species Act and now show stabilizing, or even increasing populations. Lacking an ESA designation or the political support needed to secure strong protective measures, others continue to decline.

To learn how you can help, visit the [American Bird Conservancy webpage](#) and sign up for [Audubon's Christmas Bird Count Program](#).

**NewsClip:** [More Than 25 Percent of U.S. Birds Need Help Study Says](#)

**Link:** [Important Bird Areas of Pennsylvania](#)  
[Feature- Disappearing Habitat, Disappearing Common Birds](#)

## Grants & Awards

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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—

- **December 3** – [PA Historical and Museum Commission Grants](#)
- **December 3** – [NOAA Stream Barrier Removal Grants](#)
- **December 7** – [2008 Philadelphia Sustainability Awards](#)
- **December 7** – PA Land Trust Assn. [Conservation Leadership Award](#)
- **December 13** – [Western PA Conservancy, Dominion Watershed Grants](#)
- **December 14** – [Coldwater Heritage Partnership Grants.](#)
- **December 14** – [PA Parks/Forests Foundation 2008 Awards](#)
- **December 14** – U.S. EPA [Greater Research Student Opportunities Grants](#)
- **December 14** – DEP [Environmental Education Grants.](#)
- **December 15** – DEP [New or Innovative Water/Wastewater Grants.](#)
- **December 31** – Fish & Boat Commission [Sportfishing/Aquatic Ed Grants](#)
- **January 1** – Environ. Concerns [Schoolyard Wetland Habitat Grants](#)
- **January 4** – [PA Conservation Corps Grants.](#)
- **January 15**— **NEW.** [National Wetlands Awards Program Nominations](#)
- **February 1** – PA Land Trust Assn. [Government Leadership Award Nominations.](#)
- **February 8** – [PA American Water Watershed Art Contest](#)
- **February 19** – PennVEST [Infrastructure Loans/Grants for April 15 Meeting.](#)
- **February 22**— [Allegheny County Global Warming Poster Contest](#)
- **March 31** – PAEP [Karl Mason Environmental Award.](#)
- **April 2** – [WREN Water Resources Education Project Grants](#)

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

## Quick Clips

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

[Op-Ed: Our Connection to Land Disappearing Program Stresses Environmental Education](#)  
[Ned Smith Center Exhibit Shows Study of Movement](#)  
[More Than 25 Percent of U.S. Birds Need Help Study Says](#)  
[Audubon Offers Reward for Killer of Bald Eagle](#)  
[Solution to Deer Problem Harder Than Shooting Them](#)  
[Op-Ed: Bambi Ate My Rhododendrons](#)

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[Thin Deer Herds Slow Business](#)  
[It's Open Season on PA Deer for 2 Weeks](#)  
[Shipping, Fuel Costs Pushing Up Christmas Tree Price](#)  
[Another Penny Per Gallon Could Trickle Down to Pumps in PA](#)  
[Column: Wave of Wind Farms](#)  
[Gas Prices Aren't Slowing Motorists](#)  
[Will High Gas Prices Fuel Mass Transit?](#)  
[Authority Allows Turbines on Land](#)  
[Coal-Waste Conversion Plant Still in the Works, Developer Says](#)  
[Prices for Electricity Expected to Spike](#)  
[Oil Lawsuit Filed Against Forest Service](#)  
[Global Leaders in Emission Control Picks Fayette County for Plant](#)  
[Op-Ed: Reversing Global Warming Will Require Sacrifices](#)  
[Specter Visits Siemens to Sell Climate Proposal](#)  
[Digging in to Cool the Planet](#)  
[Editorial: Reuse of Used Rubber to Strengthen Road Paving](#)  
[Wilkes University Opts to be Environmental Leader](#)  
[Lancaster Preservation Groups Saving 74 Farms Each Year](#)  
[Land Use the Sustainable Way](#)  
[Revive Penn's Green Legacy](#)  
[Greener Christmas Tree Lights Will Cost More Green](#)  
[Kitchen Waste Helps Light Up Holidays at Hershey](#)  
[PECO Official: LED Lights Are Wave of the Future](#)  
[DEP Joins Multi-State Lawsuit on Right to Know Chemical Reporting](#)  
[New Exhibit Remembers 1907 Darr Mine Disaster](#)

## Watershed NewsClips

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

[AmeriCorps Helps Keep Area Watershed Groups Going](#)  
[Chesapeake Bay Program Means Higher Water, Sewer Rates in Springettsbury](#)  
[Letter: Bay Nutrient Cleanup Already in Place](#)  
[Monroeville Officials View Rainwater as Resource](#)  
[Trout Unlimited Grant Helps McKnight Elementary Teach With Real-Life Lesson](#)  
[Project Set to Reclaim Swoyersville Mine Land](#)  
[Editorial: Allentown Regional Water Pact](#)  
[McKean County Developing Stormwater Plan](#)

## Regulations

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No new regulations were published this week. [Pennsylvania Bulletin – December 1, 2007](#)

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

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

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

## Technical Guidance & Permits

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The Department of Environmental Protection [published a notice](#) rescinding nine different policy statements related to the Storage Tank Program. Details below—

DEP ID: 257-2300-001. Final Rulemaking: Chapter 245, Subchapters A and B (relating to general provisions; and certification program for installers and inspectors of storage tanks and storage tank facilities general certification requirements).

