

Issue #927 Harrisburg, PA April 25, 2022

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53 New Stories - REAL Environmental & Conservation Leadership In PA



Here are 53 new stories in the ***PA Environment Digest*** about individuals, groups, local

governments, farmers, businesses, watershed groups and many more working all across Pennsylvania to restore and protect the environment and show others the beauty that surrounds us.

Thank you for your leadership!

-- Attorney General's Office Reported To Be Investigating Conventional Oil & Gas Operators For Illegally Road Dumping Drilling Wastewater [PaEN]

-- Game Commission Recognizes John C. Oliver With Lifetime Achievement Award, Renames The Award After Oliver [PaEN]

-- TribLive - Mary Ann Thomas: Game Commission Creates Award Named For John Oliver Who Helped Preserved More Than 200,000 Acres In The State

-- PennLive - Marcus Schneck: Poll Finds Voters Want Federal Rescue Plan Money To Beef Up PA's State Parks, Forests

-- TribLive - Mary Ann Thomas: Successful Growth Of Baby Mussels In Kiski River Indicates Continued Health Of Waterways

-- Scranton Times Guest Essay: Seize The Rare Opportunity To Resolve Toxic Mine Drainage - by Robert Hughes, Eastern PA Coalition for Abandoned Mine Reclamation

-- TribLive - Mary Ann Thomas: DEP To Close Mine Opening, Demolish Old Fan Building At Roaring Run Trail In Armstrong County

-- MCall: Emmaus Sues Makers Of PFAS 'Forever Chemicals' Over Groundwater Contamination

-- Sustainable Business Network Recognizes Green Stormwater Infrastructure Projects In Philadelphia Region [PaEN]

-- PA American Water Announces $75,000 In Grants To Support Local Environmental Projects [PaEN]

-- U.S. Dept. Of Education Recognizes Spring-Ford School District, Shippensburg University As Green Ribbon Schools [PaEN]

-- DEP Announces Award Of $632,897 In Environmental Education Grants To Support 63 Projects Across The State [PaEN]

-- Exelon Foundation Announces Green Lab Grant Winners, 2023 Applications Open; Plans To Advance STEM Education In Under-Resourced Communities

-- York Dispatch: 1,500 Trees Planted To Complete 20 Acre Riparian Forest Buffer In

Northeastern School District

-- Reading Eagle: Berks Conservationists Showcase Nature's Beauty, Importance Of Earth Day

-- Stroud Water Research Center: Calling Lancaster County Teachers - Join Outdoor Leadership Network Initiative [PaEN]

-- Green Philly: Classroom On Wheels, How Stroud Water Research Center Is Changing Environmental Ed

-- Stroud Water Research Center: Calling Lancaster County Teachers - Join Outdoor Leadership Network Initiative [PaEN]

-- Westmoreland Conservation District: Hands-On Envirothon Returns For High School Students April 28 [PaEN]

-- TribLive: Fox Chapel High School Students Earn Top Honors At STEM Contest At Heinz Field

-- MCall Guest Essay - Paul Muschick: How A Parkland High School Class Could Be An Answer To PA's Volunteer Firefighting Crisis

-- Daily Item: Milton Area 5th Graders Organize Litter Clean Up At White Deer Elementary

-- WHYY: Tree-Plantings And Trash Walks: Earth Day 2022 In Philly

-- The Burg News: On Earth Day, Volunteers Cleanup Harrisburg Capital Area Greenbelt, Stress Importance Of Pitching In

-- Scranton Times: Keystone College Students Mark Earth Day With Roadside Cleanup

-- MCall: Earth Day: Your Guide To Events, Cleanups In Lehigh Valley Area

-- Keep PA Beautiful's Fayette County Affiliate Transitions From All Volunteer Led To County Recycling Office [PaEN]

-- DEP Announces $30.5 Million Recycling Implementation Grants To 157 Municipalities [PaEN]

-- WHYY: Chester Residents Rally Against Trash Incinerator: 'We Are Still On The Battlefield'

-- Post-Gazette - Laura Legere: Offices Adapt As COVID Highlights Hazards Of Poor Indoor Air Quality

-- Allegheny Conference Report: Decarbonization, Energy Transition Are Critical To The Future

Competitiveness Of Pittsburgh Region [PaEN]

-- NextPittsburgh: Allegheny Conference Report Charts 'Middle Path' For Western PA's Energy Future

-- Erie Times: Solar Panels Eyed For Erie's Central Firehouse, Could Save More Than $7,000 A Year In Energy Costs

-- The Philadelphia Citizen: Philadelphia Energy Authority Report: Installing Solar Panels On Schools Would Save $20,000 A Year In Energy Costs

-- Appalachian Voices: Appalachian Groups Urge Biden, Congress To Ensure Climate Action Helps Energy Transition Communities [PaEN]

-- Quaker Houghton Releases 2021 Sustainability Report

-- EQB Final Rule Published In PA Bulletin Reducing Carbon Pollution From Power Plants [RGGI] [PaEN]

-- DEP Showcases City Of Reading's Local Climate Action For Earth Day; Apply Now For Local Climate Assistance Program [PaEN]

-- Reading Eagle: Reading Kicks Off Earth Day By Showcasing Its Climate Action Plan

-- PA Capital-Star: Investing In The Future Is Not Radical Environmentalism, Pennsylvanians Deserve An Honest Dialogue About What Interests Are Really Driving Climate Debate - By Sen. Amanda Cappelletti (D-Montgomery)

-- Courier Times Guest Essay: Invest In Our Clean Energy Future - PennEnvironment

-- Courier Times: After Long Battle, Stone Meadows Farm Has Been Saved, What's In Its Future?

-- TribLive: Final Tree Planting Set At Flight 93 National Memorial Friday, Saturday For Reforestation Project

-- PA Capital-Star: Volunteers Gather At Flight 93 Memorial To Renew The Earth And To Remember

-- Harrisburg Area YMCA's Camp Curtin Branch Urban Garden Adds Native Plants To Help Vegetables Grow [PaEN]

-- WHYY: Could Planting Gardens Be The Key To Preventing Shootings? Grays Ferry Residents Are Giving It A Go

-- TribLive - Deb Erdley: From Community Gardens To The Environment, Sisters Of Mercy In Pittsburgh Fulfill Various Missions

-- TribLive: Latodami Nature Center Program To Replace Lawns With Wildlife Habitat Serves As 'Anti-Grassroots' Campaign To Improve Environment In Allegheny County

-- Altoona Mirror: Blair County Town's Efforts To Be Known As A Trail Town Paying Off In Revitalized Economy

-- DCNR Joins Chester County Officials For Trailhead, Trail Opening

-- WHYY: Philly Region Celebrates 350 Miles Of Walkable, Bikeable Trails

-- Wilkes-Barre Times: Former Area Fish Warden Authors Book On 27-Year Career

Visit the PA Environment Digest website to learn more.

Going The RIGHT WAY:

-- 53 New Stories - REAL Environmental & Conservation Leadership In PA
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-- 35 New Stories - REAL Environmental & Conservation Leadership In PA
-- 1,198 New Articles In 2021 - REAL Environmental & Conservation Leadership In PA

Going The WRONG WAY:

-- This Week's Examples Of Going The WRONG WAY On Environmental, Energy Issues

[Posted: April 24, 2022] PA Environment Digest

This Week's Examples Of Going The WRONG WAY On Environmental, Energy Issues



While PA Environment Digest's priority is to highlight positive examples of environmental and energy leadership, 2022 is an election year which demands accountability to voters.

Below are examples of going the WRONG WAY on environmental and energy issues from last week's articles and NewsClips--

-- Conventional Oil & Gas Operators Continued To Illegally Road Dump Over 580,000 Gallons Of Drilling Wastewater In 2021 [PaEN]

-- PennLive Letter: Grant Twp. Is Fighting Back Against Oil & Gas Waste Injection Wells, Court Hearing April 20

-- EPA: State Plan To Clean Up PA's Part Of Chesapeake Bay Watershed Lacks Funding To Meet Water Pollution Reduction Goals [PaEN]

-- Delaware Currents: For Every 10 Miles Of Streams In PA's Part Of The Delaware River Watershed, 4 Don't Meet Water Quality Standards [PaEN]

-- StateImpactPA - Rachel McDevitt: PA's New Climate Rule Met With Applause, Court Threats Upon Finalization

-- StateImpactPA - Reid Frazier: Low-Producing Oil & Gas Wells Are High Methane Emitters, Study Finds

-- StateImpactPA - Rachel McDevitt: PA Air Quality Shows Little Improvement In Latest State Of The Air Report

-- Erie Times: We Can't Take Freedom For Granted - Self-Interview With Republican Gubernatorial Candidate Jake Corman [One Question On Environment, Climate]

Want to have a positive impact on issues like this? Tell your Senate and House members they need to act to protect and restore Pennsylvania's environment and support the tens of thousands of Pennsylvanians who do-- not slide backwards.

Click Here to find your member of the state General Assembly.

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All Articles & NewsClips In This Week's Digest By Topic

PA Environment Digest Is Putting The Best Links To Environment & Energy Articles and NewsClips Here. **Is Your Story Being Told?**

Links to all the articles and NewsClips in this week's PA Environment Digest by topic in one place--

Senate/House ----------

-- StateImpactPA - Rachel McDevitt: PA's New Climate Rule Met With Applause, Court Threats Upon Finalization
-- House Environmental Committee To Hold April 25 Info. Meeting On Republican Package Of Bills Attempting To Address Local Flooding [PaEN]
-- Warren Times: Stream Maintenance Package Proposed By House Republicans
-- House Environmental Committee Meets April 26 To Consider Solar/Wind Energy Bonding, Windmill Interference Bills [PaEN]
-- The Center Square: Despite Setbacks, Carbon Capture May Come To Pennsylvania
-- Williamsport Sun: State Representatives Discuss Need For Conservation Funding At Lycoming County Conservation District Dinner
-- Erie Times: We Can't Take Freedom For Granted - Self-Interview With Republican Gubernatorial Candidate Jake Corman [One Question On Environment, Climate]
-- TribLive Editorial: Earth Day Is No Time For Politics

Top 10 Headlines From Harrisburg Last Week ----------

Because In Politics Everything Is Connected To Everything Else--

-- Top 10 Stories: Harrisburg/PA Politics Reported By Local News Media Last Week [PaEN]

Articles & NewsClips By Topic ----------

-- 53 New Stories - REAL Environmental & Conservation Leadership In PA [PaEN]

-- Environment & Energy Educational Opportunities For Students And Adults [PaEN]

-- This Week's Examples Of Going The WRONG WAY On Environmental, Energy Issues

[PaEN]

Air
-- EQB Final Rule Published In PA Bulletin Reducing Carbon Pollution From Power Plants [RGGI] [PaEN]
-- AP: Big Greenhouse Gas State Taking Biggest Climate Step Yet [RGGI]
-- Post-Gazette - Laura Legere: Gov. Wolf's Climate Rule Set To Take Effect Saturday
-- StateImpactPA - Rachel McDevitt: PA's New Climate Rule Met With Applause, Court Threats Upon Finalization
-- PA Capital-Star: PA Officially Enacts Carbon Pricing For Power Plants
-- Bay Journal: PA To Join Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative - By Ad Crable
-- Scranton Times Editorial: State Clears The Air With RGGI
-- AP: Explainer: Can Climate Change Be Solved By Pricing Carbon? [PA, RGGI Mentioned]
-- Group Against Smog & Pollution: U.S. Steel Appeals Allegheny County Health Dept. $1.8 Million Penalty For Clairton Coke Works Violations
-- StateImpactPA - Reid Frazier: Low-Producing Oil & Gas Wells Are High Methane Emitters, Study Finds
-- Post-Gazette - Laura Legere: Study Finds Low-Producing Oil & Gas Wells Major Source Of Methane Leaks
-- DEP Update On United Refining Company Naphtha Storage Tank Roof Failure In Warren [PaEN]
-- EPA Releases White Paper For Comment On Reducing Climate Pollution From New Natural Gas-Fired Electric Generation [PaEN]
-- StateImpactPA - Rachel McDevitt: PA Air Quality Shows Little Improvement In Latest State Of The Air Report
-- Post-Gazette: Pittsburgh's Air Quality Is Improving But Still Among Worst In Country
-- LancasterOnline - Sean Sauro: Lancaster County Air Quality Fails In Annual Report
-- WHYY: Philly Area Finally Off The 'Worst 25' List For Ozone Pollution, But Still Gets Failing Grade
-- WHYY: Chester Residents Rally Against Trash Incinerator: 'We Are Still On The Battlefield'
-- Post-Gazette: PA's Most Unhealthy County [Fayette] Launches Program To Boost Resident Health
-- Post-Gazette - Laura Legere: Offices Adapt As COVID Highlights Hazards Of Poor Indoor Air Quality
-- PA Capital-Star: Carbon Dioxide Emissions In Pennsylvania
-- NYT Guest Essay: Enough About Climate Change, Air Pollution Is Killing Us Now
-- NPR: Wildfires Are Increasingly Contributing To Unhealthy Air
-- AP: After Wildfires Scorched Trees Could Disrupt Water Supplies

Allegheny River
-- Warren Times: Warren County Historical Society Holds April 21 Event On Current & Future Of The Allegheny River

Alternative Fuels
-- Post-Gazette - Salena Zito: Talking Electric Vehicles At The Oldest Gas Station In America

[Altoona]
-- Reuters: Analysis: Soaring Battery Costs Fail To Cool Electric Vehicle Sales

Awards & Recognition
-- Game Commission Recognizes John C. Oliver With Lifetime Achievement Award, Renames The Award After Oliver [PaEN]
-- TribLive - Mary Ann Thomas: Game Commission Creates Award Named For John Oliver Who Helped Preserved More Than 200,000 Acres In The State
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-- WHYY: Philly Region Celebrates 350 Miles Of Walkable, Bikeable Trails
-- PennLive - Marcus Schneck: PA Sits Near Middle Of The Pack In Rankin Of 'Greenness'

Bid Opportunities
-- DEP Opportunity To Bid On Abandoned Mine Reclamation Project In Washington County

Biodiversity/Invasive Species
-- Harrisburg Area YMCA's Camp Curtin Branch Urban Garden Adds Native Plants To Help Vegetables Grow [PaEN]
-- TribLive: Latodami Nature Center Program To Replace Lawns With Wildlife Habitat Serves As 'Anti-Grassroots' Campaign To Improve Environment In Allegheny County
-- TribLive: Native Plant Sales At Penguin Court, Compass Inn Feature Pollinator-Friendly Species In Westmoreland
-- StateImpactPA - Rachel McDevitt: New Study Takes Close Look At Where To Protect At-Risk Species
-- AP: Climate Change, Big Agriculture Combine To Threaten Insects

American Rescue Plan Funding
-- PennLive - Marcus Schneck: Poll Finds Voters Want Federal Rescue Plan Money To Beef Up PA's State Parks, Forests
-- Scranton Times Editorial: New Poll Just Echoes Public's Love Of Parks
-- WESA: Federal American Rescue Plan Dollars Go To Replacing Hundreds Of Lead Water Lines In Pittsburgh
-- Erie Times: Erie County Executive, Council Dems Clash Over Tracking Federal American Rescue Plan Funds

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-- Scranton Times Guest Essay: Seize The Rare Opportunity To Resolve Toxic Mine Drainage - by Robert Hughes, Eastern PA Coalition for Abandoned Mine Reclamation

-- Pittsburgh Business Times: Hydrogen Hub Proponents Say Outreach Key To Getting It Built In Appalachia
-- Gov. Wolf, Sen. Casey Preview Bipartisan Infrastructure Law Funded Projects In East Central Region
-- WITF: Feds Award $420 Million For Dam Repairs, Flood-Control Projects, Including Some In PA
-- PennLive - Marcus Schneck: John Heinz National Wildlife Refuge To Get Federal Money For Fish Passage Project

Budget
-- PennLive - Marcus Schneck: Poll Finds Voters Want Federal Rescue Plan Money To Beef Up PA's State Parks, Forests
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-- Williamsport Sun: State Representatives Discuss Need For Conservation Funding At Lycoming County Conservation District Dinner

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-- Lancaster Farming: EPA Steps Up Inspections Of PA Farms Because State Falls Short On Chesapeake Bay Commitments
-- PennVEST Invests $199 Million In 13 Water Infrastructure Projects In 11 Counties [PaEN]
-- Williamsport Sun: State Representatives Discuss Need For Conservation Funding At Lycoming County Conservation District Dinner
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-- PennLive Letter: Grant Twp. Is Fighting Back Against Oil & Gas Waste Injection Wells, Court Hearing April 20
-- Susquehanna River Basin Commission Holds May 5 Hearing On Water Withdrawal Requests;

June 16 Business Meeting [PaEN]
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-- DEP Posts 60 Pages Of Permit-Related Notices In April 23 PA Bulletin [PaEN]

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-- WPost: Biden's Urgent Moves On Gasoline Prices Collide With Lofty Climate Goals
-- AP: This Earth Day, Biden Faces 'Headwinds' On Climate Agenda
-- Bloomberg: Russia's War In Ukraine Puts Global Energy Transition At Crossroad
-- Reuters: European Union Counties Moving To Deal Cutting Greenhouse Gas Emission Thru Shared Reductions
-- Reuters: National Grid Announces Plan To Eliminate Fossil Fuels From Its Heating Systems In New York, Massachusetts By 2050
-- PA Capital-Star: Analysis: Some Cities, States Say Big Oil Should Pay For Climate Change
-- Financial Times: U.S. Energy Companies Used Carbon Credits To Help Extract Fresh Oil
-- Reuters: Exxon Sees Carbon Capture Market At $4 Trillion By 2050
-- Bloomberg Green: Business Leaders Know The Climate Status Quo Is Untenable
-- Reuters: Shell Aims To Hit Carbon Reduction Goals Regardless Of Others
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-- Financial Times: The Climate Game - Can You Reach Net Zero By 2050?

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Conservation Districts
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-- Williamsport Sun: State Representatives Discuss Need For Conservation Funding At Lycoming County Conservation District Dinner
-- Westmoreland Conservation District April 20 After The Storms - Virtual Homeowner Driveway Program Webinar, 6:30 - 7:30 p.m.

