

— PA — Environment Digest

*An Update on
Environmental
Issues in
Pennsylvania*

Edited By David E. Hess, Holston & Crisci

December 5, 2005

More Environmental Gift Ideas from Readers

More environmental gift ideas and holiday waste reduction tips were sent in by *Digest* readers, and we have space for more!

Planting 11 trees will offset the carbon dioxide produced by driving a mid-sized sedan 7,500 miles helping to reduce climate change gasses. (*American Forests*)

Removing invasive species or planting native species on a 10 by 10 foot area will restore 100 square feet of watershed and clean and store up to 180 gallons of fresh water annually. (*Mid-Atlantic Ecological Landscapes Initiative*)

Looking for inspiring and educational documentaries, books and posters about the environment and wildlife of Pennsylvania? Visit the [GreenTreks Network](#) or the [Wild Resource Conservation Fund Nature Shop](#).

The Department of Environmental Protection also put together some [holiday waste reduction tips](#) to make the holiday more fun and environment friendly.

And don't forget about the [special East Timor cell phone recycling project!](#)

Email your gift ideas to: DHess@HolstonCrisci.com

Session Schedule

The Senate and House return to session December 5, 6, 7, 12, 13, and 14.

On the Hill

- On the Senate/House Agenda
- House Environmental Committee to Hear From Energy Producers

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[Linn Run State Park](#)
Photo by Karen Hohman

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Feature – Green Leadership

- Westmoreland Conservation Campus Expanding to Include “GreenForge”

Feature – 50 Years and Counting

- The Nature Conservancy - Celebrating 50 Years in Pennsylvania

Opinion

- A Pennsylvania Energy Harvest: Leadership for Pennsylvania and the Nation’s Energy Future *By Eric Thumma, Director, DEP Bureau of Environmental Sustainability*

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

On the Hill

On the Senate/House Agenda

Both the Senate and House are in regular and special session again starting December 5. Here’s a rundown on what’s on their Calendars and committee agendas.

Calendars

The House Calendar starts the week with [House Bill 2141](#), which would prohibit the Department of Environmental Protection from adopting the current California vehicle emission standards.

In the Senate, the Calendar will start the week with [Senate Bill 881](#) and [Senate Bill 897](#) on eminent domain; [House Bill 87](#) further authorizing local governments to preserve open space through the waiver of certain service fees; and [House Bill 213](#) establishing eco-terrorism penalties.

Committees

The House Agriculture and Rural Affairs Committee will consider [Senate Bill 723](#) making changes to definition of eligible entity in the Agricultural Security Law, [House Bill 671](#) related to responsibilities of county farmland preservation boards; Finance Committee is set to consider [Senate Bill 640](#) which excludes claims for taxes, water, lighting fees for donations of property; and Environmental Resources and Energy Committee will hold an informational meeting on Energy Policy to hear presentations from energy producers.

House Environmental Committee to Hear From Energy Producers

The House Environmental Resources and Energy Committee will hear from energy producers during its fourth Energy Policy informational meeting on December 6.

Scheduled to present remarks are— Doug Biden, Pennsylvania Energy Generation Association, Stephen Rhoads, Pennsylvania Oil and Gas Association, George Ellis, Pennsylvania Coal Association and Gordon Shearer, Hess LNG.

The Committee is chaired by Rep. Adolph (R-Delaware) and Rep. George (D-Clearfield).

In Other News

BP Forms BP Alternative Energy Low Carbon Power Business



BP this week announced it has formed [BP Alternative Energy](#) and will double its investment in alternative and renewable energies to create a new low-

carbon power business.

Lord Browne, chief executive of BP, made the announcement at its [BP Solar Facility](#) in Fredericksburg, MD.

Building on the success of BP Solar – which expects to hit revenues of \$1 billion in 2008 – [BP Alternative Energy](#) will manage an investment program in solar, wind, hydrogen and combined-cycle-gas-turbine (CCGT) power generation, which could amount to \$8 billion over the next ten years.

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“Consistent with our strategy, we are determined to add to the choice of available energies for a world concerned about the environment, and we believe we can do so in a way that will yield robust returns,” said BP chief executive Lord Browne.

“Our recent experience, particularly with solar, has given us the expertise and confidence to develop new products and markets alongside our mainstream business. We are now at a point where we have sufficient new technologies and sound commercial opportunities within our reach to build a significant and sustainable business in alternative and renewable energy.”

Browne said the first phase of investment would total some \$1.8 billion over the next three years, spread in broadly equal proportions between solar, wind, hydrogen and CCGT power generation. Investment will be made step by step, and will depend on the nature of opportunities and their profitability.

“We are focusing our investment in alternatives and renewables on power generation because it accounts for over 40 percent of man-made greenhouse gas emissions, the biggest single source. It is also the area where technology can be applied most cost-effectively to reduce emissions.

“As the pricing of carbon develops through trading schemes and other initiatives, the market will grow rapidly as low-emission technologies displace less clean forms of power generation.”

Investment in solar over the next three years is planned to boost BP’s leading position as a leading manufacturer and supplier of photovoltaic systems. In a field where technology improvements and higher productivity are causing costs to decline, BP currently has 10 per cent of the global market which is growing at 30 per cent a year, faster than any other form of renewable energy.

BP currently has more than 100 megawatts of solar manufacturing capacity in the US, Spain, India and Australia, with a plan to double its capacity before the end of next year. BP recently signed a strategic joint venture to access China’s expanding solar market and provide local manufacturing capacity and is exploring similar opportunities elsewhere in the region.

Investment in hydrogen fuels will include the world’s first commercial project – at Peterhead, in Scotland – to turn natural gas into hydrogen by stripping out carbon dioxide and pumping it into depleted oil reservoirs.

The hydrogen will be used at a power station in Peterhead to generate 350 megawatts of ‘clean’ electricity, and the carbon dioxide re-injected into the offshore Miller field. BP is looking at a similar sequestration scheme to make hydrogen from low-value coke by-products at a US refinery which would be used to generate 500 megawatts at an adjacent new-build power plant.