DEP ID: 257-2318-004. Summary for the Permitting of Underground and Aboveground Storage Tank Systems and Facilities; Chapter 245, Subchapter C (relating to permitting of underground and aboveground storage tank systems and facilities).

DEP ID: 257-2318-002. P. E. Certification for ASTs

DEP ID: 257-4180-003. Strategy for Addressing the 1998 Federal and State Deadline for Upgrading Existing USTs

DEP ID: 257-2318-001. ASNT Level II Certification

DEP ID: 257-0900-020. Summary of the Technical Standards for USTs, Chapter 245, Subchapter E (relating to technical standards for underground storage tanks).

DEP ID: 257-0900-018. Summary of Technical Requirements for ASTs, Chapter 245, Subchapter F (relating to technical standards for aboveground storage tanks and facilities).

DEP ID: 257-0900-019. Summary of the Simplified Program for Small ASTs, Chapter 245, Subchapter G (relating to simplified program for small aboveground storage tanks).

DEP ID: 257-2318-003. Upgrade Requirements Triggered by Substantial Modification of USTs

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

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

## Calendar of Upcoming Events

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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](#)

- **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 4**—**NEW**. House Environmental Resources and Energy Committee meets to consider [Special Session House Bill 15](#) (King-D-Bucks) setting minimum energy efficiency standards for appliances and Special [Session House Bill 36](#) (George-D-Clearfield) establishing a State Energy Office. Room 39 East Wing. 9:00.
- **December 4**—**NEW**. Senate Environmental Resources and Energy Committee meets to consider [House Resolution 410](#) (DeWeese-D-Greene) that would designate



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December 19 “Coal Miner’s Day;” [Senate Bill 497](#) (Robbins-R-Mercer) making changes to landowner liability opening land to recreation and hunting; and [Senate Bill 1050](#) (Baker-R-Luzerne) transferring \$3 million to a new Used Tire Pile Remediation Account from the Recycling Fund. Room 8E-B East Wing. 9:30.

- **December 5—NEW.** Senate Local Government Committee meets to consider [House Bill 1329](#) (Kessler-D-Berks) further providing for challenges to the validity of zoning ordinances. Room 8E-A East Wing. 9:30.
- **December 5—NEW.** House Local Government Committee meets to consider [House Bill 904](#) (Freeman-D-Lehigh) authorizing local temporary development moratoriums. Room 39 East Wing. 9:30.
- **December 5—NEW.** House Republican Policy Committee public hearing on Hazardous Sites Cleanup Fund. East Whiteland Township Municipal Building, 209 Conestoga Road, Frazer. 10:00.
- **December 5-- NEW.** [Susquehanna River Basin Commission](#) meeting (*official notice*). Woods Conference Room, Franklin and Marshall College, Lancaster. 1:30.
- **December 5—** DCNR [Conservation and Natural Resources Advisory Council](#) meeting. Room 105 Rachel Carson Building. 10:00.
- **December 11— CANCELLED.** DEP [Laboratory Accreditation Advisory Committee](#) meeting.
- **December 11—NEW.** House Agriculture and Rural Affairs Committee meeting to consider [House Bill 379](#) (Cutler-R-Lancaster) making changes to ecoterrorism penalties. Room 60 East Wing. Call of Chair.
- **December 12—** DEP [Sewage Advisory Committee](#) will discuss proposed changes to Chapter 73. 2nd Floor Conference Room, Rachel Carson Building. 10:30.
- **December 12—NEW.** [Delaware River Basin Commission](#) informal conference and hearing on the Delaware flood model and changes in PCB regulations (*official notice*). 25 State Police Drive in West Trenton, NJ. 10:00.
- **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.
- **March 28—** Lehigh Valley Watershed Conference and Shad Symposium. Holiday Inn, Fogelsville.

### [DEP Calendar of Events](#)

### [Environmental Education Workshop/Training Calendar](#)

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

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

## Helpful Web Links

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### [PA Environment Digest Video Blog](#)

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Send your stories about environmental issues, programs and positive actions to *PA Environment Digest* - [DHess@CrisciAssociates.com](mailto:DHess@CrisciAssociates.com) or go to [www.PaEnvironmentDigest.com](http://www.PaEnvironmentDigest.com) .

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