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-- Partnership For The Delaware Estuary: Gardens For Clean Water Newsletter
-- Delaware RiverKeeper April 22 RiverWatch Video Report

Drinking Water
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Earth Day
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-- Scranton Times Editorial: Earth Needs More Than One Day
-- Citizens Voice: Celebrating Earth Day [Photos]
-- Reading Eagle: Berks Conservationists Showcase Nature's Beauty, Importance Of Earth Day
-- AP: Cleaner Earth: Healing Ozone Hole, Less Smog, More Eagles
-- DEP News & Views: Happy Earth Day! From DEP
-- Gov. Wolf, First Lady Recognize PA's Environmental Investments During Earth Day Celebration
-- Gov. Wolf: Visit PA's 2022 Earth Day Virtual Exhibit Hall
-- LancasterOnline - Sean Sauro: For Earth Day, Local Groups Offer Ideas On How Residents Can Support The Environment
-- Citizens Voice: Earth Day Event For Kids Set For Friday In Nesbitt Park Along Susquehanna

River
-- Williamsport Sun: Middle Susquehanna RiverKeeper To Host April 22 Event To Raise Awareness About River Issues At Montour Preserve
-- Warren Times: Warren County Historical Society Holds April 21 Event On Current & Future Of The Allegheny River
-- PA Resources Council Offers Ideas To Go Green On Earth Day And Every Day! [PaEN]
-- WHYY: Tree-Plantings And Trash Walks: Earth Day 2022 In Philly
-- The Burg News: On Earth Day, Volunteers Cleanup Harrisburg Capital Area Greenbelt, Stress Importance Of Pitching In
-- MCall: Earth Day: Your Guide To Events, Cleanups In Lehigh Valley Area
-- TribLive - Deb Erdley: From Community Gardens To The Environment, Sisters Of Mercy In Pittsburgh Fulfill Various Missions
-- WHYY: Philly Embraces Sustainable Fashion This Earth Day

Economic Development
-- Allegheny Conference Report: Decarbonization, Energy Transition Are Critical To The Future Competitiveness Of Pittsburgh Region [PaEN]
-- NextPittsburgh: Allegheny Conference Report Charts 'Middle Path' For Western PA's Energy Future
-- Altoona Mirror: Blair County Town's Efforts To Be Known As A Trail Town Paying Off In Revitalized Economy
-- WITF: 150,000 Migrating Snow Geese Drew Thousands Of Visitors To Middle Creek Wildlife Area

Education
-- U.S. Dept. Of Education Recognizes Spring-Ford School District, Shippensburg University As Green Ribbon Schools [PaEN]
-- DEP Announces Award Of $632,897 In Environmental Education Grants To Support 63 Projects Across The State [PaEN]
-- Citizens Voice: DEP Provides Grant For Outdoor Environmental Education Project At Wyoming Seminary
-- York Dispatch: 1,500 Trees Planted To Complete 20 Acre Riparian Forest Buffer In Northeastern School District
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-- TribLive: Fox Chapel High School Students Earn Top Honors At STEM Contest At Heinz Field
-- Daily Item: Milton Area 5th Graders Organize Litter Clean Up At White Deer Elementary
-- The Philadelphia Citizen: Philadelphia Energy Authority Report: Installing Solar Panels On Schools Would Save $20,000 A Year In Energy Costs
-- MCall: Da Vinci Science Center In Allentown One Step Closer To Reality
-- Green Philly: Classroom On Wheels, How Stroud Water Research Center Is Changing Environmental Ed
-- Stroud Water Research Center: Calling Lancaster County Teachers - Join Outdoor Leadership Network Initiative [PaEN]

-- Stroud Water Research Center Latest Upstream Newsletter
-- Westmoreland Conservation District: Hands-On Envirothon Returns For High School Students April 28 [PaEN]
-- Exelon Foundation Announces Green Lab Grant Winners, 2023 Applications Open; Plans To Advance STEM Education In Under-Resourced Communities
-- TribLive Guest Essay: [Pittsburgh] Mayor Gainey, Please Focus On Environmental Justice - Winchester Thurston School Students
-- Westmoreland Conservation District April 20 After The Storms - Virtual Homeowner Driveway Program Webinar, 6:30 - 7:30 p.m.
-- May 25 Susquehanna River Basin Commission Workshop On Alternative Hydrogeological Evaluation Process For Consultants & Geologists [PaEN]
-- PA Resources Council Offers Ideas To Go Green On Earth Day And Every Day! [PaEN]
-- The Allegheny Front: New Book Looks At Big Decisions Small Communities Had To Make When Shale Gas Fracking Came To Town
-- Financial Times: The Climate Game - Can You Reach Net Zero By 2050?
-- Partnership For The Delaware Estuary: Gardens For Clean Water Newsletter
-- Warren Times: Audubon Community Nature Center Offering Trail Guide Training Friday Mornings In April
-- Scranton Times: Hummingbirds On Their Way Back To Northeast PA
-- WITF: 150,000 Migrating Snow Geese Drew Thousands Of Visitors To Middle Creek Wildlife Area
-- LancasterOnline - Sean Sauro: Backyard Bird Feeders Can Stay Up Despite Avian Flu
-- WITF: Avian Flu Spreads To More Lancaster County Poultry Farms
-- Hawk Mountain Sanctuary's Benefit For Birds In-Person Gala, Online Auction May 12 [PaEN]
-- Hawk Mountain Sanctuary To Host In-Person Spring Document Series 3 Saturdays Starting April 23
-- Warren Times: Warren County Historical Society Holds April 21 Event On Current & Future Of The Allegheny River
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-- WHYY: Tree-Plantings And Trash Walks: Earth Day 2022 In Philly
-- PennLive - Marcus Schneck: With Bird Flu Spreading, What's The Advice For Backyard Bird Feeders
-- Williamsport Sun - Bill Bower: The Kingfisher Is Often Heard Before Being Seen
-- Bay Journal: Wild Abundance Awaits At New Glenroy Nature Preserve [Nottingham, Chester County] - By Ad Crable
-- TribLive: Wildlife Observation Blind To Open At Murrysville Nature Reserve On Earth Day
-- Wilkes-Barre Times: Former Area Fish Warden Authors Book On 27-Year Career

Emergency Response
-- Warren Times: Spill Of Oil Products At United Refinery Tuesday Results In Multi-Agency Response

-- DEP Update On United Refining Company Naphtha Storage Tank Roof Failure In Warren [PaEN]
-- Warren Times: Warren County To Take Part In Weather Siren Tests April 20
-- Insurance Dept. Warns Pennsylvanians Of Spring Flooding, Urging Homeowners To Consider Buying Flood Insurance [PaEN]
-- Scranton Times: Flood Insurance Rates Set To Rise For Many NE PA Homeowners
-- Citizens Voice: A Tale Of 2 Flood Insurance Policy Changes; Flood Maps Appeal Still Pending
-- MCall: Enhanced Threat Of Wildfire Spread In Lehigh Valley
-- Inquirer: Wildfire Advisories Posted For Philly Region, Despite All That Rain
-- MCall Guest Essay - Paul Muschick: How A Parkland High School Class Could Be An Answer To PA's Volunteer Firefighting Crisis

True Energy Independence Means Renewables
[European Energy Plans Call For Accelerating Renewables, Reducing All Natural Gas Use]

-- Allegheny Conference Report: Decarbonization, Energy Transition Are Critical To The Future Competitiveness Of Pittsburgh Region [PaEN]
-- NextPittsburgh: Allegheny Conference Report Charts 'Middle Path' For Western PA's Energy Future
-- Pittsburgh Business Times: Hydrogen Hub Proponents Say Outreach Key To Getting It Built In Appalachia
-- MCall Guest Essay: The U.S. Should Ramp Up Oil And Gas Production To Slow Russian Aggression - Fmr PA Cong. Don Ritter
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-- Reuters: European Union Counties Moving To Deal Cutting Greenhouse Gas Emission Thru Shared Reductions
-- Financial Times: U.S. Natural Gas Exporters Must Weigh Europe's Demand For LNG With Its Long-Term Goal To Reduce Fossil Fuel Use [PA Included]
-- Bloomberg: U.S. Natural Gas Is On A Path To 'Crazy Prices' With No Relief In Sight
"Higher production could provide some price relief, but so far the industry has held back after a decade of overspending sapped profits. Even if they did want to pump more, producers would face rising costs, labor shortages and limited pipeline capacity in gas-rich areas including Appalachia."
-- Bloomberg: Updated: U.S. Natural Gas Prices Surge To 13-Year High, Shale-Well Output Has Been Flat, LNG Exports Are Maxed Out On Strong European Demand
-- WPost/Bloomberg: U.S. Shale Companies Aren't Responding To High Prices As They Did In The Past, As They Prioritize Profits-Over-Volume
-- CNBC.com: Americans Are Paying Unnecessarily High Prices For Natural Gas Across The U.S., Says PA-Based EQT CEO [Yes we are]
-- Reuters: Rising Calls For U.S. LNG Revive Stalled Export Projects, But At Higher Costs
-- Reuters: U.S. Oil Refiners Planning To Increase Jet Fuel, Diesel Production Instead Of Gasoline
-- Bloomberg: European Natural Gas Falls To Lowest Since Russian Invasion Of Ukraine,

Benchmark Futures Slump As Much As 12%
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-- Reuters: U.S. Refiners Receiving Last Russian Oil Cargoes Before Wind-Down
-- Bloomberg: Russia's War In Ukraine Puts Global Energy Transition At Crossroad
-- USA Today: Biden's Dilemma: Pushing Fossil Fuels to Cut Gasoline Prices While Promoting Clean Energy Agenda
-- WPost: Biden's Urgent Moves On Gasoline Prices Collide With Lofty Climate Goals
-- AP: This Earth Day, Biden Faces 'Headwinds' On Climate Agenda
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-- EQB Final Rule Published In PA Bulletin Reducing Carbon Pollution From Power Plants [RGGI] [PaEN]
-- AP: Big Greenhouse Gas State Taking Biggest Climate Step Yet [RGGI]
-- Post-Gazette - Laura Legere: Gov. Wolf's Climate Rule Set To Take Effect Saturday
-- StateImpactPA - Rachel McDevitt: PA's New Climate Rule Met With Applause, Court Threats Upon Finalization
-- PA Capital-Star: PA Officially Enacts Carbon Pricing For Power Plants
-- Bay Journal: PA To Join Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative - By Ad Crable
-- Scranton Times Editorial: State Clears The Air With RGGI
-- AP: Explainer: Can Climate Change Be Solved By Pricing Carbon? [PA, RGGI Mentioned]
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-- NextPittsburgh: Allegheny Conference Report Charts 'Middle Path' For Western PA's Energy Future
-- Pittsburgh Business Times: Hydrogen Hub Proponents Say Outreach Key To Getting It Built In Appalachia
-- House Environmental Committee Meets April 26 To Consider Solar/Wind Energy Bonding, Windmill Interference Bills [PaEN]
-- Erie Times: Solar Panels Eyed For Erie's Central Firehouse, Could Save More Than $7,000 A

Year In Energy Costs
-- York Daily Record: Dover Solar Farm Proposal 6th Zoning Board Hearing, Still No Decision
-- The Philadelphia Citizen: Philadelphia Energy Authority Report: Installing Solar Panels On Schools Would Save $20,000 A Year In Energy Costs
-- Appalachian Voices: Appalachian Groups Urge Biden, Congress To Ensure Climate Action Helps Energy Transition Communities [PaEN]
-- PA Capital-Star: Carbon Dioxide Emissions In Pennsylvania
-- PA Capital-Star: Investing In The Future Is Not Radical Environmentalism, Pennsylvanians Deserve An Honest Dialogue About What Interests Are Really Driving Climate Debate - By Sen. Amanda Cappelletti (D-Montgomery)
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-- PA Capital-Star: PA To Receive Additional $19.3 Million To Help Cover Home Energy Costs
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-- NPR: To Fight Climate Change, And Now Russia, Zurich Turns Off [All] Natural Gas
-- Bloomberg: U.S. Is Set To Launch A $6 Billion Effort To Save Nuclear Plants

Environmental Health
-- Wilkes-Barre Times Editorial: Be Mindful Of Ticks As You Enjoy The Great Outdoors
-- PA Capital-Star: 28 Groups Call On DEP To Strengthen Proposed PFOS Rule Ahead Of April 27 Deadline
-- MCall: Emmaus Sues Makers Of PFAS 'Forever Chemicals' Over Groundwater Contamination
-- Post-Gazette: PA's Most Unhealthy County [Fayette] Launches Program To Boost Resident Health
-- NYT Guest Essay: Enough About Climate Change, Air Pollution Is Killing Us Now

Environmental Heritage
-- Erie Times: Oldest Trees Bear Witness To Centuries Of Life, Growth, Death In Erie County
-- DCNR To Assist With Tree Plantings At Flight 93 Memorial In Somerset County
-- TribLive: Final Tree Planting Set At Flight 93 National Memorial Friday, Saturday For Reforestation Project
-- PennLive: Three Mile Island Documentary Coming To Netflix In May

Environmental Justice

-- TribLive Guest Essay: [Pittsburgh] Mayor Gainey, Please Focus On Environmental Justice - Winchester Thurston School Students

EPA
-- EPA: State Plan To Clean Up PA's Part Of Chesapeake Bay Watershed Lacks Funding To Meet Water Pollution Reduction Goals [PaEN]
-- Post-Gazette - Laura Legere: EPA: Expect 'Tough Love' After PA's Chesapeake Bay Pollution Reduction Plan Falls Short Again
-- WITF: PA's Plan Fails To Meet Goal For Reducing Pollution In Chesapeake Bay; EPA Will Take Stronger Actions To Curb Water Pollution
-- WITF Smart Talk: EPA Is Watching PA's Chesapeake Bay Cleanup Efforts
-- Bay Journal: EPA Says PA's Plan To Clean Up Its Portion Of Chesapeake Bay Watershed Still Comes Up Short - By Karl Blankenship
-- PennLive - Charles Thompson: EPA Is Coming For PA Over Lagging Returns In Chesapeake Bay Restoration Efforts
-- PA Capital-Star: EPA Pans PA's Latest Chesapeake Bay Cleanup Plan
-- Lancaster Farming: EPA Steps Up Inspections Of PA Farms Because State Falls Short On Chesapeake Bay Commitments
-- AP: Biden Administration Restores Environmental Reviews For Major Infrastructure Projects
-- Scranton Times Editorial: Environmental Reviews Of Major Infrastructure Projects Crucial

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-- EPA: State Plan To Clean Up PA's Part Of Chesapeake Bay Watershed Lacks Funding To Meet Water Pollution Reduction Goals [PaEN]
-- Post-Gazette - Laura Legere: EPA: Expect 'Tough Love' After PA's Chesapeake Bay Pollution Reduction Plan Falls Short Again
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-- Lancaster Farming: EPA Steps Up Inspections Of PA Farms Because State Falls Short On Chesapeake Bay Commitments
-- Williamsport Sun: State Representatives Discuss Need For Conservation Funding At Lycoming County Conservation District Dinner
-- Courier Times: After Long Battle, Stone Meadows Farm Has Been Saved, What's In Its Future?
-- LancasterOnline - Sean Sauro: Lancaster County Farm Kills 1.4 Million Birds In Effort To Protect Others From Avian Flu Outbreak
-- WITF: Avian Flu Spreads To More Lancaster County Poultry Farms
-- Harrisburg Area YMCA's Camp Curtin Branch Urban Garden Adds Native Plants To Help Vegetables Grow [PaEN]

-- TribLive: Native Plant Sales At Penguin Court, Compass Inn Feature Pollinator-Friendly Species In Westmoreland
-- WHYY: Could Planting Gardens Be The Key To Preventing Shootings? Grays Ferry Residents Are Giving It A Go
-- Reading Eagle: Get Growing With Mosaic Community Land Trust's Garden Program In Pottstown
-- Partnership For The Delaware Estuary: Gardens For Clean Water Newsletter
-- LancasterOnline - Erin Negley: Ramps: How To Cook, Preserve, Grow, Harvest
-- AP: Climate Change, Big Agriculture Combine To Threaten Insects

Flooding
-- House Environmental Committee To Hold April 25 Info. Meeting On Republican Package Of Bills Attempting To Address Local Flooding [PaEN]
-- NRCS-PA: Federal Bipartisan Infrastructure Law To Fund 2 Watershed Flood Prevention, Restoration Projects In Underserved PA Communities [PaEN]
-- Insurance Dept. Warns Pennsylvanians Of Spring Flooding, Urging Homeowners To Consider Buying Flood Insurance [PaEN]
-- Scranton Times: Flood Insurance Rates Set To Rise For Many NE PA Homeowners
-- Citizens Voice: A Tale Of 2 Flood Insurance Policy Changes; Flood Maps Appeal Still Pending
-- Inquirer: Montgomery County Neighbors Mobilize Against Proposed Development Near Flood-Prone Tookany Creek
-- Altoona Mirror: Intergovernmental Stormwater Committee May Apply To National Fish & Wildlife Foundation For Streambank Stabilization Project
-- Scranton Times: Mayfield Officials Continue Efforts To Secure Funding For Levee Improvements
-- Citizens Voice: Help Available For Those Behind On Flood Levee Fee Bills
-- Citizens Voice: Wilkes-Barre Wins FEMA Appeal For Miners Mills Flood Map
-- Westmoreland Conservation District April 20 After The Storms - Virtual Homeowner Driveway Program Webinar, 6:30 - 7:30 p.m.
-- WITF: Feds Award $420 Million For Dam Repairs, Flood-Control Projects, Including Some In PA

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-- EPA: State Plan To Clean Up PA's Part Of Chesapeake Bay Watershed Lacks Funding To Meet Water Pollution Reduction Goals [PaEN]
-- Post-Gazette - Laura Legere: EPA: Expect 'Tough Love' After PA's Chesapeake Bay Pollution Reduction Plan Falls Short Again
-- WITF: PA's Plan Fails To Meet Goal For Reducing Pollution In Chesapeake Bay; EPA Will Take Stronger Actions To Curb Water Pollution
-- WITF Smart Talk: EPA Is Watching PA's Chesapeake Bay Cleanup Efforts
-- Bay Journal: EPA Says PA's Plan To Clean Up Its Portion Of Chesapeake Bay Watershed Still Comes Up Short - By Karl Blankenship
-- PennLive - Charles Thompson: EPA Is Coming For PA Over Lagging Returns In Chesapeake Bay Restoration Efforts

-- PA Capital-Star: EPA Pans PA's Latest Chesapeake Bay Cleanup Plan
-- Lancaster Farming: EPA Steps Up Inspections Of PA Farms Because State Falls Short On Chesapeake Bay Commitments
-- PennLive - Marcus Schneck: Poll Finds Voters Want Federal Rescue Plan Money To Beef Up PA's State Parks, Forests
-- MCall: Enhanced Threat Of Wildfire Spread In Lehigh Valley
-- Inquirer: Wildfire Advisories Posted For Philly Region, Despite All That Rain
-- DCNR Assists With Tree Plantings At Flight 93 Memorial In Somerset County [PaEN]
-- TribLive: Final Tree Planting Set At Flight 93 National Memorial Friday, Saturday For Reforestation Project
-- PA Capital-Star: Volunteers Gather At Flight 93 Memorial To Renew The Earth And To Remember
-- Erie Times: Oldest Trees Bear Witness To Centuries Of Life, Growth, Death In Erie County
-- Erie Times: ReLeaf Aims To Plant Trees In Erie County; Find A List Of Local Earth Day/ Arbor Day Events
-- WHYY: Habitat For Humanity In Montgomery, Delaware Counties Will Plant 250 Trees In Neighborhood Revitalization Projects
-- April 22 Take Five Fridays With Pam From PA Parks & Forests Foundation; 2,929 Volunteers Worked 41,987 Hours In 2021 [PaEN]
-- AP: Federal Judge Orders FBI To Produce Records On Civil War Gold Hunt On State Forest Land In PA
-- LancasterOnline - Erin Negley: Ramps: How To Cook, Preserve, Grow, Harvest
-- NPR: Biden To Issue Earth Day Order To Safeguard Old-Growth Forests

Forests - Wildfires
-- AP: Crews Tackle Growing Wildfires: 'A Very Chaotic Situation'
-- AP: Southwest U.S. Wildfire Crews Brace For Return Of Dangerous Conditions
-- NPR: Wildfires Are Increasingly Contributing To Unhealthy Air
-- AP: After Wildfires Scorched Trees Could Disrupt Water Supplies

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-- Fish & Boat Commission Board Meets On April 25
-- Wilkes-Barre Times: Former Area Fish Warden Authors Book On 27-Year Career

Game Commission
-- Game Commission Recognizes John C. Oliver With Lifetime Achievement Award, Renames The Award After Oliver [PaEN]
-- TribLive - Mary Ann Thomas: Game Commission Creates Award Named For John Oliver Who Helped Preserved More Than 200,000 Acres In The State

Geology
-- U.S. Dept. Of Energy Soliciting Proposals For $84 Million Program To Demonstrate Enhanced Geothermal Energy Systems; PA Opportunity With Mine Water [PaEN]
-- VOX: Geothermal Energy May Be Buried At The Bottom Of Abandoned Oil Wells