Investment projected for wind represents a significant step up in this area of power generation for BP. The company currently runs two wind farms alongside existing oil plants in the Netherlands. It also owns industrial land in open, high-wind regions of the U.S., away from residential areas, providing the possibility to build the first large-scale US wind farm generating up to 200 megawatts in 2007. The company has identified enough U.S. sites to accommodate wind turbines with a total capacity of 2,000 megawatts.

Projected investment in CCGT will be spent mainly in the US where the company already has significant co-generation capacity and is currently finalizing plans for a new

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\$400 million scheme at one of its major plants that will deliver 100 megawatts of power to the plant, and 420 megawatts to the local electricity grid.

BP Alternative Energy will be based in Sunbury, Middlesex and initially employ some 2,500 people around the world. It will be headed by Steve Westwell, reporting to Vivienne Cox, chief executive of BP's Gas, Power & Renewables division.

More: [Lord Browne Speaks on Energy Security – Responding to the Challenge](#)

Offers of Free Energy Efficiency Assessments Extended for Businesses

The U.S. Department of Energy has extended the deadline for its "[Save Energy Now](#)" campaign offering mid-size and large businesses the opportunity for free energy assessments.

The new application deadline is December 20.

Mid-sized businesses will benefit from 550 energy assessments conducted by DOE's Industrial Assessment Centers under the second phase of the "Save Energy Now" initiative. Housed at 26 universities nation-wide, the IACs work with local manufacturers to conserve energy and reduce the generation of waste through the identification and application of new technologies for process improvement.

Lehigh University IAC serves the eastern two-thirds of Pennsylvania. Assessments in western Pennsylvania are conducted by the West Virginia University IAC.

The Department of Environmental Protection is strongly encouraging all large and mid-sized manufacturers to participate in DOE's initiative.

In addition, the industrial component of the initiative "Save Energy Now" will offer industry opportunities to reduce energy use and save money by providing direct on-site support, educational workshops, energy-saving assessment software, and related resources.

The complete suite of energy-saving tools is currently available on [DOE's Industrial Technology Program website](#)

For additional information or to sign-up for a free assessment visit [DOE's "Save Energy Now" webpage](#) or call the Energy Efficiency & Renewable Energy Information Center at 1-877-337-3463.

Small businesses can also go to the [Environmental Management Assistance Program](#) run by Pennsylvania Small Business Development Centers for free help in looking for energy cost reduction opportunities.

To register for an on-site assessment performed by DEP's Office of Energy & Technology Deployment, contact Ric Illig at 717-772-5834 or send e-mail to rillig@state.pa.us.

Three Residential Energy Conservation Workshops Set for Lycoming

The Department of Environmental Protection has [scheduled three energy conservation workshops](#) for homeowners in Lycoming County in cooperation with the Department of Public Welfare's Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program.

The workshops will be held—

- December 7: Bethany Lutheran Church, 369 Broad Street, Montoursville;
- December 14: DEP Regional Office, 208 W. Third St., Suite 101, Williamsport; and
- December 15: St. John Lutheran Church, 229 Broad Street, Jersey Shore.

Find Energy Tax Savings to Become More Energy Efficient

The Alliance to Save Energy announced a new [Tax Incentives Assistance Project](#) (TIAP) website that aims to help individuals and businesses cut their federal tax bills in 2006 and 2007 by becoming more energy-efficient.

TIAP, which is sponsored by the alliance and other nonprofit energy-efficiency advocates, launched the site to provide information on new federal income tax incentives in the Energy Policy Act of 2005.

On October 21, the Internal Revenue Service issued guidance (Notice 2005-80) on fuel excise taxes reflecting new provisions in the federal energy legislation and in a recently passed transportation bill. TIAP said it will update the new website regularly as IRS makes new information available.

For more information, visit the [Tax Incentives Assistance Project website](#).

Multiple Announcements on Energy Issues This Week in Pennsylvania

Here's a quick rundown on several energy related activities and announcements this week, including Gov. Rendell's appearance at the National Press Club to talk about a national Energy Harvest Program.

[Gov. Rendell spoke](#) at the National Press Club this week calling on President Bush to follow Pennsylvania's example and develop an "American Energy Harvest" model to reduce U.S. reliance on Middle East energy. [Text of speech](#).

NewsClip: [Rendell Launches Energy Crusade](#)
[Rendell Pleads with Bush to Develop Alternative Fuels](#)
[Rendell Urges Energy Harvest](#)

A new [Stay Warm PA toll-free telephone number](#)-- 866-550-4355-- was announced that citizens can use to get information about restoring utility services, paying their heating bills, fixing residential heating systems and locating available shelters in their area. People may also use the special number to learn what they can do to help their neighbors get through the winter. Gov. Rendell also announced a [Spanish language version of the Stay Warm PA website](#) that will provide energy and heating aid information.

Gov. Rendell announced a new initiative to bring together customers for alternative and renewable energy resources with potential suppliers in a new bundling of state energy initiatives called [EDGE – Energy Deployment for a Growing Economy](#).

The Pennsylvania Public Utility Commission this week approved a plan by UGI to double the size of its Low Income Self- Help Program– from 4,000 to 8,000 participants. Customers who successfully pay their LISHP bills on time also earn forgiveness of their arrearages. The plan increases the maximum discount under the program from \$840 to \$1,146 for residential heating customers and \$560 to \$614 for non-residential customers.

The Pennsylvania Public Utility Commission also approved proposals submitted by seven electric and natural gas companies to transfer nearly \$15 million in unspent utility

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consumer-education funds to help low-income families in their service territories this winter using Universal Service Programs.

The proposals were submitted by Allegheny Power, Metropolitan Edison Company, Pennsylvania Electric Company, PG Energy, PPL Electric Utilities Corp., PPL Gas Utilities Corp., and T.W. Phillips Gas and Oil Company to transfer most of the funding to their Universal Service Programs such as Customer Assistance Programs or Low-Income Usage Reduction Programs. However, \$100,000 will be provided in the form of a grant to a community-based organization, \$1 Energy Fund, per the proposal provided by Allegheny Power.

PA Clean Energy Expo Set for March 31 - April 1, 2006

Save the date! There will be a [PA Clean Energy Expo](#) in State College March 31 - April 1.

The first Expo in 2004 attracted over 11,000 attendees to a program that included a variety of clean energy exhibits, energy education workshops, a Smart Auto Show, green building seminars and much more.

For more information, visit the [PA Clean Energy Expo 2006 webpage](#).

Penn State Center for Sustainability Sets Up Renewable Energy Homestead

[Penn State's Renewable Energy Homestead](#) is a living laboratory for using clean energy put together by the University's Center for Sustainability.

The Center was started in 1995 with a mission to showcase ecological technologies and sustainability living concepts.

The Homestead Project began in 2003 with Center co-director and manager for the project began living in the homestead using energy from renewable sources to power his laptop and DVD player and raising his own food.

Visit the [Homestead Project webpage](#) to see an online slide show on the project.

Are You Up-To-Date on LEED and the USGBC?

Join the [Green Building Alliance](#) in Pittsburgh for breakfast on December 14 to learn the latest about green building standards, LEED Application Guidelines, Online LEED documentation, LEED for Neighborhood Developments, LEED 2.2, Emerging Green Builders and more!

Speakers for the event will include: Chris Klehm – LEED for General Contractors/Construction Managers Module Development; Alan Traugott – USGBC Chapter Steering Committee; Vivian Loftness – USGBC Board Member; Co chair of Research Committee; Gary Gardner – LEED Core and Shell Pilot Committee; Rebecca Flora – USGBC Board Member; LEED for Neighborhood Developments steering committee; LEED Faculty Ryan Snow – USGBC Heartland Regional Representative; Emerging Green Builders.

Alliance Building Breakfasts offer peer discussion and networking with other practicing professionals.

For more information, [download the breakfast flyer](#).

PA Universities Win EPA Student Sustainability Design Grants



a student
design competition
for sustainability

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency this week awarded \$410,000 to 41 student teams for the 2005-2006 academic year to research and develop sustainable designs through the People, Prosperity and the Planet (P3) competition, including four teams from Pennsylvania.

The P3 student design competition was launched in January 2004, and several 2004 winners' designs have been successfully implemented into business practices.

The projects must involve sustainable designs that promote economic growth while protecting the natural systems.

The Pennsylvania winners include:

- \$10,000 for a [solar thermal heating system for a zero energy house](#) to Carnegie Mellon and the University of Pittsburgh;
- \$9,065 to [design a trap grease upgrader for biofuel processing \(phase I\)](#) to Drexel University;
- \$10,000 for the [development of a sustainable water system in Yoro, Honduras](#) to Lafayette College; and
- \$10,000 for [characterization and implementation of an enhanced activated alumina](#) for removal of dissolved arsenic at the point of entry to Lafayette College.

The next round of applications will open soon for 2006.

For more information, go to the [P3 Student Design Competition webpage](#).

Five States, District Agree on 2007 Farm Bill Conservation Agenda

[Dozens of recommendations](#) for strengthening and expanding the farm and timber conservation programs in the national Farm Bill set to be considered by Congress in 2007 were adopted this week by the [Chesapeake Bay Executive Council](#).

The Governors of Pennsylvania, Maryland, Delaware, Virginia, West Virginia and the Mayor of the District of Columbia joined Sen. Mike Waugh (R-York), chair of the Chesapeake Bay Commission, in making the recommendations.

The recommendations were the result of more than 40 listening session held during the Spring and Summer of 2005 to take comments from over 1,000 people.

The top five recommended priorities for change in the 2007 Farm Bill include:

- Establish a Regional Stewardship Fund to increase flexibility in the delivery of federal funds;
- Implement the Conservation Security Program as a nationwide entitlement program;
- Target funds to maximize environmental benefits and ecological services;
- Provide increases support for the economic viability of agriculture; and
- Increase funding and technical assistance for conservation-related programs.

The federal Farm Bill includes 24 different programs that benefit the environment including a Bioenergy Program, Conservation Reserve Enhancement, Forest Legacy and Forest Stewardship Programs, Forestland Enhancement, Wetlands Reserve and Wildlife Habitat Incentive Program.

For more information, read the [2007 Farm Bill recommendations online](#).

NewsClip: [Bay Leaders Adopt Innovative Pollution Reduction, Fisheries Strategies](#)

Chesapeake Bay Council Outlines Surplus Nutrient, Manure Management Strategy

A new [Surplus Nutrient and Manure Management Strategy](#) was adopted by the [Chesapeake Bay Executive Council](#) this week that is designed to develop options for handling the issue throughout the Bay drainage area.

The four main tasks outlined in the Strategy include:

- Reduce surplus animal manure and poultry litter nutrients by adjusting animal diets;
- Foster alternative uses for animal manure and poultry litter nutrients by building markets and technologies for manure and litter products that can be used for energy, fertilizers, soil amendments or compost on a variety of lands;
- Develop a comprehensive inventory of manure and litter nutrient surpluses in the watershed; and
- Coordinate manure management programs throughout the watershed to address the regional imbalances of manure and poultry litter surpluses.

The Strategy also sets a series of targets and commitments to achieve between now and 2010—

- 20 percent reduction in phosphorus and nitrogen levels in manure in one-third of the Bay watershed's dairy animals and 30 percent from poultry;
- 20 percent of the total fertilizer, soil amendments and compost used on state and federal lands will be comprised of poultry litter or animal manure nutrients derived from sources in the Bay watershed; and
- Create a Regional Manure and Litter Use Technology Task Force to identify and promote promising technologies for producing manure and litter products.

For more information, read the [Strategy online](#) and visit the [Chesapeake Bay Executive Council webpage](#).

NewsClip: [Bay Leaders Adopt Innovative Pollution Reduction, Fisheries Strategies](#)

DEP Reminds Applicants of Deadlines Under Expanded CAFO Regulations

Due to the large number of anticipated permits under the recently revised rules for Concentrated Animal Feeding Operations and Other Livestock Agricultural Operations regulations, the Department of Environmental Protection this week reminded potential applicants of several deadlines for the submission of applications.