Grants/Funding
-- PennVEST Invests $199 Million In 13 Water Infrastructure Projects In 11 Counties [PaEN]
-- PA American Water Announces $75,000 In Grants To Support Local Environmental Projects [PaEN]
-- NRCS-PA: Federal Bipartisan Infrastructure Law To Fund 2 Watershed Flood Prevention, Restoration Projects In Underserved PA Communities [PaEN]
-- DEP Announces $30.5 Million Recycling Implementation Grants To 157 Municipalities [PaEN]
-- DEP To Host Online Information Event On Federal Bipartisan Infrastructure Law Conventional Oil & Gas Well Plugging Program April 28 [PaEN]
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-- DCED Announces Grant To Fund Industrial Site Reuse Environmental Assessment In Clarion County
-- Exelon Foundation Announces Green Lab Grant Winners, 2023 Applications Open; Plans To Advance STEM Education In Under-Resourced Communities
-- PA Environmental Council Now Accepting Applications For 2022 Water Trail Mini Grants [PaEN]
-- WESA: State Invests In Walking, Biking Trail To Connect Hazelwood, Greenfield In Allegheny County
-- DEP Announces 2022 Black Fly Control Season

Green Buildings
-- Post-Gazette - Laura Legere: Offices Adapt As COVID Highlights Hazards Of Poor Indoor Air Quality

Green Infrastructure
-- Sustainable Business Network Recognizes Green Stormwater Infrastructure Projects In Philadelphia Region [PaEN]
-- EPA: State Plan To Clean Up PA's Part Of Chesapeake Bay Watershed Lacks Funding To Meet Water Pollution Reduction Goals [PaEN]
-- Post-Gazette - Laura Legere: EPA: Expect 'Tough Love' After PA's Chesapeake Bay Pollution Reduction Plan Falls Short Again
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Hazardous Substances
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Land Conservation
-- Game Commission Recognizes John C. Oliver With Lifetime Achievement Award, Renames The Award After Oliver [PaEN]
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Land Recycling
-- DCED Announces Grant To Fund Industrial Site Reuse Environmental Assessment In Clarion County

Littering/Illegal Dumping
-- Keep Pennsylvania Beautiful: Communities Celebrate Earth Day By Joining Pick Up Pennsylvania [PaEN]
-- PA Resources Council Hosts Household Chemical Collection Events In Allegheny, Cambria Counties During May [PaEN]
-- PA Resources Council Announces 4 Traveling Glass Recycling Bin Locations In Allegheny, Mercer Counties During May [PaEN]
-- Keep PA Beautiful's Fayette County Affiliate Transitions From All Volunteer Led To County Recycling Office [PaEN]
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Can Support The Environment
-- WESA: Earth Day Kicks Off 2nd Annual Litter League Competition In Allegheny County
-- Scranton Times: Keystone College Students Mark Earth Day With Roadside Cleanup
-- Scranton Times: Hillside Park To Hold Earth Day Cleanup
-- WHYY: Tree-Plantings And Trash Walks: Earth Day 2022 In Philly
-- The Allegheny Front: Repelled By Trash, They Rappelled To Pick It Up At Pittsburgh's Mt. Washington Landmark
-- Inquirer: Philly Has Backlog Of 34,000 Abandoned Car Complaints, City Has No Solution

Mine Reclamation
-- Scranton Times Guest Essay: Seize The Rare Opportunity To Resolve Toxic Mine Drainage - by Robert Hughes, Eastern PA Coalition for Abandoned Mine Reclamation
-- Appalachian Voices: Appalachian Groups Urge Biden, Congress To Ensure Climate Action Helps Energy Transition Communities [PaEN]
-- TribLive - Mary Ann Thomas: DEP To Close Mine Opening, Demolish Old Fan Building At Roaring Run Trail In Armstrong County
-- DEP Opportunity To Bid On Abandoned Mine Reclamation Project In Washington County
-- U.S. Dept. Of Energy Soliciting Proposals For $84 Million Program To Demonstrate Enhanced Geothermal Energy Systems; PA Opportunity With Mine Water [PaEN]

Oil & Gas
-- Attorney General's Office Reported To Be Investigating Conventional Oil & Gas Operators For Illegally Road Dumping Drilling Wastewater [PaEN]
-- Conventional Oil & Gas Operators Continued To Illegally Road Dump Over 580,000 Gallons Of Drilling Wastewater In 2021 [PaEN]
-- DEP To Host Online Information Event On Federal Bipartisan Infrastructure Law Conventional Oil & Gas Well Plugging Program April 28 [PaEN]
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-- StateImpactPA - Jon Hurdle: University Of Pennsylvania Energy-Prize Winner Says Natural Gas Not Compatible With Long-Term Climate Goals
-- StateImpactPA - Reid Frazier: Low-Producing Oil & Gas Wells Are High Methane Emitters, Study Finds
-- Post-Gazette - Laura Legere: Study Finds Low-Producing Oil & Gas Wells Major Source Of Methane Leaks
-- Warren Times: Spill Of Oil Products At United Refinery Tuesday Results In Multi-Agency Response

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-- CNBC.com: Americans Are Paying Unnecessarily High Prices For Natural Gas Across The U.S., Says PA-Based EQT CEO [Yes we are]
-- Reuters: Rising Calls For U.S. LNG Revive Stalled Export Projects, But At Higher Costs
-- Bloomberg: European Natural Gas Falls To Lowest Since Russian Invasion Of Ukraine, Benchmark Futures Slump As Much As 12%
-- Reuters: Analysis: As Germany Joins LNG Import Race, A Long And Crowded Track Awaits
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-- PA Capital-Star: Analysis: Some Cities, States Say Big Oil Should Pay For Climate Change
-- Financial Times: U.S. Energy Companies Used Carbon Credits To Help Extract Fresh Oil
-- Reuters: Exxon Sees Carbon Capture Market At $4 Trillion By 2050
-- Reuters: Shell Aims To Hit Carbon Reduction Goals Regardless Of Others
-- NPR: To Fight Climate Change, And Now Russia, Zurich Turns Off [All] Natural Gas
-- EnergyWire: Natural Gas Ban 2.0 - Building Wars

Pipelines
-- DEP Formally Publishes Notice Of Sunoco's Mariner East Pipeline Marsh Creek State Park Lake Restoration Plan Approval [PaEN]
-- Post-Gazette/Bloomberg: Unregulated Energy Transfer Partners Natural Gas Pipeline In Texas Triggers Huge Methane Leak [Same guys that own the Revolution Pipeline that exploded in PA]
-- AP: Biden Administration Restores Environmental Reviews For Major Infrastructure Projects
-- Scranton Times Editorial: Environmental Reviews Of Major Infrastructure Projects Crucial

PennVEST
-- PennVEST Invests $199 Million In 13 Water Infrastructure Projects In 11 Counties [PaEN]

Permitting
-- DEP Took Action On 848 Permits, 97% Within Permit Decision Guarantee Deadlines; Conducted 1,350 Inspections; Responded To 2 Environmental Emergencies Last Week
-- AP: Biden Administration Restores Environmental Reviews For Major Infrastructure Projects
-- Scranton Times Editorial: Environmental Reviews Of Major Infrastructure Projects Crucial
-- DEP Posts 60 Pages Of Permit-Related Notices In April 23 PA Bulletin [PaEN]

Public Participation
-- Susquehanna River Basin Commission Holds May 5 Hearing On Water Withdrawal Requests; June 16 Business Meeting [PaEN]
-- DEP Invites Comments On Total Maximum Daily Load Watershed Plans In Adams, Centre Counties [PaEN]

-- DEP Posts 60 Pages Of Permit-Related Notices In April 23 PA Bulletin [PaEN]

PUC
-- Inquirer - Andrew Maykuth: PUC Judge Recommends Denial Of Aqua's $17.5 Million Bid To Buy Chester County Town's Sewer System

Radiation Protection
-- PennLive: Three Mile Island Documentary Coming To Netflix In May
-- Bloomberg: U.S. Is Set To Launch A $6 Billion Effort To Save Nuclear Plants
-- Financial Times: Why Germany Is Resisting Calls To Ease Energy Crunch By Restarting Nuclear Power

Recreation
-- PennLive - Marcus Schneck: Poll Finds Voters Want Federal Rescue Plan Money To Beef Up PA's State Parks, Forests
-- Altoona Mirror: Blair County Town's Efforts To Be Known As A Trail Town Paying Off In Revitalized Economy
-- DCNR Blog: Wade Into Fly Fishing In State Parks, Forests
-- Wilkes-Barre Times Editorial: Be Mindful Of Ticks As You Enjoy The Great Outdoors
-- DCNR Joins Chester County Officials For Trailhead, Trail Opening
-- DCNR Announces $1 Million Grant For South Fayette Twp. Park Expansion In Allegheny County
-- DCNR French Creek State Park Pool To Be Closed For Summer Season Due To Lifeguard Shortage
-- PA Environmental Council Now Accepting Applications For 2022 Water Trail Mini Grants [PaEN]
-- TribLive - Mary Ann Thomas: DEP To Close Mine Opening, Demolish Old Fan Building At Roaring Run Trail In Armstrong County
-- Erie Times - Brian Whipkey: Here's Why You Should Visit Canoe Creek State Park In Blair

County
-- York Daily Record: Photo Essay: An Early Spring Hike Along The Appalachian Trail Into Boiling Springs
-- MyChesCo.com: April 23: Celebrate Trails Day With Schuylkill River Trail Opening In Chester County
-- Altoona Mirror: Residents Pack Meeting To Hear Plans For Regional ATV Trail System
-- WESA: State Invests In Walking, Biking Trail To Connect Hazelwood, Greenfield In Allegheny County
-- WHYY: Philly Region Celebrates 350 Miles Of Walkable, Bikeable Trails
-- WHYY: Advocates Urge Millions More For Philly's Parks And Rec System
-- Post-Gazette: New Park To Link Carnegie With Its Library
-- Williamsport Sun: Williamsport Seeking Greener Design For Parks
-- TribLive: Wildlife Observation Blind To Open At Murrysville Nature Reserve On Earth Day
-- Bay Journal: Wild Abundance Awaits At New Glenroy Nature Preserve [Nottingham, Chester County] - By Ad Crable
-- Warren Times: Warren County Historical Society Holds April 21 Event On Current & Future Of The Allegheny River

Recycling/Waste
-- Attorney General's Office Reported To Be Investigating Conventional Oil & Gas Operators For Illegally Road Dumping Drilling Wastewater [PaEN]
-- Conventional Oil & Gas Operators Continued To Illegally Road Dump Over 580,000 Gallons Of Drilling Wastewater In 2021 [PaEN]
-- DEP Announces $30.5 Million Recycling Implementation Grants To 157 Municipalities [PaEN]
-- Keep Pennsylvania Beautiful: Communities Celebrate Earth Day By Joining Pick Up Pennsylvania [PaEN]
-- PA Resources Council Hosts Household Chemical Collection Events In Allegheny, Cambria Counties During May [PaEN]
-- PA Resources Council Announces 4 Traveling Glass Recycling Bin Locations In Allegheny, Mercer Counties During May [PaEN]
-- Keep PA Beautiful's Fayette County Affiliate Transitions From All Volunteer Led To County Recycling Office [PaEN]
-- TribLive: Westmoreland Recycler Salvages Old Electronics; Donates Laptops To Shelter
-- Inquirer: Philly Has Backlog Of 34,000 Abandoned Car Complaints, City Has No Solution
-- PA Resources Council Offers Ideas To Go Green On Earth Day And Every Day! [PaEN]
-- PennLive Guest Essay: Clean Out Your Medicine Cabinet On April 30 [Prescription Drug Take Back Day]
-- WHYY: Delaware County Continues Contract With Waste-To-Energy Company COVANTA For Waste Disposal
-- WHYY: Chester Residents Rally Against Trash Incinerator: 'We Are Still On The Battlefield'
-- Public News Service: You Can Recycle A Plastic Bottle, But What About Wind-Turbine Blades?

Regulations

-- EQB Final Rule Published In PA Bulletin Reducing Carbon Pollution From Power Plants [RGGI] [PaEN]

Renewable Energy
-- EQB Final Rule Published In PA Bulletin Reducing Carbon Pollution From Power Plants [RGGI] [PaEN]
-- AP: Big Greenhouse Gas State Taking Biggest Climate Step Yet [RGGI]
-- Post-Gazette - Laura Legere: Gov. Wolf's Climate Rule Set To Take Effect Saturday
-- StateImpactPA - Rachel McDevitt: PA's New Climate Rule Met With Applause, Court Threats Upon Finalization
-- PA Capital-Star: PA Officially Enacts Carbon Pricing For Power Plants
-- Bay Journal: PA To Join Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative - By Ad Crable
-- Scranton Times Editorial: State Clears The Air With RGGI
-- AP: Explainer: Can Climate Change Be Solved By Pricing Carbon? [PA, RGGI Mentioned]
-- House Environmental Committee Meets April 26 To Consider Solar/Wind Energy Bonding, Windmill Interference Bills [PaEN]
-- Allegheny Conference Report: Decarbonization, Energy Transition Are Critical To The Future Competitiveness Of Pittsburgh Region [PaEN]
-- NextPittsburgh: Allegheny Conference Report Charts 'Middle Path' For Western PA's Energy Future
-- Pittsburgh Business Times: Hydrogen Hub Proponents Say Outreach Key To Getting It Built In Appalachia
-- Erie Times: Solar Panels Eyed For Erie's Central Firehouse, Could Save More Than $7,000 A Year In Energy Costs
-- York Daily Record: Dover Solar Farm Proposal 6th Zoning Board Hearing, Still No Decision
-- The Philadelphia Citizen: Philadelphia Energy Authority Report: Installing Solar Panels On Schools Would Save $20,000 A Year In Energy Costs
-- PA Capital-Star: Carbon Dioxide Emissions In Pennsylvania
-- PA Capital-Star: Investing In The Future Is Not Radical Environmentalism, Pennsylvanians Deserve An Honest Dialogue About What Interests Are Really Driving Climate Debate - By Sen. Amanda Cappelletti (D-Montgomery)
-- Courier Times Guest Essay: Invest In Our Clean Energy Future - PennEnvironment
-- U.S. Dept. Of Energy Soliciting Proposals For $84 Million Program To Demonstrate Enhanced Geothermal Energy Systems; PA Opportunity With Mine Water [PaEN]
-- Reuters: European Commission Analyzing Higher 45% Renewable Energy Target For 2030
-- Reuters: European Union Counties Moving To Deal Cutting Greenhouse Gas Emission Thru Shared Reductions
-- Utility Dive: SolarAPP+ Automated Solar Permitting Program Sees 31 MW Approved In First Year Of Operation
-- EnergyWire: Natural Gas Ban 2.0 - Building Wars
-- Public News Service: You Can Recycle A Plastic Bottle, But What About Wind-Turbine Blades?

Schuylkill River

Stormwater
-- Sustainable Business Network Recognizes Green Stormwater Infrastructure Projects In Philadelphia Region [PaEN]

SRBC
-- Susquehanna River Basin Commission Holds May 5 Hearing On Water Withdrawal Requests; June 16 Business Meeting [PaEN]
-- May 25 Susquehanna River Basin Commission Workshop On Alternative Hydrogeological Evaluation Process For Consultants & Geologists [PaEN]

Susquehanna River
-- Susquehanna River Basin Commission Holds May 5 Hearing On Water Withdrawal Requests; June 16 Business Meeting [PaEN]
-- Williamsport Sun: Middle Susquehanna RiverKeeper To Host April 22 Event To Raise Awareness About River Issues At Montour Preserve
-- May 25 Susquehanna River Basin Commission Workshop On Alternative Hydrogeological Evaluation Process For Consultants & Geologists [PaEN]

Sustainability
-- PennLive - Marcus Schneck: PA Sits Near Middle Of The Pack In Rankin Of 'Greenness'
-- Quaker Houghton Releases 2021 Sustainability Report

Water Quality
-- TribLive - Mary Ann Thomas: Successful Growth Of Baby Mussels In Kiski River Indicates Continued Health Of Waterways
-- Delaware Currents: For Every 10 Miles Of Streams In PA's Part Of The Delaware River Watershed, 4 Don't Meet Water Quality Standards [PaEN]
-- NRCS-PA: Federal Bipartisan Infrastructure Law To Fund 2 Watershed Flood Prevention, Restoration Projects In Underserved PA Communities [PaEN]

Wastewater Facilities
-- PennVEST Invests $199 Million In 13 Water Infrastructure Projects In 11 Counties [PaEN]
-- Courier Times: Is Bucks County Water & Sewer Authority For Sale? It's Worth $1 Billion
-- Inquirer - Andrew Maykuth: PUC Judge Recommends Denial Of Aqua's $17.5 Million Bid To Buy Chester County Town's Sewer System
-- TribLive: Pine Creek Wastewater Treatment Facility Expanding In McCandless

Watershed Protection
-- TribLive - Mary Ann Thomas: Successful Growth Of Baby Mussels In Kiski River Indicates Continued Health Of Waterways
-- Sustainable Business Network Recognizes Green Stormwater Infrastructure Projects In Philadelphia Region [PaEN]
-- EPA: State Plan To Clean Up PA's Part Of Chesapeake Bay Watershed Lacks Funding To Meet Water Pollution Reduction Goals [PaEN]
-- Post-Gazette - Laura Legere: EPA: Expect 'Tough Love' After PA's Chesapeake Bay Pollution

Reduction Plan Falls Short Again
-- WITF: PA's Plan Fails To Meet Goal For Reducing Pollution In Chesapeake Bay; EPA Will Take Stronger Actions To Curb Water Pollution
-- WITF Smart Talk: EPA Is Watching PA's Chesapeake Bay Cleanup Efforts
-- Bay Journal: EPA Says PA's Plan To Clean Up Its Portion Of Chesapeake Bay Watershed Still Comes Up Short - By Karl Blankenship
-- PennLive - Charles Thompson: EPA Is Coming For PA Over Lagging Returns In Chesapeake Bay Restoration Efforts
-- PA Capital-Star: EPA Pans PA's Latest Chesapeake Bay Cleanup Plan
-- Lancaster Farming: EPA Steps Up Inspections Of PA Farms Because State Falls Short On Chesapeake Bay Commitments
-- York Dispatch: 1,500 Trees Planted To Complete 20 Acre Riparian Forest Buffer In Northeastern School District
-- Williamsport Sun: State Representatives Discuss Need For Conservation Funding At Lycoming County Conservation District Dinner
-- NRCS-PA: Federal Bipartisan Infrastructure Law To Fund 2 Watershed Flood Prevention, Restoration Projects In Underserved PA Communities [PaEN]
-- PA American Water Announces $75,000 In Grants To Support Local Environmental Projects [PaEN]
-- TribLive - Mary Ann Thomas: DEP To Close Mine Opening, Demolish Old Fan Building At Roaring Run Trail In Armstrong County
-- DEP Opportunity To Bid On Abandoned Mine Reclamation Project In Washington County
-- DEP Invites Comments On Total Maximum Daily Load Watershed Plans In Adams, Centre Counties [PaEN]
-- Warren Times: Stream Maintenance Package Proposed By House Republicans
-- Green Philly: Classroom On Wheels, How Stroud Water Research Center Is Changing Environmental Ed
-- Stroud Water Research Center: Calling Lancaster County Teachers - Join Outdoor Leadership Network Initiative [PaEN]
-- Stroud Water Research Center Latest Upstream Newsletter
-- Warren Times: Warren County Historical Society Holds April 21 Event On Current & Future Of The Allegheny River
-- Delaware Currents: For Every 10 Miles Of Streams In PA's Part Of The Delaware River Watershed, 4 Don't Meet Water Quality Standards [PaEN]
-- Delaware RiverKeeper April 22 RiverWatch Video Report
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Wildlife
-- Game Commission Recognizes John C. Oliver With Lifetime Achievement Award, Renames The Award After Oliver [PaEN]
-- TribLive - Mary Ann Thomas: Game Commission Creates Award Named For John Oliver Who Helped Preserved More Than 200,000 Acres In The State
-- TribLive - Mary Ann Thomas: Successful Growth Of Baby Mussels In Kiski River Indicates Continued Health Of Waterways

-- DCNR Blog: Wade Into Fly Fishing In State Parks, Forests
-- Fish & Boat Commission Urges Anglers, Boaters To Help Prevent Spread Of Invasive New Zealand Mudsnails
-- Fish & Boat Commission Board Meets On April 25
-- Wilkes-Barre Times: Former Area Fish Warden Authors Book On 27-Year Career
-- York Daily Record - Brian Whipkey: Deer Farmers Work To Breed Deer Less Susceptible To Chronic Wasting Disease
-- Erie Times - Brain Whipkey: Bats Face Long Recovery From Fungal Disease
-- PennLive - Marcus Schneck: With Bird Flu Spreading, What's The Advice For Backyard Bird Feeders
-- Harrisburg Capitol Complex Will Participate In Lights Out Harrisburg To Assist Migrating Birds [PaEN]
-- StateImpactPA - Rachel McDevitt: New Study Takes Close Look At Where To Protect At-Risk Species
-- Wild Excellence Films Releases New Documentary: Golden Eagles: Witnesses To A Changing West [PaEN]
-- Williamsport Sun - Bill Bower: The Kingfisher Is Often Heard Before Being Seen
-- Warren Times: Audubon Community Nature Center Offering Trail Guide Training Friday Mornings In April
-- Bay Journal: Wild Abundance Awaits At New Glenroy Nature Preserve [Nottingham, Chester County] - By Ad Crable
-- TribLive: Wildlife Observation Blind To Open At Murrysville Nature Reserve On Earth Day
-- Scranton Times: Hummingbirds On Their Way Back To Northeast PA
-- LancasterOnline - Sean Sauro: Backyard Bird Feeders Can Stay Up Despite Avian Flu
-- WITF: 150,000 Migrating Snow Geese Drew Thousands Of Visitors To Middle Creek Wildlife Area
-- WITF: Avian Flu Spreads To More Lancaster County Poultry Farms
-- Hawk Mountain Sanctuary's Benefit For Birds In-Person Gala, Online Auction May 12 [PaEN]
-- Hawk Mountain Sanctuary To Host In-Person Spring Document Series 3 Saturdays Starting April 23
-- PennLive - Marcus Schneck: John Heinz National Wildlife Refuge To Get Federal Money For Fish Passage Project

West Nile/Zika Virus
-- Wilkes-Barre Times Editorial: Be Mindful Of Ticks As You Enjoy The Great Outdoors

CLICK HERE to View or Print the PA Environment Digest.
[Posted: April 24, 2022]

Game Commission Recognizes John C. Oliver With Lifetime Achievement Award, Renames The Award After Oliver



Look back on conservation history and you'll find giants, people who

positively impacted wildlife, hunting and outdoor recreation in ways far above and beyond the norm.