The [deadlines are available online](#), but here's a quick overview--

- April 24, 2006 -- Dry poultry CAFO operations with more than 500 AEUs must apply;
- April 24, 2006 – Also other newly regulated CAFO operations, such as horses, or other existing operations that exceed one of the federal threshold numbers must apply; and
- January 22, 2007 -- Dry poultry CAFO operations with less than 500 AEUs must apply;

Newly proposed CAFO operations and existing operations that want to expand to become a CAFO must submit an application at least 180 days prior to beginning or expanding their operation.

After October 22, 2005, new or expanded liquid or semi-solid manure storage facilities require a water quality management permit if: the facility is a pond with a storage capacity greater than 1 million gallons in a high quality or exceptional value watershed or

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in a watershed that is impaired from nutrients from agricultural activities; or the storage capacity is 2.5 million gallons or more, regardless of type of facility and location.

After October 22, 2005, the following operations must not apply manure within 100 feet of surface water (a stream, lake or pond), unless a vegetated buffer no less than 35 feet in width has been established: CAOs and agricultural operations that receive manure from either a CAO or CAFO, directly or through a broker. A similar, though slightly more stringent requirement, applies to CAFOs as well.

The revised regulations were published in the [October 22 Pennsylvania Bulletin](#).

For more information, visit the [DEP Concentrated Animal Feeding Operations webpage](#).

Reminder: Watershed Mini-Grant Applications Due December 15

Western Pennsylvania Conservancy, in conjunction with Dominion, announced they are accepting application for a [Watershed Mini-Grant Program for Western Pennsylvania](#) through December 15.

The Program is designed to provide funding to watershed organizations in Allegheny, Armstrong, Beaver, Blair, Butler, Cambria, Cameron, Clarion, Clearfield, Clinton, Crawford, Elk, Fayette, Franklin, Greene, Indiana, Jefferson, Juniata, Lawrence, McKean, Mercer, Potter, Somerset, Tioga, Venango, Washington, and Westmoreland counties.

The grants may be used for three primary categories that include operating expenses, organizational promotion and outreach, or a restoration project. Individual grants will not exceed \$1,000.

The [grant application and proposal guidelines are available online](#) or by contacting Western Pennsylvania Conservancy at 724-459-0953 ext. 110.

Forest Lands Beautification Grants Due January 27

The Department of Conservation and Natural Resources announced this week [Forest Lands Beautification Grant applications](#) are due January 27.

The grants are available to organizations interested in developing forest land cleanup and dumping prevention programs.

For more information, visit the [Forest Lands Beautification Grant Program webpage](#) or contact Jason Hall, DCNR, by sending email to: JaHall@state.pa.us or calling 717-787-2014.

TMDL Public Meeting Set on Blue Run Watershed, Clearfield County

The Department of Environmental Protection will hold a public meeting on January 25 in Clearfield to answer questions and hear comments on a proposed Total Maximum Daily Load plan for Blue Run Watershed. ([PaB page 6589](#))

For more information contact John Mital, Moshannon District Mining Office, by sending email to jmital@state.pa.us or calling 814-342-8200.

Pennsylvania Updates Fish Consumption Advisories

State officials this week made changes to site specific sport [fish consumption advisories](#) around the state, but the general advisory of eating no more than one meal a week of sport fish remains in effect.

Site specific restriction changes include—

- Allegheny River: a one-meal-per-month mercury advisory has been modified to a two-meals-per-month advisory for walleye in the Allegheny River from the Warren/Forest county line to the confluence of Tubbs Run in Forest County;
- Cheat/Monongahela Rivers: a do-not-eat advisory for white bass due to chlordane has been lifted for the Cheat Lake River from the Cheat Lake Dam to its mouth, and for the Monongahela River from Point Marion to Grays Landing Lock and Dam in Fayette and Greene counties;
- Schuylkill River: a do-not-eat advisory for brook trout and a six-meals-per-year advisory for rainbow and brown trout due to polychlorinated biphenyl, or PCB, contamination in the Schuylkill River from the confluence of Mill Creek at Port Carbon to Auburn Dam in Schuylkill County;
- Mahoning/Shenango Rivers: a one-meal-per-month PCB advisory for smallmouth bass on the Beaver River from the confluence of the Mahoning and Shenango rivers to the New Brighton Dam in Beaver and Lawrence Counties; and
- Eaton Reservoir: a two-meals-per-month mercury advisory for walleye on the Eaton Reservoir in Erie County.

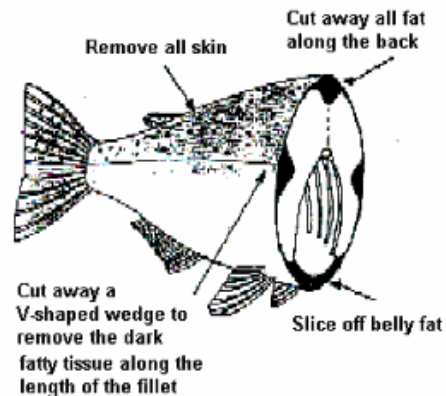
“The information provided in fish consumption advisories helps people plan what fish to keep and how often and how much of their catch to eat,” Fish and Boat Commission Executive Director Dr. Douglas Austen. “By providing detailed advisories, we enable anglers and others who eat recreationally caught sport fish to make informed decisions.”

All recreationally caught sport fish in Pennsylvania are subject to a one-meal-per-week consumption advisory. This blanket advisory is designed to protect the general population, especially pregnant women, women of childbearing years and young children. One meal is considered to be one-half pound of fish for a 150-pound person.

The advisories do not apply to fish raised for commercial purposes or bought in stores or restaurants.

“Consumption advisories are not intended to discourage anyone from fishing or eating fresh fish in moderation,” DEP Secretary Kathleen A. McGinty said. “Our goal is to make sure anglers have the best available information as they fish Pennsylvania’s waterways.”

“When properly prepared, fish provide a diet high in protein and low in saturated fats,” Dr. Johnson said. “People can get the health benefits of eating fish and reduce exposure to organic contaminants by properly cleaning, skinning, trimming and cooking the fish they eat.”



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Proper preparation generally includes trimming away fat and broiling or grilling the fish to allow remaining fat to drip away. Juices and fats that cook out of the fish should not be eaten or reused for cooking or preparing other foods. Mercury, however, collects in the fish's muscle and cannot be reduced by cleaning and cooking methods.

Current and updated advisories for 2005 are published in the Summary of Fishing Regulations and Laws provided to each purchaser of Pennsylvania fishing licenses.

For more information visit the [Fish Advisories webpage](#).

NewsClip: [Fish & Boat Commission Updates Fish Advisories](#)

Alliance for the Chesapeake Bay Seeks Individuals to Serve on Advisory Committee

The [Alliance for the Chesapeake Bay](#) is putting together an advisory committee to help create an annual Chesapeake Bay-wide watershed conference and they need members to serve.

This advisory group will help to decide when to hold the conference, what types of workshops should be available, what other activities should be planned. The Bay Program through the National Park Service has agreed to support this effort and the Alliance is currently trying to raise some funds to support it as well.

The commitment will be a once a month conference call for approximately two hours and then attendance at the conference.

Please contact Lou Etgen, letgen@acb-online.org or call 410-377-6270 if you are interested in taking part in this advisory committee and helping to create an event that would be a benefit to watershed organizations in the Bay region.

Agricultural Land Conservation Assistance Grants Due February 17

The Department of Agriculture will accept applications for [Agricultural Land Conservation Assistance Grant](#) to establish or improve agricultural conservation easement purchase programs from January 2 through February 17.

County farmland preservation boards are eligible for these grants.

Information and grant application forms may be obtained from Sandra Robison, Bureau of Farmland Preservation, 717-783-3167.

Family Pollution Prevention Poster Contest in Allegheny County

The Allegheny County Health Department is sponsoring its annual environmental poster contest for children in grades 6 through 8. This year's theme is "[Pollution Prevention -- A Family Project](#)."

The deadline for entries is February 3 and the winners will be announced during Earth Day events in April.

Teachers interested in having their classes participate can contact the department at 412-687-ACHD.

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

EPA Celebrates Birthday and 35 Years of Environmental Progress

President Richard Nixon created the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency 35 years ago this month and over those decades the United States has seen major reductions in pollution in spite of a dramatic increase in the economy.

As one example, EPA said between 1970 and 2004, total emissions of the six major air pollutants dropped by 54 percent. This is particularly impressive when noted that the gross domestic product increased 187 percent, energy consumption increased 47 percent, and U.S. population grew by 40 percent during the same time, proof that economic growth and environmental protection do go hand in hand.

Visit [EPA's 35th Birthday Party webpage](#) and to see how much progress there has been go online to the [Report on the Environment](#).

Carl Roe Named to Head Game Commission

The Board of the Pennsylvania Game Commissioners this week [selected Carl Roe](#) to serve as the agency's new executive director.

Roe will succeed Vern Ross, current executive director, when he retires on December 31. Ross announced his retirement at the Board's meeting on June 28.

"We believe that Carl Roe will be an excellent chief executive officer for the Pennsylvania Game Commission, and that he will be able to build on the agency's long list of conservation accomplishments," said Board of Game Commissioners President John J. Riley.



"I look forward to this new opportunity and new phase in my professional career," Roe said. "I plan to work with the hunters and trappers of Pennsylvania, as well as other conservation-minded organizations, to further the agency's wildlife management objectives and habitat improvement projects.

"There are many challenges on the horizon, not the least of which is the agency's current fiscal situation, but I firmly believe that this agency and its many dedicated men and women will be able to pull together and overcome any obstacle."

Roe currently serves as the agency's Bureau of Administrative Services director, and has spearheaded the effort to implement an electronic license sale system, commonly referred to as "point-of-sale." In 2001, Roe joined the agency as its first ever long-range strategic planner, and has continued in his current position to oversee the implementation of the agency's Strategic Plan.

A native of Wayne, Montgomery County, Roe grew up hunting and fishing in Pennsylvania, and continued these activities during his young adulthood on the Eastern Shore of Maryland. He is a member of the National Wild Turkey Federation and the National Rifle Association.

The Board received nearly 70 applications for the position from around the country.

Created in 1895 as an independent state agency, the Game Commission is responsible for conserving and managing all wild birds and mammals in the Commonwealth, establishing hunting seasons and bag limits, enforcing hunting and

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trapping laws, and managing habitat on the more than 1.4 million acres of State Game Lands it has purchased over the years with hunting and furtaking license dollars to safeguard wildlife habitat.

The agency also conducts numerous wildlife conservation programs for schools, civic organizations and sportsmen's clubs.

The Game Commission does not receive any annual General Fund state taxpayer dollars.

NewsClip: [Roe Takes Leadership of Game Commission at Key Time](#)

Kim Nelson to Leave Environmental Protection Agency CIO Position



Kim Nelson this week announced she will be leaving her position as CIO of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency January 2 after four years of service.

Kim served as the first CIO for the Department of Environmental Protection and was instrumental in implementing the agency's Money Back Guarantee Program for permit reviews, developing the eFACTS system the first publicly accessible online compliance reporting system for facilities regulated by DEP, promoting the use of GIS and other electronic tools in DEP permit reviews and management.

Under Kim's leadership at EPA, she oversaw the creation and implementation of the National Environmental Information Exchange Network which shares information across federal and state government boundaries over the Internet, using indicators to measure performance, and lead the implementation of the Agency's enterprise architecture.

In her letter of resignation to President Bush, Kim said, "The Office of Environmental Information is well positioned to support both your vision of a citizen-centered government and EPA's challenging mission of protecting human health and safeguarding the natural environment. Thank you for the honor of serving in this position and having the opportunity to work with an esteemed team of professionals."

Kim is a graduate of Shippensburg University.

Wyonna Coleman, West Brownsville Environmental Activist, Passes

Long-time environmental activist [Wyonna Coleman](#) passed away this week at the age of 73.

Coleman worked for many years on issues related to surface and deep coal mining and was instrumental in the passage of state and federal laws dealing with reclamation, mine subsidence and water replacement through the Tri-State Citizens Mining Network and other organizations.

She worked as a journalist, a newspaper editor and was for many years the librarian at the California Public Library until she retired in 2000.