Count John Oliver among them. The Pennsylvanian has been a tireless advocate for preserving wildlife habitat and creating public lands for outdoor recreationists for more than three decades.

It's fitting, then, that he's being honored now.

The Game Commission Board of Commissioners recently created the John C. Oliver Wildlife Conservation Lifetime Achievement Award.

It will be bestowed on individuals who throughout their career made substantial improvements to the wildlife and natural resources of Pennsylvania.

Oliver is the first winner of the award that will henceforth bear his name because he exemplifies the qualities the Game Commission is looking for in awardees.

As president of the Western Pennsylvania Conservancy and later named the first Secretary of Pennsylvania's Department of Conservation and Natural Resources by Gov. Tom Ridge, he led the way in setting aside more than 200,000 acres of land in the Commonwealth for conservation.

All of that land is now held in perpetuity for the common good, available to be enjoyed by everyone for generations to come.

The Game Commission, wildlife and Keystone State hunters and trappers certainly continue to benefit from his work. Among the land acquisition projects he spearheaded are:
-- 3,182 acres on State Game Lands 130 in Mercer County.
-- 2,152 acres on State Game Lands 42 in Cambria, Somerset and Westmoreland counties.
-- 1,537 acres on State Game Lands 26 in Bedford, Blair, Cambria and Somerset counties.
-- 3,131 acres on State Game Land 314 in Erie County.
-- 12,670 acres on State Game Lands 295 in Centre and Clinton counties.

Oliver was also instrumental in creating Pennsylvania's Growing Greener Program, which remains the largest single investment in environmental funding in the state.

A portion of that money – $20 million – was set aside for the Game Commission and used for critical infrastructure upgrades at Commission buildings and game lands, including improvements to roads, dams and bridges.

Oliver remains an avid outdoorsman and a tireless advocate for both hunting and the scientific wildlife management of the Commonwealth's wildlife. His career is a profound legacy of conservation work.

The Game Commission is pleased and proud to recognize and honor him with this award and to encourage others to follow in his footsteps.

NewsClip:
-- TribLive - Mary Ann Thomas: Game Commission Creates Award Named For John Oliver Who Helped Preserved More Than 200,000 Acres In The State

Related Articles:
-- DCNR Good Natured Pennsylvanians: John C. Oliver, First Secretary Of DCNR
-- PA Land Trust Assn Honors Fmr DCNR Secretary John Oliver With Leadership Award
-- PA Sea Grant Program Receives John C. Oliver Award From Tom Ridge Environmental Center Foundation In Erie
-- State Park Trail Named In Honor Of First DCNR Secretary, John C. Oliver
[Posted: April 18, 2022]

Attorney General's Office Reported To Be Investigating Conventional Oil & Gas Operators For Illegally Road Dumping Drilling Wastewater



On April 21, a consultant for conventional oil and gas operators on DCED's PA Grade Crude [Oil] Development Advisory Council reported the state Office of Attorney General is investigating the illegal disposal of conventional drilling wastewater through road dumping under DEP's Residual Waste Regulations.

In December, DEP sent letters to conventional oil and gas operators saying they did not meet the "coproduct" requirements of the Residual Waste Regulations. Read more here.

Meeting DEP's "coproduct" regulations is the only legal way conventional operators could dispose of their wastewater by road dumping.

As a result of DEP's determination, over 2.9 million gallons of conventional drilling wastewater dumped on dirt and gravel roads was done illegally from 2018 to 2021. Read more here.

Typical Road Dumping

The typical road dumping of oil and gas wastewater on dirt roads involves a vac truck making three or more passes on each section of road using a combination of an open value on the back of the truck and then a blanket pass with a homemade spreader bar that offers no control on the amount of brine spread.

There are no state standards restricting the amount of wastewater that can be dumped on roads, no setbacks from streams or wetlands to avoid contamination and no requirements for testing the wastewater before it is disposed of in this way. Read more here.

See Photos Here - Read more here. See Photos Here - Read more here.

AG Special Agents

"[At] about the same time [DEP determined the coproduct regulations were not met], a special agent from the Attorney General's Office began to visit and interview operators and consultants with known ties to preparation of coproduct determination," said Burt Waite, an industry consultant and representative of the PA Independent Oil and Gas Association on the Advisory Council.

"I had an agent show up at my doorstep unannounced, knock on my door, wanting to quiz me about the preparation of co-product determination reports," said Waite. "It kind of took me back and it took other operators back when a special agent with the Attorney General's Office showed up."

Click Here for an audio recording of Waite's comments.

Road Dumping Continues This Year

Eyewitnesses report indiscriminate road dumping of conventional oil and gas wastewater continues in 2022.

While road dumping typically occurs on dirt and gravel roads, there were reports again last week of road dumping occurring on State Route 6 in Warren County and other paved roads on a clear day.

Operators who say it is not happening are simply wrong.

Legislator Reaction

Sen. Scott Hutchinson (R-Venango), also a member of the Advisory Council and a supporter of the conventional industry reacted to the report, saying "I am deeply troubled that somebody is sicking the Attorney General Office on individuals like Burt for no apparent reason.

" I certainly hope it was not DEP that was releasing names or, pointing fingers in some direction to send Attorney General deputies to go to totally innocent individuals' homes and harass them." said Sen. Hutchinson.

"I don't know where else they would get information of people that are interested, or involved in these situations, but this sounds like police state stuff to me.

"I wish this hadn't even come up today, because I'm very upset about this," said Sen. Hutchinson.

Click Here for an audio recording of the Senator's comments.

Information Common Knowledge

DEP's action related to conventional operator compliance with the coproduct provisions of the Residual Waste Regulations is public and common knowledge.

PA Environment Digest and the Better Path Coalition published and distributed several articles on the issue, along with the names of companies submitting coproduct determinations and naming Burt Waite as the consultant preparing several of those submissions.

The public information in these reports was obtained through Right To Know requests to DEP. Read more here.

Copies of the articles were sent to all Senate and House members.

Office Of Attorney General

The Office of Attorney General was contacted for comments on this report, but there was no response.

Related Articles This Week:

-- Conventional Oil & Gas Operators Continued To Illegally Road Dump Over 580,000 Gallons Of Drilling Wastewater In 2021

-- DEP To Host Online Information Event On Federal Bipartisan Infrastructure Law Conventional Oil & Gas Well Plugging Program April 28

-- DEP Update On United Refining Company Naphtha Storage Tank Roof Failure In Warren

Related Articles:

-- Conventional Oil & Gas Operators Continued To Illegally Road Dump Over 580,000 Gallons Of Drilling Wastewater In 2021

-- Millions Of Gallons Of Conventional Oil & Gas Wastewater Spread Illegally On Dirt Roads, Companies Fail To Comply With DEP Waste Regulations

-- Better Path Coalition Report: How To Close The Loophole Allowing Uncontrolled Road Spreading Of Conventional Oil & Gas Wastewater & Fix Oil and Gas Waste Reporting System

[Posted: April 22, 2022]

Conventional Oil & Gas Operators Continued To Illegally Road Dump Over 580,000 Gallons Of Drilling Wastewater In 2021

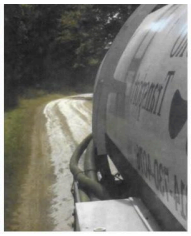
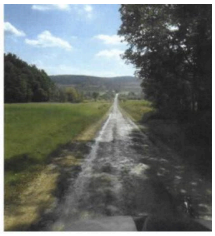
Conventional oil and gas operators just filed annual reports with DEP documenting their disposal of over 580,000 gallons of drilling wastewater by dumping it on dirt and gravel roads during 2021, according to DEP's Oil & Gas Waste Reporting Database.

Conventional wastewater was illegally dumped indiscriminately on roads in 24 townships located in 7 Pennsylvania counties, and one county in New York state.

Just two townships alone served as a dumping ground for over 290,304 gallons of the 580,000 gallons of wastewater--

-- Crawford County, Wayne Twp. - 140,112 gallons

-- Venango County, Richland Twp. - 150,192 gallons.

The counties where road dumping was reported included-- Clarion, Crawford, Erie, Forest, McKean, Mercer, Venango, Warren and Chautauqua, NY.

The 2021 reports bring the total amount of reported conventional drilling wastewater illegally road dumped to nearly 2.9 million gallons from 2018 to 2021. Read more here.

The 2021 data reported to DEP shows 18 companies were involved in road dumping, one more than in 2020.

The amount of conventional drilling wastewater road dumped is almost certainly much, much more than is being reported to DEP by operators.

The Better Path Coalition released a report in December that highlighted the significant problems with DEP's oil and gas waste reporting database that is supposed to track how much conventional and unconventional oil and gas waste is disposed of, including the fact it has never been the subject of a comprehensive audit. Read more here.

In December, DEP notified conventional drilling operators they identified as being involved in road dumping in 2020 that they have not met the requirements of DEP's Residual Waste Regulations. Read more here.

DEP was not aware of the 2021 waste data because it was only submitted by conventional operators annually.

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There are no state standards restricting the amount of wastewater that can be dumped on roads, no setbacks from streams or wetlands to avoid contamination and no requirements for testing the wastewater before it is disposed of in this way. Read more here.

See Photos Here - Read more here. See Photos Here - Read more here.

Just Plain Water Controls Dust

The justification for road dumping oil and gas wastewater is that it is an effective dust suppressant, however, recent studies have demonstrated it actually is not-- it actually damages dirt and gravel roads [Read more here]-- just plain water is effective as a dust suppressant without the environmental and health risks.

Experts from the Penn State Center for Dirt and Gravel Road Studies call the road dumping of oil and gas wastewater an "environmentally unsound practice" that can cause water pollution and even damage roads. Read more here.

"A lot of the brines in Pennsylvania have high sodium so they tend not to be as effective," said Eric Chase. "Any liquid you put on the roads is going to suppress dust for a little while, right? But, the fact of the matter is the high sodium brines are just not very effective."

"Yea, it does suppress dust, but so would plain water for a while without all the potential side effects," said Steve Bloser.

Road Dumping Threats Health, Environment

A growing body of research by Penn State University and others is finding conventional oil and gas drilling wastewater being dumped indiscriminately on Pennsylvania's dirt and gravel roads every year is a threat to the environment and human health.

Major studies reported in peer-reviewed journal articles have concluded spreading wastewater from conventional oil and gas drilling on dirt and gravel roads can harm aquatic life, poses health risks to humans and damages the roads. Read more here.

Preliminary results from a new Penn State research study by a team led by Dr. Nathaniel Warner found road dumping of conventional oil and gas drilling wastewater results in increased cancer risks for people living along those roads, especially children. Read more here.

The study found increased cancer risk from arsenic, lead and nickel in road dust contaminated by wastewater that is above the one in a million risk threshold.

According to these studies, conventional wastewater contains harmful contaminants like lead, radioactive radium, bromine, barium, radioactive strontium, chromium, cadmium, arsenic, copper, benzine, Diesel-Range organics and Gasoline-range organics. Read more here.

DEP is now reviewing another study by Penn State University's Dr. William Burgos that evaluated over 40,000 sample results to determine the impact of road dumping on water quality that should be released soon.

Companies Road Dumping In 2021

A total of 17 companies reported to DEP they were spreading their wastewater on roads in 2020.

The 2021 data reported to DEP shows 18 companies were involved in road dumping.

Here's the list from largest amounts to smallest. Also shown is where they dumped their wastewater--

-- Vista OPR, Inc. (Venango) - Wastewater - 206,976 gallons
- -- Clairon - Ashland Twp - 11,928 gallons
- -- Clarion - Beaver Twp - 7,602 gallons
- -- Mercer - French Creek Twp -4,200 gallons
- -- Mercer - New Vernon Twp - 22,470 gallons
- -- Venango - Canal Twp - 19,404 gallons
- -- Venango - Cranberry Twp - 4,200 gallons
- -- Venango - Richland Twp - 137,172 gallons

-- **Energy Resources of Amer Inc.** (Mercer, Venango) - Wastewater - 99,960 gallons
  -- Crawford - Randolph Twp - 6,720 gallons
  -- Crawford - Union Twp - 10,164 gallons
  -- Crawford - Vernon Twp - 1,680 gallons
  -- Crawford - Wayne Twp - 79,506 gallons
  -- Erie - Wayne Twp - 1,890 gallons
-- **Tachoir Resources, Inc..** (Forest) - Waste - 44,352 gallons*
  -- Forest - Kingsley Twp 31,710 gallons
  -- Venango - Allegheny Twp - 12,642 gallons
-- **DJR Well Services, Inc.** (Mercer County) - Wastewater - 39,858 gallons
  -- Crawford - Union Twp - 18,228 gallons
  -- Crawford - Vernon Twp - 1,890 gallons
  -- Crawford - Wayne Twp - 17,430 gallons
  -- Erie - Wayne Twp - 2,310 gallons
-- **Titusville Oil & Gas Assoc, Inc.**. (Forest) - Wastewater - 38,136 gallons*
  -- Forest - Harmony Twp - 38,136 gallons
-- **JMG Energy LLC** (Mercer, Venango) - Wastewater - 47,754 gallons
  -- Crawford - Fairfield Twp 7,854 gallons
  -- Crawford - Vernon Twp - 6,300 gallons
  -- Crawford - Wayne Twp - 33,600 gallons
-- **McComb Oil, Inc.** (Mercer) - Wastewater - 19,656 gallons
  -- Crawford - Randolph Twp. - 3,360 gallons
  -- Crawford - Vernon Twp. - 6,720 gallons
  -- Crawford - Wayne Twp. - 9,576 gallons
-- **Millennium Oil & Gas** (Mercer) - Wastewater - 13,608 gallons
  -- Crawford - Athens Twp - 1,764 gallons
  -- Crawford - Troy Twp - 9,114 gallons
  -- Venango - Canal Twp - 2,730 gallons
-- **Missing Moon Oil, Inc.** (Warren) - Wastewater - 13,230 gallons
  -- Crawford - Athens Twp - 5,880
  -- Crawford - Richland Twp - 7,350 gallons
-- **LHS Prod LLC** (Butler) - Wastewater - 13,020 gallons
  -- Mercer - New Vernon Twp - 4,410 gallons
  -- Venango - Richland Twp - 8,610 gallons
-- **Anderson Energy SVCS** (Warren County) - Wastewater - 10,080 gallons*
  -- Warren - Spring Creek Twp - 10,080 gallons
-- **Howard Drilling, Inc.** (Venango) - Wastewater - 8,820 gallons
  -- Venango - Canal Twp - 4,410 gallons
  -- Venango - Richland Twp - 4,410 gallons
-- **Elder Oil & Gas Co.** (Venango County) - Wastewater - 7,896 gallons
  -- Clarion - Licking Twp - 5,460 gallons
  -- Clarion - Richland Twp - 2,436 gallons
-- **Fork Run Oil & Gas LLC.** (McKean, Warren) - Wastewater - 7,014 gallons*
  -- Warren - Spring Creek Twp - 7,014 gallons
-- **SLT Production LLC** (Warren) - Wastewater - 4,578 gallons*

-- Mercer - New Vernon Twp - 4,578 gallons
-- Stedman Energy Inc. (Erie) - Wastewater 3,360 gallons
-- Chautauqua, NY - North Haven - 3,360 gallons
-- Medina Res Dev Co LLC. (Crawford) - Wastewater - 1,176 gallons*
-- Erie - Amity Twp - 1,176 gallons
-- Crowley Oil Co., LLC. (McKean County) - Wastewater - 882 gallons*
-- McKean - Annin Twp - 882 gallons
*Companies not previously identified by DEP or Better Path Coalition as being involved in road dumping in 2018, 2019, 2020. Read more here.

Municipalities Serving As Dumping Grounds

Conventional drilling operators reported disposing of their wastewater on dirt and gravel roads in 24 townships located in 7 Pennsylvania counties.

Two township alone served as a dumping ground for over 290,304 gallons of the 580,000 gallons of drilling wastewater--
-- Crawford County, Wayne Twp. - 140,112 gallons
-- Venango County, Richland Twp. - 150,192 gallons

One operator also reported road dumping their drilling wastewater in one county in New York state.

DEP lists 84 townships in total as "waste facilities" where conventional oil and gas wastewater has been disposed of by road dumping. Read More Here.

This is a complete list of municipalities serving as road dumping grounds for disposing of conventional oil and gas drilling wastewater during 2021--
-- Clarion - Total Waste - 27,426 gallons
-- Ashland Twp - 11,928
-- Beaver Twp - 7,602
-- Licking Twp - 5,460
-- Richland Twp - 2,436*
-- Crawford - Total Waste - 227,136 Gallons
-- Athens Twp - 7,644*
-- Fairfield Twp - 7,854*
-- Randolph Twp - 10,080*
-- Richland Twp - 7,350
-- Troy Twp - 9,114*
-- Union Twp - 28,392*
-- Vernon Twp - 16,590*
-- Wayne Twp - 140,112*
-- Erie - Total Waste - 5,376 gallons
-- Amity Twp - 1,176*
-- Wayne Twp - 4,200*
-- Forest - Total Waste - 69,846 gallons
-- Harmony Twp - 38,136*
-- Kingsley Twp - 31,710*
-- McKean - Total Waste - 882 gallons
-- Annin Twp - 882
-- Mercer - Total Waste - 35,658 gallons

-- French Creek Twp - 4,200*
-- New Vernon Twp - 31,458*
-- Venango - Total Waste - 193,578 gallons
-- Allegheny Twp - 12,642
-- Canal Twp - 26,544*
-- Cranberry Twp - 4,200*
-- Richland Twp - 150,192*
-- Warren - Total Waste - 17,094 gallons
-- Spring Creek Twp - 17,094*
-- Chautauqua, NY - Total Waste - 3,360
-- North Haven - 3,360
*Used as a road dumping ground over multiple years, according to conventional oil and gas operator waste reports. Read more here.

Click Here to download 2021 oil and gas operators waste reports as of April 20, 2022.

Reports on waste disposed by conventional and unconventional oil and gas operators can be found by visiting DEP's Oil & Gas Waste Reporting Database webpage.

Related Articles This Week:

-- Attorney General's Office Reported To Be Investigating Conventional Oil & Gas Operators For Illegally Road Dumping Drilling Wastewater

-- DEP To Host Online Information Event On Federal Bipartisan Infrastructure Law Conventional Oil & Gas Well Plugging Program April 28

-- DEP Update On United Refining Company Naphtha Storage Tank Roof Failure In Warren

PA Environment Digest Articles On Road Dumping:

-- Click Here for a list of articles on road dumping.

Related Articles:

-- Millions Of Gallons Of Conventional Oil & Gas Wastewater Spread Illegally On Dirt Roads, Companies Fail To Comply With DEP Waste Regulations

-- Better Path Coalition Report: How To Close The Loophole Allowing Uncontrolled Road Spreading Of Conventional Oil & Gas Wastewater & Fix Oil and Gas Waste Reporting System

-- The Science Says: Spreading Conventional Drilling Wastewater On Dirt & Gravel Roads Can Harm Aquatic Life, Poses Health Risks To Humans - And It Damages The Roads

-- Preliminary Results From New Penn State Study Find Increased Cancer, Health Risks From Road Dumping Conventional Drilling Wastewater, Especially For Children

-- A First-Hand Account Of How Repeated, Unlimited Road Dumping Of Oil & Gas Drilling Wastewater Is Tearing Apart Dirt Roads And Creating Multiple Environmental Hazards

-- New Abandoned Wells: DEP Records Show Abandoning Oil & Gas Wells Without Plugging Them Is Pervasive In Conventional Drilling Industry; Who Is Protecting Taxpayers?

[Posted: April 21, 2022]

DEP To Host Online Information Event On Federal Bipartisan Infrastructure Law Conventional Oil & Gas Well Plugging Program April 28




The Department of Environmental Protection will host an online information session on the federal Bipartisan

Infrastructure Law Conventional Oil and Gas Well Plugging Program April 28 from 3:00 to 4:00 p.m..

This session, presented by DEP Oil and Gas staff, will provide participating stakeholders, local government officials, academic institutions and commonwealth citizens with information relating to its projected plans, needs, timelines and vendor protocols which will allow for the most effective utilization of the potential funding across the state as detailed below:

-- Initial Grant ($25 million)
-- Formula Grants (est. $300 million)
-- Performance Grants (est. $40 million)

After the session, attendees will be invited to submit their questions and comments relating to oil and gas operations for further review and consideration.

Click Here to register for this event by April 26 or for more information.

For more information on abandoned conventional oil and gas wells, visit DEP's Rewriting Pennsylvania's Legacy webpage.

Related Articles This Week:

-- Attorney General's Office Reported To Be Investigating Conventional Oil & Gas Operators For Illegally Road Dumping Drilling Wastewater
-- Conventional Oil & Gas Operators Continued To Illegally Road Dump Over 580,000 Gallons Of Drilling Wastewater In 2021
-- DEP To Host Online Information Event On Federal Bipartisan Infrastructure Law Conventional Oil & Gas Well Plugging Program April 28
-- DEP Update On United Refining Company Naphtha Storage Tank Roof Failure In Warren

Related Articles:

-- New Abandoned Wells: DEP Records Show Abandoning Oil & Gas Wells Without Plugging Them Is Pervasive In Conventional Drilling Industry; Who Is Protecting Taxpayers?
-- 12 Unconventional Shale Gas Drillers Issued DEP Notices Of Violation For Abandoning Wells Without Plugging Them At 35 Well Pads In 17 Counties
-- Quarterly Report: DEP Issued 77 Notices Of Violations To Conventional Drillers, 8 To Shale Gas Drillers For Attempting To Abandon Wells Without Plugging Them [4.7.22]

["Warning: The average person is likely to be shocked at the number and extent of the violations documented by DEP day in and day out."]

-- DEP Receives First $25 Million From Federal Bipartisan Infrastructure Law For Plugging Oil & Gas Wells Abandon By Conventional Drillers

[Posted: April 18, 2022]

DEP Formally Publishes Notice Of Sunoco's Mariner East Pipeline Marsh Creek State Park Lake Restoration Plan Approval



The Department of Environmental Protection published notice in the April 23 PA Bulletin that it has approved Sunoco Pipeline LP's request for a major permit amendment for restoration activities after a spill of drilling fluid near Marsh Creek State Park in Chester County. *(PA Bulletin page 2425)*

The restoration activities are required under the terms

of a Consent Order and Agreement entered into between DEP, the Department of Conservation and Natural Resources, and Sunoco on December 6, 2021, after Sunoco spilled approximately 8,000 gallons of drilling fluid that impacted a wetland, two tributaries, and Marsh Creek Lake in August 2020.

As outlined in the COA, Sunoco is required to dredge portions of the lake to remove drilling mud and sediment present as a result of the spill. Read more here.

Any person aggrieved by this decision now has 30 days to appeal the action to the Environmental Hearing Board.

More information is available on DEP's Mariner East Pipeline webpage.

For more information on environmental programs in Pennsylvania, visit DEP's website, Click Here to sign up for DEP's newsletter, sign up for DEP Connects events, sign up for DEP's eNotice, visit DEP's Blog, Like DEP on Facebook, Follow DEP on Twitter and visit DEP's YouTube Channel.

Related Article:

-- DEP Approves Sunoco's Mariner East Pipeline Marsh Creek State Park Lake Restoration Plan

Related Articles This Week:

-- Attorney General's Office Reported To Be Investigating Conventional Oil & Gas Operators For Illegally Road Dumping Drilling Wastewater

-- Conventional Oil & Gas Operators Continued To Illegally Road Dump Over 580,000 Gallons Of Drilling Wastewater In 2021

-- DEP To Host Online Information Event On Federal Bipartisan Infrastructure Law Conventional Oil & Gas Well Plugging Program April 28

-- DEP Update On United Refining Company Naphtha Storage Tank Roof Failure In Warren

[Posted: April 23, 2022]

DEP Update On United Refining Company Naphtha Storage Tank Roof Failure In Warren



On April l9, the Department of Environmental Protection provided the following update on its response to the February 18 collapse of the roof on a storage tank causing a release of petroleum naphtha into the community near the United Refining Company facility in Warren, PA--

DEP's Northwest Regional Office has been in contact with United Refining Company throughout the incident.

On Tuesday, April 12th, United Refining accessed the tank to begin removal of the remaining liquid from the bottom of the tank.

United Refining completed the removal of the remaining liquid from the tank on Thursday, April 14th.

Once the remaining liquid was removed from the tank, the incident was no longer considered to have any potential environmental impacts and the Community Wide Air Quality Monitoring network was shut down.

DEP did not receive any odor complaints after the initial days of the incident.

A multi-layered sampling plan was developed shortly after the start of the incident and included the establishment of a Community-Wide Monitoring Network, the Passive Fenceline Monitoring Network required for all refineries, DEP Complaint Response Monitoring and SUMMA Canister Sampling.

Community-Wide Monitoring Network:

At DEP's request, United Refining installed a Community-Wide Monitoring Network which consisted of six sampling locations placed throughout the City of Warren. Each monitor provided continuous sampling for hydrogen sulfide, volatile organic compounds, oxygen, carbon monoxide and lower explosive limit levels.

DEP was provided remote access to the real time data throughout the incident and would have received alerts from the system had any action levels been exceeded.

These monitors did not detect an emission impacts requiring DEP follow-up/investigation during the entire sampling period.

Passive Fenceline Monitoring Network:

United Refining is required by federal regulation and its operating permit to implement a passive fenceline monitoring network for benzene. This passive benzene monitoring continued to be conducted throughout the incident.

Each sampling period lasts for two weeks and the data from the passive sampling was immediately provided to DEP upon receipt.

On March 10, 2022, United Refining transmitted the results of the Benzene sampling for the two week period from February 15, 2022 through March 1, 2022 which included the start of the incident.

United Refining included the following statement in its transmittal of the report to DEP: "The Benzene Fence line tube concentrations around the tank were higher than our normal readings. The max being 25 µg/m3 which converted for Benzene equates to 7.57 ppb. Keep in mind these fence line monitoring locations are located inside the fence line or on the fence line not in the community. The action level for these measurements are (ΔC) > 9 µg/m3 for an annual average (40 CFR 63 Subpart CC 63.658 (f)(3)). United's annual average after this period is 1.78 µg/m3."

On March 25, 2022, United Refining transmitted the results of the Benzene sampling for the two week period from March 1, 2022 to March 15, 2022.

United Refining included the following statement in its transmittal of the report to DEP: "The sample locations around the tank still shows and elevated reading but much reduced compared to the last cycle. The max reading being 10 µg/m3 which converted to Benzene ppb equates to 3.03 ppb of Benzene. Keep in mind these fence line monitoring locations are located inside the fence line or on the fence line not in the community. The action level for these measurements is (ΔC) > 9 µg/m3 for an annual average (40 CFR 63 Subpart CC 63.658 (f)(3)). United's annual average after this period is 2.11 µg/m3."

Neither of the reports received to date for the passive benzene monitoring network indicated exceedances of the short or long term action levels identified in the Sampling Plan.

DEP Complaint Response Monitoring

DEP did not receive any complaints after sampling plan was developed, therefore, the sampling protocols for complaint response monitoring were not utilized.

SUMMA Canister Sampling:

DEP conducted two sets of 12-hour samples at three locations in the City of Warren on

February 25, 2022 and February 26, 2022.

All of the results showed benzene sample results at or below 0.190 parts per billion which was well below DEP's action level of 9 bbp for the incident.

Using an abundance of caution, DEP did conduct additional SUMMA testing during the period in which United opened the tank to remove the remaining liquid from the tank. Those test results have not been received.

For more information, visit DEP's Northwest Regional Office United Refining Company webpage.

*(**Photo:** United Refinery, Warren, Warren Times Observer.)*

Related Articles:

-- Attorney General's Office Reported To Be Investigating Conventional Oil & Gas Operators For Illegally Road Dumping Drilling Wastewater

-- Conventional Oil & Gas Operators Continued To Illegally Road Dump Over 580,000 Gallons Of Drilling Wastewater In 2021

-- DEP To Host Online Information Event On Federal Bipartisan Infrastructure Law Conventional Oil & Gas Well Plugging Program April 28

-- DEP Update On United Refining Company Naphtha Storage Tank Roof Failure In Warren [Posted: April 19, 2022]

Guest Essay: Seize The Rare Opportunity To Resolve Toxic Mine Drainage

By Robert Hughes, Eastern PA Coalition for Abandoned Mine Reclamation

This guest essay first appeared in the Scranton Times-Tribune on April 20, 2022--



Ask anyone in the communities where coal mining once dominated: acid mine drainage is a major problem.

Streams and rivers throughout coal-impacted communities are a sickly orange because of acid mine drainage. It's created by a chemical reaction when water from long-abandoned coal mines mixes with oxygen, and it's not just an eyesore.

It means that the places so many of us call home are less healthy, less safe and less attractive for new residents and business.

After all, who wants to live or work where the water is not clean or safe?

The good news is that help could be on the way.

A new bipartisan bill called the STREAM Act, introduced by Democratic U.S. Rep. Matt Cartwright of Moosic and Republican Rep. David McKinley of West Virginia, could bring millions of dollars to Eastern Pennsylvania to put people to work cleaning up water polluted by acid mine drainage.

A bipartisan solution is rare these days in Congress. But this problem is so serious and so obvious that it has gotten the attention from both sides of the aisle. We cannot let this momentum

fade and we simply cannot afford to let the acid mine drainage crisis linger.

For years, we've been chipping away at the problem thanks to funding from federal and state abandoned mine lands programs, but the resources never have been enough to clean up every polluted body of water for the length of time that treatment is required.

The challenge with acid mine drainage is that it does not go away. It requires constant treatment from systems that also must be maintained for years.

The bipartisan infrastructure bill passed last year secured $11.3 billion in new funding to tackle abandoned mine lands issues — resources finally at the scale to address the acid mine drainage challenge.

But, there's a catch. The long-standing federal AML program let states set aside 30% of their AML funding each year into accounts that accrue interest and can cover the perpetual costs of treating acid mine drainage. The infrastructure bill didn't have that same provision.

Building and installing acid mine drainage treatment systems but not providing the funding to keep them running doesn't make sense.

We need a full-time solution that keeps the systems running, so our children and grandchildren can enjoy clean water that we did not have. That's the solution that Cartwright's and McKinley's bill provides.

The bill lets states save some of their new AML money to operate acid mine drainage treatment systems. By cleaning up our water, it is good for our economies, good for our communities, and it doesn't cost a single extra cent of taxpayer money.

We need this bill. A large number of acid mined discharges in Pennsylvania still need accurate monitoring of the flow and the chemistry of the pollution to determine the best treatment technology.

The investments that the STREAM Act would secure would help do the analysis and install the right kind of treatment systems.

These funds are needed to the Eastern Pennsylvania Coalition for Abandoned Mine Reclamation support community groups seeking funding for those AMD Treatment systems.

The abandoned mine coalition often seeks funding to monitor AMD discharges for chemistry and flow and gather the data that will be helpful when considering AMD treatment system alternatives.

We assess many of our watersheds to recommend reclamation work. We need to look at the intricate underground mine pools that are connected to these AMD discharges to better understand where polluted water originates.

There is the potential to create long-term jobs and have private companies enter the arena. There is an even more vital need to work with private landowners to determine if they are willing to consider treatment systems on their properties.

Thanks to this bill and the infrastructure act, we have the opportunity to tackle this challenge.

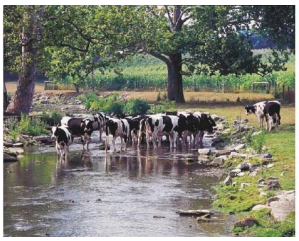
I urge the rest of Pennsylvania's Congressional delegation to join Cartwright in supporting this important bill.

When they do, it will mean cleaner water for our communities for generations to come.

Robert Hughes is Executive Director of the Eastern PA Coalition for Abandoned Mine Reclamation

Related Articles:
-- Casey, Cartwright Introduce Bipartisan Bill To Fund Abandoned Mine Treatment O&M Costs
-- Appalachian Voices: Appalachian Groups Urge Biden, Congress To Ensure Climate Action Helps Energy Transition Communities
[Posted: April 20, 2022]

EPA: State Plan To Clean Up PA's Part Of Chesapeake Bay Watershed Lacks Funding To Meet Water Pollution Reduction Goals




On April 18, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency announced its evaluation of Pennsylvania's updated plan to address pollution reduction goals in its portion of the Chesapeake Bay watershed found the plan falls short of meeting those goals largely due to the lack of resources provided by the state.

Approximately 25,000 miles of streams in the state – more than the Earth's circumference – are considered unsuitable for fishing, recreation or other uses. [Read more here.]

Pennsylvania's draft amended Phase III Watershed Implementation Plan (WIP) meets 70 percent of its nitrogen reduction target – 9.7 million pounds short, and 93 percent of the sediment target, the EPA evaluation found.

"The draft amended Phase III WIP did not demonstrate how Pennsylvania plans to achieve the additional 1.81 million pounds of nitrogen and 95,000 pounds of phosphorus by 2025 related to climate change conditions as expected by the Principals' Staff Committee."

Much of this is attributed to uncontrolled manure runoff into streams, although there are other contributing pollution sources.

"Pennsylvania has made noteworthy progress in recent years and key partnerships are in place," said EPA Mid-Atlantic Regional Administrator Adam Ortiz. "State agencies, counties, farmers, partners and nonprofits are on board and have put in a tremendous effort. What's missing are improved manure control policies and dependable state funding for agriculture cost-share programs for farmers. These are measures other states have had for a long time."

Pennsylvania will now have 90 days to submit an improved final plan that meets its targets.

Click Here to read EPA full evaluation.

EPA To Take Actions

Starting this week, EPA said it will be taking stronger actions statewide to promote clean-up progress, such as increased agriculture and municipal stormwater inspections, increased permit oversight, heightened enforcement actions and a redirection of certain federal funds to ensure they are spent more efficiently in Pennsylvania.

EPA identified these potential federal actions in its evaluation--
-- Expand National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permit coverage: For example, using residual designation authority to increase the number of sources, operations, or communities regulated by the NPDES permit program;
-- Further expanding EPA review of draft permits in the Bay watershed and objecting to permits

that do not meet the requirements of the Clean Water Act (including NPDES effluent limits that are not consistent with the Chesapeake Bay Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) wasteload allocations (WLAs));
-- Require net improvement offsets that do more than merely replace the anticipated new or increased loadings;
-- Establish finer-scale WLAs and load allocations (LAs);
-- Requiring additional reductions from point sources by revising the Chesapeake Bay TMDL to reallocate load reductions from nonpoint to point sources such as wastewater treatment plants;
-- Further increasing and targeting federal enforcement and compliance assurance in the watershed, including both air and water sources of nitrogen, phosphorus, and sediment;
-- Further conditioning or redirecting EPA grants and incorporating criteria into future Requests for Proposals based on demonstrated progress in meeting WIPs or in an effort to yield higher nitrogen, phosphorus, or sediment load reductions;
-- Promulgating federal standards where the jurisdiction's water quality standards (WQS) do not contain criteria that protect designated uses locally or downstream.

"Enhanced inspections and enforcement are a last resort, but that is where we are. Governor Wolf and legislative leaders have key proposals on the table in Harrisburg that would make a big difference," said Ortiz, "We may live in different states in this region, but the rivers are shared by all, and each needs to do their part."

Reaction

Sen. Gene Yaw (R-Lycoming), Majority Chair of the Senate Environmental Resources and Energy Committee, released this statement April 19 in response to EPA review of Pennsylvania's Chesapeake Bay cleanup plan--

"It is disappointing that Pennsylvania continues to fall short of its obligations to our downstream neighbors. More importantly, if we are not sending clean water downstream, it means we don't have clean water here at home.

"As noted today by EPA, one-third of Pennsylvania's own streams and rivers do not meet water quality standards. EPA's intent to apply consequences statewide for the Chesapeake Bay shortfall, instead of just in the Bay watershed, recognizes that we need to take a hard look at how Pennsylvania prioritizes our own water resources.

"I am proud to sponsor two legislative initiatives mentioned in the EPA evaluation: comprehensive fertilizer legislation (SB 251) and establishment of a new Agricultural Conservation Assistance Program (ACAP) (SB 465).

"Additionally, a new Clean Streams Fund (SB 832) sponsored by me, Senator Dan Laughlin (District 49) and my Chesapeake Bay Commission colleague Senator Scott Martin (District 13), would provide funding for ACAP and other programmatic enhancements recommended in the evaluation.

"I look forward to working with our legislative colleagues and the governor to finally get these bills over the finish line this year."

Following EPA's announcement, **Harry Campbell, Chesapeake Bay Foundation's** Pennsylvania Science Policy and Advocacy Director, issued this statement--

"We appreciate EPA recognizing that Pennsylvania's plan is insufficient. This is a step in the right direction. However, until the plan is made sufficient and adequate funding is identified, there will be no reasonable assurance of success.

"EPA must continue to provide oversight and accountability to ensure the

Commonwealth acts. Additional federal and state investments are crucial.

"The Commonwealth's proposed Clean Streams Fund legislation would create a statewide farm conservation cost-share program called the Agricultural Conservation Assistance Program (ACAP), help municipalities reduce polluted stormwater, and restore streams damaged by acid mine drainage, among other vital things. [Read more about PA bills here.]