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

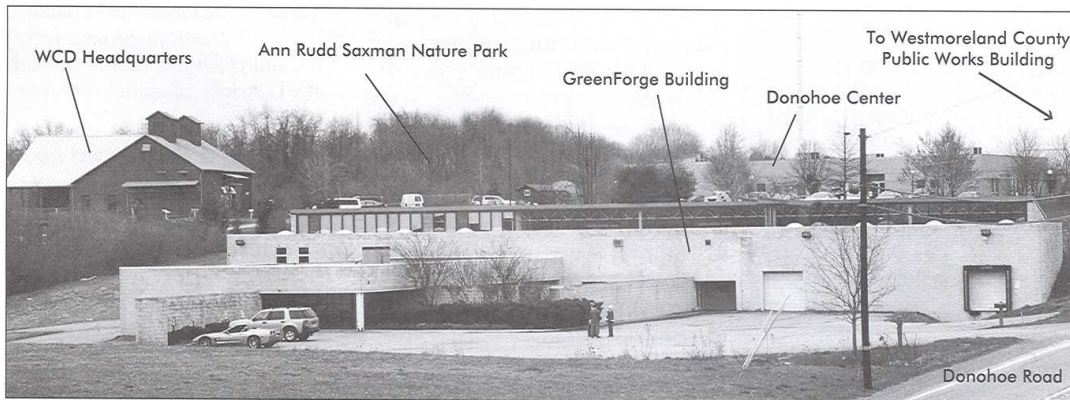
Feature – Green Leadership

Westmoreland Conservation Campus Expanding to Include “GreenForge”

The [Westmoreland Conservation Districts’](#) conservation campus is growing again.

The 20,000 square foot building next door to both Donohoe Center and the District’s headquarters in the converted barn will soon be transformed into an efficient and practical green space that nonprofit conservation, agricultural and rural development agencies can call “home.”

This building—which goes by the working name “GreenForge”—has been vacant for the past several years. A creative agreement for owning and managing the building has



been draft between the Westmoreland County Industrial Development Corporation (building owner) and the Westmoreland Conservation District (property manager).

Greg Phillips, District Manager/CEO, expressed excitement about the project. “GreenForge will take conservation to new levels. As we rent space in this building to both new groups and existing partners, we will have more opportunities for collaboration. We’ll share resources and partner on projects, which will increase the effectiveness of each organization’s work.

“Another exciting element of the GreenForge project is that, in getting the building ready to house these conservation-related organizations, we are doing a “green retrofit.” We are taking a 25-year old commercial building, and installing a variety of leading-edge conservation features that will make its daily operation very energy efficient and easy on the environment. We also are going to make these conservation features part of our education program to show people how they, too, can realize benefits by incorporating them in their own building projects.

“And finally, in the longer-term, GreenForge has the potential to provide a steady source of funding for conservation projects throughout the area, once the building debt is paid off.”

GreenForge will provide much-needed, reasonably priced lease space for the variety of nonprofit conservation, agriculture, environmental, and rural development agencies in the county.

Leases currently are being negotiated with Westmoreland Cleanways and the Progress Fund, and several other organizations have expressed interest in occupying the building, which includes both office and warehouse space.

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In addition to reasonable rent, GreenForge also provides agencies with the added benefit of being physically near a significant number of like-minded organizations (including the agencies in the original Donohoe Center building, the [District's barn headquarters](#), and the Westmoreland County Public Works building).

Sharing a walkable “conservation campus” increases the opportunity for interaction among these groups. The more often they talk and share information, the more likely it is that they will discover opportunities to share resources, combine efforts, and partner on projects—all of which will increase each agency’s organizational capacity as well as the ultimate benefits it can provide to the community.

One of the first steps in the GreenForge project is to retrofit this 25-year old building with conservation in mind.

“We’re planning to use green materials, install demonstration energy-saving technologies, and employ all sorts of best management practices—so that the whole site becomes an example that encourages builders throughout the county to incorporate conservation measures in their projects,” Phillips explained.

The exact materials, technologies, and practices to be included in GreenForge are now being determined by the project team, which is made up of many of the same people who successfully transformed an 1880s-era barn into the District’s headquarters a few years ago.

A list of items includes—a 5,000 foot green roof, a 3.5 kwh solar array, a geothermal heating system, on-demand faucets and water-saving toilets, countertops and other materials made from recycled resources, including agricultural products, native landscaping and retrofitting the current asphalt parking lots with bioretention cells to manage stormwater.

The team plans to retrofit GreenForge in such a way that its operation will use less energy and have less impact on both the natural resources and man-made infrastructure than a traditional building of its size.

GreenForge also will be adapted in a way that qualifies it for Silver-level LEED Certification. The Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design Green Building Rating System is a national standard for high-performance, sustainable buildings. Energy Star ratings also will be important consideration in all aspects of the building’s adaptation.

All of the conservation enhancements to the GreenForge building will be documented, monitored for efficiency, and promoted to the public through the District’s education and outreach program.

The ownership/management of GreenForge is set up so that, once the building debt is retired, any income after expenses can be used to support conservation initiatives in Westmoreland County.

These initiatives could include: cleaning up abandoned deep coal mine drainage, implementing soil conservation and streambank stabilization projects, preserving farmland, building and maintaining recreation trails, protecting open space, managing stormwater, and so on.

The projected total cost of the GreenForge conservation rehabilitation project is just over \$2 million. Of that, significant commitments of financial and in-kind support totaling some \$560,000 have been received from The Katherine Mabis McKenna Foundation, the West Penn Power Sustainable Energy Fund, Inc., Wolf Lake Incorporated; and Glance & Associates, Inc..

The remaining \$1.5 million will be raised from foundations, government agencies, businesses, and individuals.

Reprinted with permission from Landmarks, Fall 2005, published by the [Westmoreland County Conservation District](#).

Feature – 50 Years and Counting

The Nature Conservancy - Celebrating 50 Years in Pennsylvania



Committed locally. Connected globally.

Deep in Woodbourne Forest, great horned owls glide through old-growth stands of hemlocks and ash; animals from minks to salamanders shelter in fields, ponds, and streams. Donated to [The Nature](#)

[Conservancy](#) in April 1956 by conservationist Francis R. Cope, Jr., this is one of the Conservancy's first preserves—and marks the start of its work in America's Keystone State nearly half a century ago.