"If passed, Pennsylvania's legislature will begin to close the funding gap and move us closer to bringing clean water to the Commonwealth's rivers and streams. Our economy, health, heritage, and quality of life depend on it."

More Information

Visit EPA's Chesapeake Bay Evaluations webpage for more information.

Visit DEP's Chesapeake Bay Watershed webpage to learn more about cleaning up rivers and streams in Pennsylvania's portion of the Chesapeake Bay Watershed.

How Clean Is Your Stream?

Check DEP's 2022 Water Quality Report to find out how clean streams are near you.

NewsClips:

-- Bay Journal: EPA Says PA's Plan To Clean Up Its Portion Of Chesapeake Bay Watershed Still Comes Up Short - By Karl Blankenship

-- Post-Gazette - Laura Legere: EPA: Expect 'Tough Love' After PA's Chesapeake Bay Pollution Reduction Plan Falls Short Again

-- WITF: PA's Plan Fails To Meet Goal For Reducing Pollution In Chesapeake Bay; EPA Will Take Stronger Actions To Curb Water Pollution

-- PennLive - Charles Thompson: EPA Is Coming For PA Over Lagging Returns In Chesapeake Bay Restoration Efforts

Related Articles:

-- Delaware Currents: For Every 10 Miles Of Streams In PA's Part Of The Delaware River Watershed, 4 Don't Meet Water Quality Standards

-- Two Bipartisan Bills Just Sitting In Senate Waiting To Address Record Number Of Water Quality Impaired Streams Reported In 2022

-- Growing Greener Coalition: Action Needed On Bipartisan Growing Greener III Proposals To Address Critical Water Quality, Recreation, Green Infrastructure Needs

-- Gov. Wolf Proposes $450 Million Growing Greener III Initiative Funded By Federal American Rescue Plan; Bipartisan Support Building For Conservation Allocation

-- CBF: If PA Does Not Meet Its Obligations To Cleanup Its Water Pollution, The Chesapeake Bay Will Never Be Safe; CBF Will Not Back Off Lawsuit

[Posted: April 18, 2022]

PennVEST Invests $199 Million In 13 Water Infrastructure Projects In 11 Counties

On April 20, Gov. Tom Wolf announced the investment of $199 million for 13 drinking water, wastewater, stormwater, and nonpoint source projects across 11 counties through the Pennsylvania Infrastructure Investment Authority.

"Ensuring the reliability of our most precious infrastructure is vital to the road to recovery for many of our communities," said Gov. Wolf. "As we prepare for much-needed increases in federal and state resources, like those in the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act that will bring more than $240 million to Pennsylvania next year alone for clean water

infrastructure, I am confident that these projects will pave the way for successful growth and revitalization."

The funding for these projects originates from a combination of state funds approved by voters, the Environmental Stewardship (Growing Greener) Fund, the Marcellus Shale Legacy Fund financed by Act 13 drilling impact fees, federal grants to PennVEST from the Environmental Protection Agency, and recycled loan repayments from previous PennVEST funding awards. Funds for these projects are disbursed after expenses for work are paid and receipts are submitted to PennVEST for review.

"PennVEST continues to make valuable and prudent use of the state revolving fund," said Gov. Wolf. "As we continue to soar past the landmark of $10 billion invested in clean water projects, it is evident that there is still a need for infrastructure improvement and I'm proud to be part of a successful system that provides efficient support while saving Pennsylvanians money."

Click Here for a list of projects funded.

To learn more about water infrastructure funding opportunities, visit the Pennsylvania Infrastructure Investment Authority webpage.

Related Article:

-- EPA: State Plan To Clean Up PA's Part Of Chesapeake Bay Watershed Lacks Funding To Meet Water Pollution Reduction Goals

[Posted: April 20, 2022]

NRCS-PA: Federal Bipartisan Infrastructure Law To Fund 2 Watershed Flood Prevention, Restoration Projects In Underserved PA Communities



On April 22, U.S. Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack announced the U.S. Department of Agriculture will invest $420 million in 132 infrastructure projects in 31 states, including a $3.85 million investment in two projects in Pennsylvania. including rehabilitating dams, flood prevention, and watershed restoration projects.

"The Bipartisan Infrastructure Law is a once-in-a-generation opportunity to rebuild our infrastructure, create good-paying jobs and build new economic opportunity here in Pennsylvania," said Denise Coleman, PA State Conservationist for USDA's Natural Resources Conservation Service. "Our watershed programs help communities rebuild after natural disasters and prepare for future events. These projects exemplify why this historic investment in our watersheds was needed and the adeptness of our agency to act swiftly."

Projects in Pennsylvania include:

-- Middle Creek Watershed Project, PA-637 Walker Lake: Owned and operated by Fish and Boat Commission, Walker Lake Dam provides recreation and flood protection for the Middleburg area of Snyder County, PA. Rehabilitation is planned for the existing dam to meet current criteria for a high potential hazard dam and to extend the service life.

-- Little Schuylkill River Watershed Project: The five dams enrolled within the REHAB Program are owned and operated by the Schuylkill County Commissioners and the Pennsylvania

Department of Conservation and Natural Resources. Pennsylvania NRCS is generally taking a watershed approach to evaluating how to rehabilitate the existing infrastructure.

All five dams in the Little Schuylkill River Watershed are being considered in the same planning effort. Four of the five dams are in Pennsylvania's top 25 dams for Failure Index. One dam has seen flow through the auxiliary spillway. These dams work together to provide flood protection for the Tamaqua and New Ringgold areas of Schuylkill County.

For more information on assistance available to landowners, visit the NRCS-PA webpage.
[Posted: April 22, 2022]

PA American Water Announces $75,000 In Grants To Support Local Environmental Projects



On April 22, Pennsylvania American Water announced 13 local watershed-related projects across the Commonwealth will receive financial support through the company's annual Environmental Grant Program.

The recipients will receive a share of grant funds totaling nearly $75,000 for their community-based projects that improve, restore or protect watersheds.

A panel of judges selected the grant recipients from 50 applications, which were evaluated on environmental need, innovation, community engagement and sustainability.

"On this Earth Day, we are inspired by all of these organizations and their commitment to environmental stewardship," said Mike Doran, president of Pennsylvania American Water. "We hope that these projects equally inspire our communities to get involved and help protect our natural resources."

The 2022 grant recipients are:

-- Berks Nature, Berks County – Papermill Dam Removal on the Cacoosing Creek ($6,476). Funding will be used to restore the riparian zone along Cacoosing Creek by planting native trees and plants. Additionally, a youth fishing program will be offered following the removal of the dam.

-- Dormont Stormwater Authority, Allegheny County – West Liberty Avenue Parking Lot Rain Garden ($10,000). The Authority plans to install a rain garden at the West Liberty Avenue parking lot to provide a natural, pervious area for stormwater runoff. The garden will also help prevent flooding and debris from entering the collection system as a best management practice.

-- Eastern Pennsylvania Coalition for Abandoned Mine Reclamation, Luzerne County (EPCAMR) – Millcreek Watershed Cleanups ($3,435). The project involves stream cleanups of unnamed tributaries along Mill and Gardner Creeks, along with the installation of dataloggers to monitor flow and pollution from nearby abandoned mines.

-- East Pikeland Township, Chester County – Hidden River Park & Preserve Riparian Corridor Revitalization ($10,000). Funding will go toward a riparian revitalization project with native shrubs, trees, and 95 acres of meadow grasses to reduce erosion and restore the native habitat.

-- Ellwood City, Lawrence County – Phase III Five Points Community Garden ($6,300). With

the grant, the borough will install additional garden beds, complete walking paths, and install signage at the Five Points Community Garden.
-- Fairview Township, York County – Lawn to Meadow Conversion ($3,863). The project involves using native plants and grasses, including pollinators, to improve water quality by creating a meadow within the township to reduce runoff into local waterways.
-- Indiana County Conservation District – First Waves Indiana ($6,390). First Waves Indiana plans to engage underserved youth in meaningful outdoor experiences, including tree planting, stream biology, paddleboarding, and fly fishing, with a resulting video of the program.
-- Lackawanna Heritage Valley Authority, Lackawanna County – Restoration Plantings ($5,200). With this funding, volunteers will re-establish a native and biodiverse ecosystem as part of a riparian buffer zone restoration planting program along the Lackawanna River Heritage Trail.
-- Lackawanna River Corridor Association, Lackawanna County – Managing Stormwater/Rain Barrel Workshop ($2,500). Funding will go toward three rain barrel workshops for residents to educate them on stormwater management and demonstrate rain barrel construction.
-- Three Rivers Waterkeeper, Allegheny County – 3 Rivers Watch Expanding Water Quality Monitoring ($9,850). Funding will go toward expanding the organization's volunteer program, including training for volunteers to assess water quality, as well as increased monitoring, patrolling, and water quality sampling.
-- Silver Spring Township, Cumberland County – Water Sampling and Analysis Project ($950). The project involves investigating the origin of pollution sources impairing tributaries to Conodoguinet Creek through water and soil testing. The goal is to reduce pollutants in the streams.
-- Warren County Conservation District – Where Would Our Streams Be Without Trees ($690). The Conservation District plans to study the impact riparian buffer restoration has on water quality on Barton Run.
-- Watershed Coalition of the Lehigh Valley, Northampton County – Restoration and Outreach Projects for Master Watershed Stewards ($9,240). The Coalition and its partners will install four native shrub nurseries for future sources for live stakes that can be used for stream bank stabilization to reduce pollution and erosion.

Pennsylvania American Water initiated its Environmental Grant Program in 2005 to support projects that protect or restore drinking water sources and surrounding watersheds.

Since then, American Water has expanded the annual program to many of its state subsidiaries across the nation.

To date, Pennsylvania American Water has donated more than $650,000 to fund more than 135 projects.

For more on this program, visit PA American Water's Environmental Grant Program webpage.
[Posted: April 22, 2022]

DEP Invites Comments On Total Maximum Daily Load Watershed Plans In Adams, Centre Counties

The Department of Environmental Protection is inviting public comments on proposed Total Maximum Daily Load Water Quality Plans in these counties--
-- Adams County: UNT South Branch Conewago Creek Watershed

-- Centre County: Upper Cedar Run Watershed

For all the details, read the entire PA Bulletin notices (pages 2423 - 2324). Questions should be directed to Michael Morris michamorri@pa.gov or by telephone at 717-772-5670.

Click Here to learn more about pollution reduction and TMDL plans.

For more information on environmental programs in Pennsylvania, visit DEP's website, Click Here to sign up for DEP's newsletter, sign up for DEP Connects events, sign up for DEP's eNotice, visit DEP's Blog, Like DEP on Facebook, Follow DEP on Twitter and visit DEP's YouTube Channel.

[Posted: April 23, 2022]

Delaware Currents: For Every 10 Miles Of Streams In PA's Part Of The Delaware River Watershed, 4 Don't Meet Water Quality Standards

By Chris Mele, Delaware Currents

Note: *For Earth Day, Delaware Currents launches another one of its ambitious projects.*

This story kicks off a 10-part series to help you understand the health of the nine basins in Pennsylvania that are part of the Delaware River's watershed. The findings are drawn from the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection's 2022 Integrated Water Quality Report.



For every 10 miles of streams in Pennsylvania that are part of the Delaware River watershed, four miles are so polluted as to be considered harmful, a recent state report has found.

The health of these streams is no small thing when you consider that Pennsylvania boasts the largest land mass in the four-state watershed and that the waterways in parts of 16 Pennsylvania counties are the arteries that feed the Delaware River.

The Delaware River's health, in turn, is important because more than 15 million people depend on it for their drinking water.

Click Here to read the full article.

[How Clean Is Your Stream?

[Check DEP's 2022 Water Quality Report to find out how clean streams are near you.]

*(**Photo:** Neshaminy Creek, Bucks County.)*

(Reprinted from Delaware Currents.)

Related Articles:

-- EPA: State Plan To Clean Up PA's Part Of Chesapeake Bay Watershed Lacks Funding To Meet Water Pollution Reduction Goals

-- Attorney General's Office Reported To Be Investigating Conventional Oil & Gas Operators For Illegally Road Dumping Drilling Wastewater

-- Conventional Oil & Gas Operators Continued To Illegally Road Dump Over 580,000 Gallons

Of Drilling Wastewater In 2021
-- DEP To Host Online Information Event On Federal Bipartisan Infrastructure Law Conventional Oil & Gas Well Plugging Program April 28
-- DEP Update On United Refining Company Naphtha Storage Tank Roof Failure In Warren
[Posted: April 22, 2022]

Sustainable Business Network Recognizes Green Stormwater Infrastructure Projects In Philadelphia Region

On April 21, the Sustainable Business Network of Greater Philadelphia hosted the 6th Annual Excellence in GSI Awards at FringeArts and La Peg – its first in-person awards ceremony in over two years. The ceremony included close to 100 of the region's industry leaders and partners, decisionmakers, and stakeholders.

SBN's Green Stormwater Infrastructure (GSI) Partners honored exemplary projects and the people behind them that bring the environmental, social, and economic benefits of green stormwater infrastructure to life in Philadelphia and the region.

Awards were given to Public Projects and Private Projects categories, and a GSI Champion Award given to an individual or organization that has worked tirelessly to advance our region's green stormwater infrastructure industry.

Devi Ramkissoon, SBN's Executive Director, opened the program applauding the region's partners and leaders and their commitment to advancing GSI in the region despite the challenges of the global pandemic and supply and labor disruptions while recognizing its growth over the last ten years.

"The growth of the GSI industry has been instrumental in Philadelphia surpassing its 10-year pollution reduction goal that has kept nearly three billion gallons of stormwater runoff and sewer overflow out of local waterways," said Devi Ramkissoon, Executive Director for the Sustainable Business Network (SBN) of Greater Philadelphia.

"People in our region like you all in the room tonight are leading the way, not only in our city and country but also around the world, in affecting real economic and environmental change through the use of GSI."

Stuart Clarke, Program Director of Watershed Protection with the William Penn Foundation, delivered a passionate keynote address that emphasized the role of green stormwater infrastructure projects in mitigating climate change and the need to invest in them.

GSI Champion Award

Philadelphia **Councilmember-At-Large Katherine Gilmore Richardson** accepted the GSI Champion Award, an acknowledgment of her work to advance green stormwater solutions to address pollution and promote climate resilience, and the creation of family-sustaining green jobs.

"I'm so honored to be recognized as this year's GSI Champion! The GSI Awards showcase the innovation, creativity, and collaboration that have led to a thriving local green stormwater industry, supporting local businesses, creating family-supporting and sustaining careers, and improving community resiliency. These are the types of industries we must be

investing in as we look to grow our local economy and protect our residents from the impacts of climate change," said Katherine Gilmore Richardson, Philadelphia City Councilmember-At-Large

GSI Awardees

Awardees were given awards made by local Philadelphia business and SBN member Remark Glass.

The awards were made using recycled and repurposed discarded glass. SBN member and sponsor Pixel Parlor also created the awards' graphic designs.

The awards exemplify SBN's values in supporting local businesses and fostering a circular economy that creates partnerships and improves sustainability.

On behalf of the Sustainable Business Network of Greater Philadelphia (SBN), the GSI Partners recognized excellence in GSI in the following categories:

Public Projects

Recognizes built projects located in the Greater Philadelphia region managed in large part by a public agency and/or on public property (municipal, state, federal).

-- Winner: American Street Improvement Project

-- Client: Philadelphia Water Department and Philadelphia Department of Streets

-- Planning/Design Team: Gilmore & Associates, Inc., Johnson, Mirmiran, & Thompson (JMT), KMJ Consulting, Inc.

-- Watershed: Delaware Direct South

-- Construction/Maintenance: Tony DePaul & Son, Malick & Scherer, P.C.

-- Location: N. American Street (W. Girard Avenue –West Indiana Avenue), Philadelphia, PA, 19122, 19133

Private Projects

Recognizes built projects located in the Greater Philadelphia region managed in large part by a private entity and/or on private property.

-- Winner: Holmesburg Baptist Church and Christian Academy Green Stormwater Infrastructure Project

-- Client: Holmesburg Baptist Church and Christian Academy

-- Planning/Design Team: The Nature Conservancy, AKRF

-- Watershed: Pennypack Creek

-- Construction/Maintenance: Brandywine Stormwater, LLC, Holmesburg Baptist Church and Christian Academy

-- Location: 7927 Frankford Ave, Philadelphia, PA, 19136

For more information on the winners, as well as details of the ceremony, please do not hesitate to reach out to Jared Lowe, SBN's Communications Manager, at jared@sbnphiladelphia.org .

Resource Link:

-- SBN's 2022 Excellence In Green Stormwater Infrastructure Finalists

[Posted: April 23, 2022]

Insurance Dept. Warns Pennsylvanians Of Spring Flooding, Urging Homeowners To Consider Buying Flood Insurance





On April 21, Pennsylvania Acting Insurance

Commissioner Michael Humphreys urged property owners to consider purchasing flood insurance to protect their homes, businesses, and possessions.

For many Pennsylvanians, flooding caused by heavy spring rainfall can be a common occurrence. Just one inch of water can cause $25,000 of damage to your home.

"Many homeowners do not realize that their standard homeowner's insurance policy does not cover damage due to flooding," said Humphreys. "Flooding becomes a real threat across all of Pennsylvania during the springtime rainy season, so we're encouraging homeowners to review their policies now and consider adding flood insurance, either purchased through the rapidly growing private market or the National Flood Insurance Program."

"Flood insurance is always a good protection to have in place, so you are prepared in the event of the unthinkable and risk to your home and possessions is mitigated," added Humphreys.

Homeowners who live in federally designated Special Flood Hazard Areas (SFHAs) are likely required to have flood insurance by their mortgage lenders, however, the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) says one in four insurance claims comes from outside high-risk flood areas.

Individuals looking to purchase new homes and properties should research before buying to determine if the area is prone to flooding, and homeowners who have paid off their mortgages should consider maintaining their flood insurance even though they may no longer be obligated to continue it.

Consumers should be aware that flood insurance policies are not active immediately. In most scenarios, there is a 30-day waiting period before policies are active; this prevents individuals from purchasing flood insurance solely when a storm is headed in the direction of their property.

However, there are exceptions for this policy, including if the home was recently added to the federal government's SFHA map, and if the home was just purchased and the lender requires flood coverage.

Flood insurance is available through both the NFIP and private insurers. Policies can be purchased through licensed property and casualty insurance agents in Pennsylvania to cover almost any building and its contents, including rental property and condominiums.

Renters can buy flood insurance protection for their possessions as well, which are typically not covered by either a standard renters' insurance policy, or a landlord's policy which covers the building.

"Flooding is a very real threat, no matter where you live," said PEMA Director Randy Padfield. "While very few people want to consider adding expenses to their budget, flood insurance can bring peace of mind that you are financially protected from the devastation that flooding can bring."

Padfield said another important preparedness step for families to take is to create a family emergency communications plan, so that everyone knows how they will stay in touch and communicate during an emergency.

The plan should be practiced regularly so everyone is comfortable with it when the time comes to use it.

Padfield said free family emergency plan templates and downloadable checklists are available on the ReadyPA website.

Consumers can also sign up for free weather alerts from a trusted local media source or AlertPA, subscribe to the monthly ReadyPA newsletter, and download the complete

Pennsylvania Emergency Preparedness Guide.

Information on both the NFIP and private flood insurance is available on the Insurance Department's one-stop flood insurance webpage.

NewsClips:

-- Inquirer: Montgomery County Neighbors Mobilize Against Proposed Development Near Flood-Prone Tookany Creek

-- Altoona Mirror: Intergovernmental Stormwater Committee May Apply To National Fish & Wildlife Foundation For Streambank Stabilization Project

-- Citizens Voice: Help Available For Those Behind On Flood Levee Fee Bills

-- Citizens Voice: Wilkes-Barre Wins FEMA Appeal For Miners Mills Flood Map

Related Article:

-- House Environmental Committee To Hold April 25 Info. Meeting On Republican Package Of Bills Attempting To Address Local Flooding

[Posted: April 21, 2022]

Susquehanna River Basin Commission Holds May 5 Hearing On Water Withdrawal Requests; June 16 Business Meeting

The Susquehanna River Basin Commission is scheduled to hold an in-person/virtual hearing May 5 on proposed water withdrawal requests. *(formal notice & agenda)*

The hearing will be held at the SRBC Building, 4423 North Front Street in Harrisburg starting at 6:30 p.m. Conference Call Remote Access: (888) 387-8686, PIN: 917 968 6050.