As its landmark 50th anniversary in Pennsylvania approaches, the Conservancy is celebrating additional milestones: the chartering of the Pennsylvania chapter 30 years ago; the 25th anniversary of Shelly Preserve, noted for its diverse habitat; and a quarter-century of growth set in motion by its first director, Bud Cook—and continuing today with new state director Bill Kunze's plans to deepen its work across the state and expand partnerships regionally and globally.

Cook, who now directs the Northeastern Pennsylvania Office, recalls projects key to the chapter's growth such as Tannersville Cranberry Bog, the second state preserve.

"The Cranberry" represented new capabilities in land management then, and serves as a major educational site today.

The chapter strengthened its scientific focus in 1982 when Pennsylvania adopted the Natural Heritage Program, a Conservancy-developed inventory of rare species and communities.

This provided data for setting priorities, identifying connections between habitats, and choosing sites to acquire.

To accommodate the Conservancy's increasing scale of activities, Cook moved to the Pocono region to lead the chapter's first venture into landscape-scale conservation.

Cary Nicholas became the new Pennsylvania state director in 1990. The challenge of this period was to begin protecting natural areas as part of a landscape rather than as separate tracts.

"We needed to understand the habitats' requirements—and how to meet them—in a regional context," Nicholas says. "We had to think in terms of, 'Where does this water flow from? What land development is happening nearby?'"

This focus led to a pilot program which helped the Conservancy develop its worldwide Conservation by Design approach: the Pocono Bioserve, a landscape of globally significant wetlands, glacial lakes and bogs, heaths, and oak barrens on the Pocono Plateau and nearby mountain ridges.

Although the Conservancy still purchased top-priority sites, strategies expanded to include partnerships with government agencies, community and conservation groups, businesses, and landowners. The chapter customized a plan for each protected habitat, such as bog turtle marshes, rare serpentine barrens, bat caves, and vernal pools.

When the Conservancy officially introduced Conservation by Design in the mid 90's, the Pennsylvania chapter gained access to new scientific methods of measuring results.

The chapter also began to focus on natural communities such as the state's rare, majestic forests. Over the years, increasingly sophisticated computer models and other tools have saved time and increased accuracy.

Nels Johnson, Director of Conservation Programs, notes the chapter has been at the forefront of the Conservancy's fire and freshwater initiatives, conducting controlled burns in the Poconos, and working in systems including the 120-mile French Creek watershed—which the Conservancy considered to be one of the 30 most important bodies of freshwater in the Americas.

The chapter is looking forward with projects such as a forest laboratory at West Branch Wilderness, where experiments in restoring old-growth woodlands will yield insights for preservation efforts elsewhere in the state and around the world.

"We want to raise conservation in Pennsylvania to a higher level and also contribute to conservation beyond our borders," says Kunze. "We want to be local, everywhere."

Reprinted with permissions from [Penn's Woods, Fall/Winter 2005](#) newsletter of [The Nature Conservancy, Pennsylvania Chapter](#).

Opinion

A Pennsylvania Energy Harvest: Leadership for Pennsylvania and the Nation's Energy Future

By Eric Thumma

Director, DEP Bureau of Environmental Sustainability

The United States is standing at an historic crossroads between challenge and opportunity. The energy policy and strategies that we put in place to deal with these challenges can ensure a future of reliable, affordable and secure energy for the nation's energy consumers.

Gov. Edward G. Rendell is making Pennsylvania an energy policy leader by instituting policies and programs designed to turn today's energy challenges into opportunities for clean, affordable, home-grown energy.

Beginning with Governor Rendell's launch of the Pennsylvania Energy Harvest program in his very first months in office, the Administration began to call for the enhanced use of Pennsylvania's indigenous energy resources as the best way to ensure reliable, affordable and secure energy.

Since its inception in May 2003, the Pennsylvania Energy Harvest Grant Program has awarded \$15.9 million and leveraged another \$43.7 million in private funds, and created approximately 340 permanent jobs and over 1,000 temporary jobs. The grants provide the last increment of funding for clean and renewable energy projects to be built in

the Commonwealth from sources such as biomass, wind, solar, small-scale hydroelectric, landfill methane, coal-bed methane and waste-coal.

Governor Rendell's Growing Greener II initiative provides significant resources to build on the success of Energy Harvest, including up to \$10 million annually for the Pennsylvania Energy Development Authority, which has up to \$1 billion available to provide financing to help build clean power and fuel plants. In June, PEDA awarded its first \$6.5 million to finance 16 clean energy projects that will create as many as 450 permanent and construction jobs, including 327 full-time jobs. Gov. Rendell revived the Authority in April, 2004.

A reformed Alternative Fuels Incentive Grant Program has over \$20 million available to support alternative fuel infrastructure and vehicles, biofuels production and hybrid electric vehicles.

Last November, Gov. Rendell signed into law the historic Alternative Energy Portfolio Standard (Act 213 of 2004), or AEPS, to promote our indigenous energy resources. This act, the first of its kind in the nation to recognize the value of resources that provide a net environmental benefit, provides strong incentives for renewable energy, waste coal and coal gasification. Act 213 will ensure that approximately 5,000 megawatts of new generation that comes on line over the next 15 years will be from resources indigenous to Pennsylvania, thereby reducing our demand for natural gas in the electricity sector while improving the quality of our environment.

The policy and financial programs put in place by Gov. Rendell have resulted in meaningful alternative energy projects on the ground in Pennsylvania. Gamesa, a major Spanish wind manufacturer, has located its North American headquarters in Philadelphia and will soon be opening blade and tower manufacturing facilities at two former industrial sites in Ebensburg and Fairless Hills, respectively -- creating over 1,000 jobs.

Last month, Governor Rendell took part in the opening of the first biodiesel injection refueling station on the East Coast. The station, located in Middletown, is a joint venture of Worley & Obetz, Petroleum Products Corp. and Independence Biofuels Inc.