Visit SRBC's May 5 Hearing webpage for more information. Questions should be directed to John Olyer, (717) 238-0423, joyler@srbc.net.

SRBC will hold its next business meeting on June 16. Read more here.

For more information on programs, training opportunities and upcoming events, visit the Susquehanna River Basin Commission website. Click Here to sign up for SRBC's newsletter. Follow SRBC on Twitter, visit them on YouTube.

[Posted: April 23, 2022]

May 25 Susquehanna River Basin Commission Workshop On Alternative Hydrogeological Evaluation Process For Consultants & Geologists



The Susquehanna River Basin Commission is scheduled to hold a May 25 Workshop On Alternative Hydrogeological Evaluation Process For Consultants & Geologists at the SRBC Building, 4423 North Front Street, Harrisburg from 8:30 a.m. to Noon.

Does your client have an SRBC groundwater renewal coming up soon? Does the expiring project have existing hydrogeologic data or is data needed to fill gaps? If so, understanding how to utilize the Commission's new AHE will help simplify the renewal process.

Please join SRBC for an in-depth discussion about the AHE Process and to work through example AHE project exercises!

This workshop provides hands-on instruction with real examples and is an expansion of guidance recently provided by the Public Water Supply Assistance Program.

Click Here to register for this free workshop. Questions should be directed to Dave Haklar at (717) 238-0423 ext. 1108, Mike Appleby, P.G. at (717) 238-0423 ext. 1208, or PWSAP@srbc.net.

For more information on programs, training opportunities and upcoming events, visit the Susquehanna River Basin Commission website. Click Here to sign up for SRBC's newsletter. Follow SRBC on Twitter, visit them on YouTube.

Related Article:

-- Susquehanna River Basin Commission Holds May 5 Hearing On Water Withdrawal Requests; June 16 Business Meeting

[Posted: April 23, 2022]

DEP Announces $30.5 Million Recycling Implementation Grants To 157 Municipalities

On April 23, the Department of Environmental Protection announced the award of $30.5 million in local recycling implementation grants to 157 municipalities across the state under section 902 of the Municipal Waste Planning, Recycling and Waste Reduction Act (Act 101).

Click Here for a list of grants awarded.

For more information on this program, visit DEP's Recycling In PA webpage.

[Posted: April 22, 2022]

Keep Pennsylvania Beautiful: Communities Celebrate Earth Day By Joining Pick Up Pennsylvania



In celebration of Earth Day, Keep Pennsylvania Beautiful, whose vision is a clean and beautiful Pennsylvania, encourages residents to join the 2022 Pick Up Pennsylvania initiative.

Pick Up Pennsylvania engages tens of thousands of volunteers annually through litter cleanups, illegal dump cleanups, beautification projects, special collections, and educational events. Events registered through May 31 receive free trash bags, gloves, and safety vests from PennDOT district offices, as supplies last.

To help with the cost of trash disposal, the Department of Environmental Protection and Pennsylvania Waste Industries Association are sponsoring free or reduced cost disposal through April 30.

During this time, trash collected at registered events can be taken to participating landfills, with prior approval.

Pick Up Pennsylvania Earth Day Events

Highlighted here are just a few of the many Pick Up Pennsylvania events scheduled in and around Earth Day, April 22, 2022.

If you would like to join an event below or one listed on the Keep Pennsylvania Beautiful

Calendar of Events, please contact the coordinator to confirm participation--
-- Presque Isle Spring Clean-up, Erie County - Sat, Apr 23 7:00 AM - 1:00 PM, contact Stacey Marendt at smarendt@pa.gov or 814-217-9638. Meet at Rotary Pavilion between 7 am and 10 am for location assignments. Bags and gloves will be provided.
-- ClearWater Conservancy's Watershed Cleanup Day 2022, Centre County - Sat, Apr 23 8:00 AM - 12:00 PM, contact Rhonda Rumbaugh at rhonda1@clearwaterconservancy.org or 814-237-0400. This annual event has prevented more than 6 million pounds of litter and waste from entering waterways by removing it from areas close to streams and disposing of it responsibly. Hundreds of community members join this effort each year.
-- Connellsville Citywide Cleanup, Fayette County - Sat, Apr 23 9:00 AM - 5:00 PM contact Connellsville Recreation Board, Vernon Ohler at connellsvillecityclerk@gmail.com or 724-628-7750. This 8th annual event involves civic groups, school groups and the general public.
-- Picking Up Paint Creek, Cambria County - Sat, Apr 23 8:30 AM - 11:30 AM, contact Mountain Laurel Trout Unlimited & Paint Creek Regional Watershed Association, Melissa Reckner at mreckner@brandywine.org or 814-242-4285. Meet near the gated pull off along Berwick Road to sign in and get supplies.
-- Drive Thru Electronics Recycling Event, Montgomery County – Sat, April 23 9 AM - 11 AM, contact Gillian Ladley at gladley@pahouse.net or 267-768-3671. Hosted by PA State Rep. Steve Malagari and Sen. Maria Collett at Indian Crest Middle School in Souderton.
-- South Whitehall Township Earth Day Cleanup - Sat, Apr 23 9:00 AM - 12:00 PM, contact Mike Kukitz at mailto:kukitzm@southwhitehall.com or 610-398-0401 or register at recdesk.com/Community/Program. Work will include improvements to pavilions, cleaning play equipment, planting flowers and beautifying the park system!
-- Cobbs Creek Clean Up at Woodland Avenue, Philadelphia County - Sun, Apr 24 2:00 PM - 4:00 PM, registration is required by Saturday, April 23 at 5 p.m. Contact Andrew Wheeler at andrew.wheeler1025@gmail.com or 267-257-1910. Join to clean a historic section of Cobbs Creek at Woodland Avenue and Cobbs Creek Parkway.
-- Valley Community Library Clean-Up, Lackawanna County - Mon, Apr 25 4:30 PM - 5:30 PM, contact Fawn Contreras at fcontreras@albright.org or 570-470-4054. Clean the areas around the library with Keep Northeastern PA Beautiful, The Valley Community Library, Lackawanna Heritage Valley Association and NEPA Sierra Club.

To Host An Event

To host an event, join an event near you, or to inquire about free supplies and trash disposal, visit KPB's Pick Up Pennsylvania webpage or contact Michelle Dunn, Pick Up Pennsylvania Program Coordinator, at 877-772-3673 ext. 113 or mdunn@keeppabeautiful.org.

"Cleaning up your neighborhood is one of the best investments you can make. Whether your community has vacant lots plagued with debris, natural areas that experience illegal dumping or litter scattered and blown from other sources, any neighborhood can benefit from a cleanup or beautification event. We invite all Pennsylvanians – individuals, friends, family and organized groups to join us and make a difference in your own neighborhood," said Shannon Reiter, President of Keep Pennsylvania Beautiful. "This year we hope even more people find the time to help improve their communities and make every day Earth Day."

Keep Pennsylvania Beautiful recommends following all applicable federal, state, and local health and safety rules for Novel Coronavirus (Covid 19) in effect at the time of the event.

Initiative Supporters

Current 2022 Pick Up Pennsylvania supporters include: The GIANT Company, GreenPrint, Columbia Gas of Pennsylvania funded by the Nisource Charitable Foundation, Pennsylvania Waste Industries Association, Coca-Cola, Braskem, Sheetz, Giant Eagle, Mahantango, Pennsylvania Food Merchants Association, Republic Services, Vistra Energy – Luminant, Wegmans and Weis Markets.

For more information on programs, initiatives and special events, visit the Keep Pennsylvania Beautiful website. Click Here to become a member. Click Here to sign up for regular updates from KPB, Like them on Facebook, Follow on Twitter, Discover them on Pinterest and visit their YouTube Channel.

Also visit the Illegal Dump Free PA website for more ideas on how to clean up communities and keep them clean and KPB's Electronics Waste website.

Keep PA Beautiful helps mobilize over 100,000 volunteers a year to pick up litter, clean up illegal dumping and beautify Pennsylvania.

Related Articles:

-- PA Resources Council Announces 4 Traveling Glass Recycling Bin Locations In Allegheny, Mercer Counties During May

-- PA Resources Council Hosts Household Chemical Collection Events In Allegheny, Cambria Counties During May

-- Keep PA Beautiful's Fayette County Affiliate Transitions From All Volunteer Led To County Recycling Office

[Posted: April 19, 2022]

PA Resources Council Hosts Household Chemical Collection Events In Allegheny, Cambria Counties During May



The Pennsylvania Resources Council will host two household chemical collection events in western Pennsylvania during May to enable area residents to conveniently dispose of materials such as cleaners, paints, stains and varnishes, batteries, motor oil and pesticides. "It's important to divert household chemicals from landfills since many contain toxic elements that can leach into our waterways or introduce dangerous toxic materials into our environment," according to PRC Executive Director Darren Spielman. "This year marks PRC's 20th season of hosting household chemical collection events, and we're proud to report that we've facilitated the safe management of six million pounds of household chemicals collected at more than one hundred events."

According to the U.S. EPA, an average home can easily accumulate 100 pounds or more of cleaners, automotive fluids, paints, pesticides and other chemical products.

The May collection events will be held from 9:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.--

-- Allegheny County: May 7 North Park Swimming Pool parking lot

-- Cambria County: May 21 Concurrent Technologies Corp. ETF Facility, Johnstown

A $20 fee will cover the cost of disposing of up to 10 gallons/50 pounds of aerosol cans, automotive fluids, chemistry sets, electronic cigarettes, gasoline and kerosene, household cleaners, mercury thermometers, paint products, pesticides/garden chemicals, photo chemicals and pool chemicals.

Loads exceeding 10 gallons/50 pounds will be subject to additional fees at discretion of on-site staff. Participants will also pay $12 per fire extinguisher and $15 per pound of liquid mercury.

When preparing to attend events, participants should pack all materials in their car trunks or truck beds and then stay in their vehicles while the contractor unloads the materials. The certified contractor will process the hazardous wastes for proper disposal.

All participants must register in advance by visiting PRC's Collection Events webpage or by calling 412-488-7490×1.

Upcoming Events

Upcoming 2022 PRC household chemical collections will take place June 18 in Fayette County; June 25 in Washington County; Aug. 20 in Boyce Park, Allegheny County; Sept. 10 in South Park, Allegheny County; and Oct. 8 in Beaver County.

The 2022 PRC household chemical collection campaign is sponsored by Allegheny County Health Department, Allegheny County Parks Department, Beaver County Commissioners, Cambria County Solid Waste Authority, Fayette County Commissioners, Fayette County Conservation District, Washington County Planning Commission, Colcom Foundation, LANXESS, PA Department of Environmental Protection, Pennsylvania American Water, PPG and Pittsburgh Penguins, UPMC, Concurrent Technologies Corporation, Fayette County Recycling Convenience Center, PPG Paints Arena, Washington Wild Things, Washington County Family Entertainment, and 100.1 FM and AM 1020 KDKA.

For event information – including a complete list of items accepted – visit PRC's Collection Events webpage or call PRC at 412-488-7490 x1.

For more information on programs, initiatives and special events, visit the PA Resources Council website. Click Here to sign up for regular updates, follow PRC on Twitter or Like them on Facebook. Click Here for PRC's Events Calendar. Click Here to support their work.

PRC is Pennsylvania's oldest grassroots environmental organization founded in 1939. PRC has worked to protect resources for future generations through environmental education, recycling, waste diversion programs, anti-litter campaigns and other initiatives.

Related Articles:

-- PA Resources Council Announces 2022 Household Chemical, Electronics Waste, Hard-To-Recycle Collection Events In Eastern, Western PA

-- PA Resources Council Announces 4 Traveling Glass Recycling Bin Locations In Allegheny, Mercer Counties During May

-- Keep Pennsylvania Beautiful: Communities Celebrate Earth Day By Joining Pick Up Pennsylvania

-- Keep PA Beautiful's Fayette County Affiliate Transitions From All Volunteer Led To County Recycling Office

[Posted: April 19, 2022]

PA Resources Council Announces 4 Traveling Glass Recycling Bin Locations In Allegheny,

Mercer Counties During May

The PA Resources Council, partners host four Traveling Glass Recycling Bin locations in Allegheny and Mercer counties during May.

PRC provides a free recycling service that rotates through a variety of locations in western Pennsylvania.

This innovative program provides residents with a higher quality glass recycling option than typical curbside programs, ensuring that glass deposited into the bin meets the highest standards and can be fully recycled.

The locations in May are--

-- April 30 – May 5: CITY OF HERMITAGE FIRE STATION #3 **(Mercer County**) 541 Mercer Avenue, Hermitage, PA 16148 (across from Morefield Cemetery) hosted by City of Hermitage

-- May 7 – 12: BURKETT SPORTS COMPLEX (**Allegheny County**) 5501 Steubenville Pike, McKees Rocks, PA 15136 hosted by Office of PA State Representative Anita Kulik

-- May 7 – 12: SOUTH FAYETTE MUNICIPAL BUILDING (**Allegheny County**) 515 Millers Run Road, Morgan, PA 15064 hosted by South Fayette Township

-- May 14 – 19: SETTLERS CABIN PARK (**Allegheny County**) Wave Pool parking lot hosted by Allegheny County

"The bin visits various locations on a weekly basis from Saturday through Thursday, typically from 7:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m., and provides residents with a safe method for recycling glass while eliminating the need to interact with other individuals," according to Ashley DiGregorio, PRC Recycling Markets and Grants Manager.

Individuals can drop off glass bottles, jars and jugs of all colors (no color sorting required). Containers should be empty and rinsed, with lids and labels still on. Bags and boxes used to deliver glass must be discarded off-site.

Last year, PRC's glass recycling program enabled 30,000 households in western Pennsylvania to drop of more than one million pounds of bottles, jars and jugs for recycling.

PRC's Traveling Glass Recycling Bin Program is sponsored by Owens-Illinois, Inc. and CAP Glass and is made possible through a partnership with Michael Brothers Hauling & Recycling.

For more information about this program, visit PRC's Traveling Glass Recycling Bin webpage..

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Pennsylvania
-- Keep PA Beautiful's Fayette County Affiliate Transitions From All Volunteer Led To County Recycling Office
[Posted: April 22, 2022]

Keep PA Beautiful's Fayette County Affiliate Transitions From All Volunteer Led To County Recycling Office



Keep Pennsylvania Beautiful's Fayette County affiliate formed in 1995 by a group of local volunteers, with support from the Fayette County Recycling Office.
They had a vision of a clean and beautiful Fayette County and worked tirelessly as PA CleanWays of Fayette County to complete their objectives.
Over the past three decades, PA CleanWays of Fayette County forged partnerships with groups, agencies, and individuals, including; the Fayette County Solid Waste and Recycling Department, Fayette County Conservation District, Penn State Extension Office, Penn State University, Fish and Boat Commission, Game Commission, Department of Environmental Protection, Department of Conservation and Natural Resources, township supervisors, high school students, civic groups, watershed groups, recreation groups, and local citizens creating personal relationships that have been the force behind successful community events.

This extensive network of volunteers began systematically cleaning up one illegal dumpsite at a time, tackling some of the biggest and most recognizable "legacy" sites, including Lover's Leap.

From that site alone, volunteers hauled over 160,000 pounds of trash and 1,100 tires up the hillside and disposed of it properly.

All told, the volunteer group coordinated upwards of 60 illegal dump cleanups, resulting in the removal of over 1.5 million pounds of trash and 8,525 tires from the Fayette County landscape.

Not to be forgotten are the countless road cleanups completed by the concerned Fayette County volunteers.

Almost three decades later, the group is still active and all volunteer, until recently. With continued support from the County Recycling Office, the affiliate responsibilities will migrate to a shared staffed position.

Sheila Shea, County Recycling Coordinator and Stormwater Manager, will assume the day-to-day operations and continue to build on the many successes that came before. The group's new name will be Keep Fayette County Green to encompass the wide variety of events and programs that the affiliate offers.

Two long-time volunteers, Carl Williams and Warren Hughes, were instrumental in the formation of the affiliate and its success.

"I'm happy with the transition to the County Solid Waste and Recycling Department. The affiliate has collaborated with them in the past and has always shared a good working

relationship. I'm hopeful that they will use our historical knowledge and experience to expand the affiliate. We will still be involved and available to advise when needed," said Hughes, volunteer and former PA CleanWays of Fayette County Affiliate Coordinator.

Williams, who also served as Affiliate Coordinator prior to Hughes, agreed, "We have already worked with Sheila on special collections and recycling events - she's a go getter and very competent. We are always willing to work with them in an advisory capacity."

"I'm honored that Carl and Warren asked me to continue their efforts through the county. For them to think so highly of our program is extremely humbling. This transition will be a major undertaking, but we're ready for the challenge and excited to get started. We thank Carl, Warren and all the PA CleanWays volunteers for their invaluable work and dedication to helping us keep Fayette County green. We hope they'll join us as we start the next phase of this journey," said Shea.

"Keep Pennsylvania Beautiful is grateful to Carl Williams, Warren Hughes and others that were instrumental to our mission in Fayette County and is thrilled that the County Recycling office will continue to build on the great foundation that was paved by these local volunteers over the past three decades. We are grateful to Sheila and the County for seeing the value in continuing the Affiliate and providing the tools and resources that residents need to keep their communities clean and beautiful," said Shannon Reiter, President of Keep Pennsylvania Beautiful.

For Keep Fayette County Green events and programs, and for the Fayette County Recycling Convenience Center hours, visit the County's Solid Waste Recycling-Stormwater webpage. You can reach Sheila Shea at sshea@fayettepa.org or 724-430-4884.

For more information about Keep Pennsylvania Beautiful's local affiliates, visit keeppabeautiful.org and choose Affiliate Network.

To inquire about starting an affiliate, contact Kylie McCutcheon at kmccutcheon@keeppabeautiful.org or 724-836-4121 x114.

For more information on programs, initiatives and special events, visit the Keep Pennsylvania Beautiful website. Click Here to become a member. Click Here to sign up for regular updates from KPB, Like them on Facebook, Follow on Twitter, Discover them on Pinterest and visit their YouTube Channel.

Also visit the Illegal Dump Free PA website for more ideas on how to clean up communities and keep them clean and KPB's Electronics Waste website.

The 2022 Pick Up Pennsylvania Initiative will be held through May 31. Questions should be directed to Michelle Dunn at 1-877-772-3673 Ext. 113 or send email to: mdunn@keeppabeautiful.org.

Keep PA Beautiful helps mobilize over 100,000 volunteers a year to pick up litter, clean up illegal dumping and beautify Pennsylvania.

NewsClips:

-- MCall: Earth Day: Your Guide To Events, Cleanups In Lehigh Valley Area

-- WHYY: Tree-Plantings And Trash Walks: Earth Day 2022 In Philly

-- The Allegheny Front: Repelled By Trash, They Rappelled To Pick It Up At Pittsburgh's Mt. Washington Landmark

Related Articles:

-- PA Resources Council Announces 4 Traveling Glass Recycling Bin Locations In Allegheny, Mercer Counties During May

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-- Keep Pennsylvania Beautiful: Communities Celebrate Earth Day By Joining Pick Up Pennsylvania
[Posted: April 21, 2022]

EQB Final Rule Published In PA Bulletin Reducing Carbon Pollution From Power Plants [RGGI]



On April 23, the final regulation establishing a program to reduce carbon pollution from power plants consistent with the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative was published in the PA Bulletin after a two-and-a-half year development process.

The process included more House and Senate committee hearings and information sessions than any other issue in recent memory, endorsement of the final regulation by four of DEP's advisory committees and approval of the Independent Regulatory Review Commission.