This Spring, Waste Management and Processors, Inc. plans to break ground for the first coal to transportation fuels plant in the United States - made possible by an innovative contracting structure whereby the Commonwealth is leading a consortium of long-term purchasers of the plants no-sulfur diesel fuel output.

Today we are facing historically high-energy prices and we need to respond to that challenge. However, this challenge is also an opportunity, an opportunity to create an energy secure Pennsylvania that keeps its energy dollars in state and employs thousands of Pennsylvanians in producing the components and outputs of a clean, reliable, affordable and secure energy future.

Eric Thumma can be contact by sending email to: ethumma@state.pa.us .

Quick Clips

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

[Hungry Deer Threaten State's Lumber Production](#)
[The Great Deer Debate Continues- Too Many in the Wrong Places](#)

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[Fewer Hunters Take to the Woods](#)

[Pennsylvania Deer Farmers](#)

[Greener Vessel to Join Voyager Environmental Education Program](#)

[Fuel: The Changing Cost of Getting to School](#)

[New Rail-Truck Hub Still On Track for Bethlehem Brownfield](#)

[State Hopes to Trade Cleaner Coal Gasification for Older Coal Plants](#)

[Conservation Agreement Will Breathe New Life Into Historic Hillside Farms](#)

[Court Ruling Places Recycling at Risk](#)

[Wildlife Rehab Clinic Reopens at Schuylkill Center](#)

[PennDOT's Erie Office Achieves ISO 14000 Certification](#)

Watershed NewsClips

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

[Wetlands Restoration From Coal Waste Pile](#)

[Editorial: Chesapeake Bay Revival](#)

[Chesapeake Bay Agreement Aims to Cut Pollution](#)

[Monitoring Wells to Improve Montgomery County Drought Warnings](#)

[South Allegheny Elementary School Uses Garden As Teaching Tool](#)

[County Internet Site Enables Residents to Monitor Stream Data](#)

[Reclamation of Cobbs Creek Park a Boon for Community](#)

[No-Till and Roadside Buffer Programs Offered in Union County](#)

[Lehigh Dam Coming Down for Safety](#)

[EPA Awards Grant to Partnership for the Delaware Estuary](#)

Regulations

Regulatory activity this week came from the Department of Environmental Protection and its Mercury Rule Work Group, the Independent Regulatory Review Commission and the U.S. EPA on its [New Source Review](#) requirements.

- The Department of Environmental Protection will present an outline of its draft mercury reduction rule at the December 15 [Air Quality Technical Advisory Committee](#) and December 16 [Mercury Rule Work Group](#) meetings.

The DEP [Mercury Rule Work Group](#) heard suggestions from a variety of sources on what should be included in a Pennsylvania mercury emission reduction regulation. Several of those perspectives are included here—

- [STAPPA/ALAPCO Perspective - PDF](#)
- [PennFuture's Suggested Rule Language - PDF](#)
- [PA Coal Association Comments - PDF](#)
- [National Wildlife Federation - PDF](#)
- [United Mine Workers Recommendations - PDF](#) [Benefits - PDF](#)

NewsClip: [Mercury Work Group Considers Options](#)

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- The [Independent Regulatory Review Commission](#) approved the Environmental Quality Board final [Laboratory Certification regulations](#) (*scroll to August EQB meeting agenda*) and announced it will consider the final [Environmental Hearing Board](#) practice and procedure regulation changes at its December 15 meeting.
- The Department of Agriculture published [final Nutrient Management Certification regulations](#) in the PA Bulletin.
- The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency announced this week it is extending the public comment period on proposed changes to [New Source Review air quality regulations](#) until February 17, 2006.

[Pennsylvania Bulletin – December 3, 2005](#)

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

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

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

Technical Guidance & Permits

The Department of Environmental Protection [published a formal notice](#) extending the comment period for the Nutrient and Sediment Reduction Credit Trading Interim Final Policy and Guidelines through December 31 and [notice of December 12 Listening Session](#) on the Policy.

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

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

Calendar of Upcoming Events

Upcoming conferences, meetings, workshops, plus links to other online calendars. [Go To: PA Environment Digest Calendar Page](#)

- **December 5** – [DEP Radiation Protection Advisory Committee meeting](#) to consider proposed regulation changes to implement Agreement State Status with the Nuclear Regulatory Commission.
- **December 6** – House Environmental Resources and Energy Committee information meeting on Energy Policy to hear presentations from energy producers.
- **December 6** – House Finance Committee meeting to consider [Senate Bill 640](#) (Pileggi-R-Montgomery) claims for taxes, water, lighting fee exclusions for donations of property

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- **December 7** – House Agriculture and Rural Affairs Committee will consider [Senate Bill 723](#) (Wenger-R-Lancaster) making changes to definition of eligible entity in the Agricultural Security Law and [House Bill 671](#) (Reichley-R-Berks) related to responsibilities of county farmland preservation boards.
- **December 7** – Delaware River Basin Commission [informal conference/hearing](#) on water supply plan, Delaware Toxics Reduction Program, mussel habitat study, PCB Minimization Plan.
- **December 12** – DEP Listening Session on [Interim Final Nutrient Trading Policy](#). [Lancaster Farm and Home Center](#). 6:00 p.m..
- **December 12** – Environmental Issues Forum – PA Recycling Markets Development Center, [Joint Air and Water Pollution Control and Conservation Committee](#).
- **December 13** – Hearing by the Senate Environmental Resources and Energy and Transportation Committees on Vehicle Emission Standards.
- **December 13** – CANCELLED - DEP [Storage Tank Advisory Committee](#) meeting.
- **December 15**- [Air Quality Technical Advisory Committee](#) meeting to consider outline of mercury emission reduction rule.
- **December 15** – Independent Regulatory Review Commission meeting to consider Practice and Procedures Regulations of the [Environmental Hearing Board](#).
- **December 16**- DEP [Mercury Rule Work Group](#) meeting to consider outline of mercury emission reduction rule.
- **December 16** – [PA Energy Development Authority meeting in Harrisburg](#).

[DEP Calendar of Events](#)

[Watershed Events](#)

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

[Environmental Education Workshop/Training Calendar](#)

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

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

Helpful Web Links

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

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

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

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

Stories Invited

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

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

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