The regulation will now face further legal challenges from Senate and House Republicans and industry trying to block implementation of the regulation.

DEP Background

"Today we are already experiencing the effects of climate change and those impacts are only going to get worse. Our children and their children are going to look back at our decisions and by participating in RGGI, we have begun to set Pennsylvania on the path forward to addressing this threat," said Department of Environmental Protection Secretary Patrick McDonnell. "Climate change caused by pollution remains the most critical environmental threat confronting us and we are already paying the price."

"This regulation has the support of businesses and residents, and will save lives and millions of dollars by cutting air pollution," said McDonnell. "This is only one step necessary to fight climate change, and while Pennsylvania cannot singlehandedly solve the global climate crisis, the world cannot solve the crisis without Pennsylvania."

"The reaction from Pennsylvanians during the development of this regulation was clear – they want us to take action on climate. Communities and businesses are already experiencing the impacts of climate change, and those impacts will only accelerate between now and 2050. Most Pennsylvanians realize we need to do something about that," said McDonnell. "Reducing the carbon pollution that drives climate change is critical to preventing some of the worst impacts of climate change."

"RGGI is also important for environmental justice communities," said McDonnell. "The initiative creates a financial incentive to reduce carbon pollution to which environmental justice communities are often more vulnerable due to social and economic factors. Communities facing environmental justice issues are likely the first communities to feel the effects of climate change through heat waves and flooding, while also likely being communities with the fewest financial resources to adapt."

Some of the benefits of RGGI for Pennsylvania include:
-- Reducing up to 225 million tons of carbon pollution from Pennsylvania power plants by 2030
-- Preventing up to 30,000 hospital visits for respiratory illnesses like asthma
-- An increase in Pennsylvania's Gross State Product of nearly $2 billion, and a net increase of 30,000 jobs by 2030

Nearly 14,000 people commented on the regulation, including the hundreds that participated in the 10 virtual public hearings DEP held.

Throughout the regulatory process, DEP held over 15 public discussions on the regulation with a range of expert advisory committees. The final regulation was supported by both the Citizens Advisory Council and the Air Quality Technical Advisory Committee.

RGGI is an initiative of 11 New England and Mid-Atlantic states that began in 2009 to reduce greenhouse gas emissions from the power sector while generating economic growth.

Together Connecticut, Delaware, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New York, Rhode Island, Vermont and Virginia cap and reduce their power sector carbon dioxide (CO2) emissions.

This is achieved by setting a regional cap or limit on CO2 emissions from electric power plants in the participating states. That cap decreases year over year to reduce overall carbon emissions. Pennsylvania's participation will increase the size of the program approximately 40 percent.

Qualifying power plants must acquire CO2 allowances equal to the amount of CO2 they emit. And while each state has its own allowance budget, the only firm cap is the regional one. Entities in each of the qualifying states can purchase and trade allowances- allowing for the most efficient and cost-effective emissions reductions.

Also, since RGGI is a market-based approach, the quarterly auction sets the price for the purchase of allowances to ensure transparency.

DEP will now determine the number of allowances for carbon pollution required for each power plant.

Power plants must start accounting for their CO2 emissions starting on July 1, 2022.

Facilities have until March 1, 2023, to account for 50 percent of their 2022 emissions and until March 1, 2024, to account for 100 percent of their 2022 emissions.

Power plants will be required to have 50 percent of their 2022 required allowances by March 1, 2023, and 100 percent of required allowances by March 1, 2024.

For copies of available handouts and other related documents, visit the Environmental Quality Board meetings webpage.

For more information on this proposal, visit DEP's Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative webpage.

NewsClips:
-- AP: Big Greenhouse Gas State Taking Biggest Climate Step Yet [RGGI]
-- Post-Gazette - Laura Legere: Gov. Wolf's Climate Rule Set To Take Effect Saturday
-- StateImpactPA - Rachel McDevitt: PA's New Climate Rule Met With Applause, Court Threats Upon Finalization
-- PA Capital-Star: PA Officially Enacts Carbon Pricing For Power Plants
-- Bay Journal: PA To Join Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative - By Ad Crable
-- AP: Explainer: Can Climate Change Be Solved By Pricing Carbon? [PA, RGGI Mentioned]
-- NextPittsburgh: Allegheny Conference Report Charts 'Middle Path' For Western PA's Energy

Future
Related Articles:
-- EQB Approves Carbon Pollution Reduction Regulation Covering Power Plants
-- Independent Regulatory Review Commission Votes To Approve The Final RGGI Carbon Pollution Reduction Regulation Covering Power Plants
-- Gov. Wolf Vetoes Bill Taking Away DEP's Authority To Adopt A Carbon Pollution Reduction Program For Power Plants
-- How Did We Get Here: Background On The Final EQB Regulation Reducing Carbon Pollution From Power Plants [RGGI]
Related Articles This Week:
-- Allegheny Conference Report: Decarbonization, Energy Transition Are Critical To The Future Competitiveness Of Pittsburgh Region
-- DEP Showcases City Of Reading's Local Climate Action For Earth Day; Apply Now For Local Climate Assistance Program
[Posted: April 22, 2022]

DEP Showcases City Of Reading's Local Climate Action For Earth Day; Apply Now For Local Climate Assistance Program



On April 21, Department of Environmental Protection Secretary Patrick McDonnell joined city officials and volunteers to showcase Reading's local climate action.
The city developed a plan through the DEP Local Climate Action Program and recently launched new street lighting, trash pickup, and other measures to reduce municipal greenhouse gas emissions.
Gathering at Reading City Park, Secretary McDonnell met with Dolores Martinez, special assistant to Mayor Eddie Moran; Reading Sustainability Manager Bethany Ayers-Fisher; Stephanie Anderson, founder of the "Reading for 100" initiative to transition the city to 100-percent clean renewable energy by 2050; and community volunteer Stephany Goico.

"The proactive work that Reading officials and volunteers are doing to cut the city's energy use and transition the city to clean renewable energy will reduce greenhouse gas emissions and help lessen the impacts of climate change for their community," said Secretary McDonnell. "As we celebrate Earth Day with a focus on the importance of investing in our environment, I'm delighted to showcase Reading's leadership by example."

"My administration has prioritized sustainability by identifying initiatives that demonstrate environmental, social, and financial benefits that will positively impact our residents' quality of life," said Mayor Moran, in a statement read by Martinez. "The city's staff has also done an outstanding job utilizing the training, technical support, and available resources to shape and improve our future. I thank DEP for supporting the City of Reading in its transition to become more climate-resilient and a regional leader in renewable energy and sustainability."

Reading is a first-year participant in the DEP Local Climate Action Program. DEP launched the program in 2019-20 to provide free technical assistance and personnel help to local governments in Pennsylvania that want to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and mitigate climate change.

Fifty-three entities, representing approximately 380 municipalities statewide, have participated in the DEP Local Climate Action Program, now in its third year.

The program pairs municipalities with ICLEI – Local Governments for Sustainability, a national nonprofit that fosters sustainable development, and college students around the state to perform inventories of greenhouse gas emissions from local buildings, transportation, waste management, agriculture, and other sectors.

The teams also identify the climate-related vulnerabilities in their communities, such as flooding from extreme rainfall and public health impacts from extreme heat.

After reviewing recommendations in the Pennsylvania Climate Action Plan, teams use a template to draft local climate action plans to lower emissions and may incorporate measures to increase resilience to climate change impacts. Once they complete their draft plans, municipalities are eligible for free services from an energy management consultant to determine the most effective first steps to reduce emissions.

Reading officials, members of the city's Environmental Advisory Council, students from Lebanon Valley College, and volunteers from "Reading for 100" and other community groups teamed up to assess greenhouse gas emissions from municipal facilities and equipment.

They drafted a plan to reduce energy use, lower electricity and fuel bills, bring down greenhouse emissions, and improve the city's resiliency to flooding and other impacts from weather extremes created by a warming climate.

Drawing on the energy management consultant's recommendations, the city recently launched several actions to reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

It has replaced 750 old incandescent streetlights with LED streetlights for a cost savings of $27,000 and has consolidated trash pickup, reducing the number of trash trucks on city streets from 18 to nine trucks.

Transportation is one of the biggest generators of greenhouse gas emissions in Pennsylvania.

With support from Mayor Moran, the team is finalizing its plan, aiming to present it to the Reading City Council for final approval this fall.

Apply For Local Climate Program

DEP invites participants for year four of the Local Climate Action Program. Communities have until June 30 to express their interest, and training begins in August.

Please contact Christopher Nafe at chnafe@pa.gov or 717-783-9722 to sign up.

Learn more by visiting DEP's Local Climate Action Program webpage.

For more information on environmental programs in Pennsylvania, visit DEP's website, Click Here to sign up for DEP's newsletter, sign up for DEP Connects events, sign up for DEP's eNotice, visit DEP's Blog, Like DEP on Facebook, Follow DEP on Twitter and visit DEP's YouTube Channel.

NewsClip:

-- Reading Eagle: Reading Kicks Off Earth Day By Showcasing Its Climate Action Plan

Related Articles:

-- EQB Final Rule Published In PA Bulletin Reducing Carbon Pollution From Power Plants

[RGGI]
-- House Environmental Committee Meets April 26 To Consider Solar/Wind Energy Bonding, Windmill Interference Bills
-- Appalachian Voices: Appalachian Groups Urge Biden, Congress To Ensure Climate Action Helps Energy Transition Communities
[Posted: April 21, 2022]

Allegheny Conference Report: Decarbonization, Energy Transition Are Critical To The Future Competitiveness Of Pittsburgh Region



On April 22, the Allegheny Conference on Community Development released a new report-- Our Region's Energy Future: A Strategy For Accelerating Decarbonization, Investment And Inclusive Growth In The Pittsburgh Region.

The report is the result of a year's worth of work by the 25+-member Allegheny Conference Energy Task Force, whose members represent southwestern Pennsylvania's public and private sectors, as well as academia and philanthropy.

In addition to setting a baseline and acknowledging progress that's been made, the report provides research-grounded insights to support a regional strategy to accelerate decarbonization – critical to reducing greenhouse gas emissions – while driving investment, employment and inclusive growth to the benefit of people and places across southwestern Pennsylvania.

It also details actions, near- and longer-term, that will need to be taken by regional stakeholders, working in partnership, to realize southwestern Pennsylvania's full potential in a low-carbon future.

Key Takeaways

-- Baseline

-- Energy and Energy-Intensive Sectors are significant contributors to the diverse economy of the Pittsburgh region. In 2019, the Energy Sector1 and Energy-Intensive Sectors represented 24% of gross regional product (GRP) and 14% of regional employment
-- All of this contributes significantly to GHG emissions. On a per capita basis, emissions are approximately 50-55% higher in southwestern Pennsylvania than in the state or the nation as a whole.5 The largest drivers of the per capita difference are power emissions (coal and natural gas) and industrial emissions (coal mining, iron and steel production and oil and gas extraction).
-- The industrial and power sectors make up 76% of emissions. The top five sources of total emissions were: coal power (25%); natural gas power (14%); passenger vehicles (11%); coal mining (9%); and iron and steel manufacturing (9%).
-- As we think about the Energy Transition, we must address the impacts of the economic and workforce transition at the same time. It is critical that no one and no community be left behind. Success will require public policy interventions, significant investment in upskilling and improved connectivity to make sure workers and communities can access new opportunities being created.

-- Where We're Headed

-- Decarbonization is one action we can take to maintain the economic competitiveness of the Pittsburgh region, improve our attractiveness to industries seeking solutions and meet the climate challenges posed by GHG emissions.

-- If we do nothing, the region is likely to match the current U.S. trajectory, which will fall short of what has been estimated to be required in the U.S. to avoid potentially dangerous global climate changes. This would make our region less and less attractive for global investment. If we act now, we become more competitive for capital investment and job creation.

-- Next Steps

Six primary enablers have been identified as necessary to accelerating the region's energy transition:

1. First movers are the regional leaders who will drive implementation of decarbonization levers at scale (e.g., CCUS, hydrogen and nuclear power). They will influence regional stakeholders to take critical enabling actions.
2. Stakeholder education and support will be needed to gain support for decarbonization levers and the associated infrastructure footprint. Messaging and communications must be developed with stakeholders across diverse interests.
3. Competitive statutes, policies and regulations at local, state and federal levels must be implemented to aid safe, equitable and expedited deployment of decarbonization solutions, particularly regarding hydrogen generation and transport and CCUS.
4. Government funding will be essential to finance build-out of critical decarbonization infrastructure (e.g., CCUS hub).
5. New workforce development initiatives are required to develop talent and transfer regional skills from legacy industries to emerging opportunities.
6. An interdependent network of infrastructure across multiple technologies (e.g., Carbon Dioxide pipeline, CCS, EV charging and solar installations) must be built.

The energy transition is critical to the future competitiveness of the Pittsburgh region, and it will require collaboration among government, industry and academia to fully realize our potential.

Much as our region became known worldwide for environmental transformation in the middle of the 20th century and economic transformation soon after the turn of the century, we can establish leadership in energy transformation in the 21st century, and position ourselves to compete in the cleaner, lower-carbon world to come.

Click Here for a copy of the full report.

NewsClip:

-- NextPittsburgh: Allegheny Conference Report Charts 'Middle Path' For Western PA's Energy Future

Related Article:

-- EQB Final Rule Published In PA Bulletin Reducing Carbon Pollution From Power Plants [RGGI]

-- DEP Showcases City Of Reading's Local Climate Action For Earth Day; Apply Now For Local Climate Assistance Program

[Posted: April 23, 2022]

PA Wilds Kicked Off 2022 PACE Program With 9 Entrepreneurs Interested In Growing

Their Businesses



Nine small business owners in the Pennsylvania Wilds region are working their way through a course meant to inspire and grow their businesses. The program started on April 14 as the entrepreneurs, representing nine different businesses from across the PA Wilds, gathered in Williamsport to kick off the 2022 PA Wilds PACE program, a 5-week professional development course designed to help scale rural businesses. PACE is an acronym that stands for Plan, Accelerate, Commit and Expand. The program is being offered by the PA Wilds Center for Entrepreneurship, Inc., and it is made possible by a partnership with the Covation Center out of Williamsport, which leads the curriculum-based program.

All the participating businesses are members of the Wilds Cooperative of PA (WCO), a regional network of about 400 businesses and organizations that is managed by the PA Wilds Center.

Valued at $2,500 per person, members of the Wilds Cooperative of PA were able to participate in the PA Wilds PACE Program at no cost thanks to funding from the U.S. Economic Development Administration.

Participants in the 2022 cohort include: Lisa Conklin Conn of Conklin Studio Pottery (McKean County), Julie Mader of Artwork by Julie Mader (McKean County), Sue Morris of Sue's Salves (Clinton County), Stephanie Distler of Stephanie Distler Artisan Jewelry (Elk County), Karen Heltzel of Moments in Time Studio (Warren County), Rachel Courtney of Sugar Mama's Appalachian Maple (Tioga County), Rhianna Speck of Side Door Soap & Sundry Co. (Lycoming County), Niccole St. Laurent of St. Laurent Pottery (Jefferson County), and Joshua Smith of Valley Glass Art (Elk County).

“We are so incredibly excited to be working directly with these artisan entrepreneurs who have demonstrated their interest in growing their businesses by learning about core business development techniques and how to better leverage their membership in the Wilds Cooperative of PA,” said LaKeshia Knarr, the entrepreneurial ecosystem director at the PA Wilds Center, a regional nonprofit that seeks to marry economic development and conservation in the 13-county region known as the Pennsylvania Wilds. “In addition to the curriculum provided by Covation Center staff, participants will be receiving one-on-one guidance with business consulting professionals, individualized referrals to our regional and state partners for specialized services, as well as access to other tools such as business books for additional learning.”

Following the kick-off event, participants will meet twice weekly for another four weeks of programming – meeting remotely via zoom and Mighty Networks for the first three weeks before coming together again the final week for an immersive two-day conclusion event in Kane, PA in mid May.

This is only the second time the PACE professional development program has been offered by the PA Wilds Center, with the first cohort taking place in 2020 – right as COVID-19 was becoming a concern in the U.S.

The peer networking offered an opportunity for the participating entrepreneurs to share their experiences during that unprecedented time, with several of the participants acknowledging how it helped them through it.

"The Covation Center is always excited to work with businesses in the PA Wilds, and this group is no exception. From the first meeting we can see these are motivated businesses committed to not only growing their own businesses but supporting the PA Wilds business community. We are privileged to be a part of their journey," said Steve Brady, executive director of the Covation Center.

Covation Center blends curriculum-based and facilitated cohorts with one-on-one mentoring to ensure participants are able to develop their own unique plan for business growth.

This model has been successfully demonstrated in the Scale-Up America program and the PA Department of Community and Economic Development's Engage! Program.

PA Wilds Center infuses information into the PACE program about how businesses can leverage the Pennsylvania Wilds brand and their membership in the Wilds Cooperative of PA to grow their businesses.

Learn more about the program by visiting PA Wilds PACE Program and the Wilds Cooperative of PA webpages.

The Pennsylvania Wilds is a 13-county region that includes the counties of Cameron, Clarion, Clearfield, Clinton, Elk, Forest, Jefferson, Lycoming, McKean, Potter, Tioga, Warren, and northern Centre.

The PA Wilds is home to the greatest concentration of public lands in the Commonwealth.

The PA Wilds Center for Entrepreneurship, Inc., is a nonprofit organization whose mission is to integrate conservation and economic development in a way that inspires the communities of the Pennsylvania Wilds.

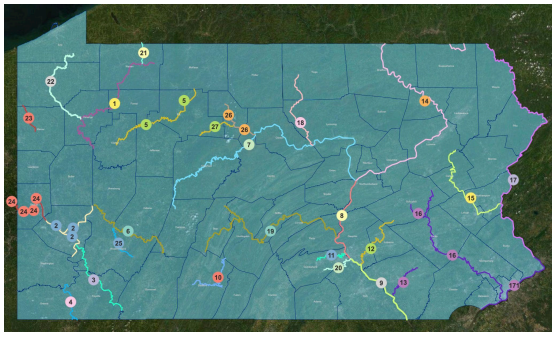
PA Conservation Landscapes

PA Wilds is one of eight conservation landscape initiatives across Pennsylvania. To learn more, visit DCNR's Conservation Landscapes webpage.

*(**Photo:** PA Wilds PACE Crew: **from left, in front**: **Rhianna Speck** of Side Door Soaps and Sundry Co., **Sue Morris** of Sue's Salves, **Lisa Conklin Conn** of Conklin Studio Pottery, and **Rachel Courtney** of Sugar Mama's Appalachian Maple; **and in back**: **Joshua Smith** of Valley Glass Art, **Karen Heltzel** of Moments in Time Studio, **Niccole St. Laurent** of St. Laurent Pottery, **Stephanie Distler** of Stephanie Distler Artisan Jewelry, and **Julie Mader** of Artwork by Julie Mader.*

[Posted: April 18, 2022]

PA Environmental Council Now Accepting Applications For 2022 Water Trail Mini Grants



The PA Environmental Council is now accepting applications for 2022 Water Trail Mini Grants. The deadline for applications is May 27.

Proposed projects must advance program goals such as creating recreational opportunities for all Pennsylvanians on Water Trails; developing trails that support sustainable use of natural resources;

increasing and improving physical and psychological access to Water Trails; and connecting water trails to land trails or to other culturally significant community assets.

Eligible applicants include registered non-profit organizations and public entities (such as a county, municipality, or municipal agency) and all projects must occur on or for a designated Pennsylvania Water Trail - view map here.

Applicants can request up to $5,000 and project proposals must include a 1:1 match (cash or in-kind).

Pennsylvania's 28 water trails link outdoor recreation and water conservation efforts.

Since 2008, PEC, the Department of Conservation and Natural Resources, the Fish and Boat Commission, and the National Parks Service have worked together to promote and maintain the Pennsylvania Water Trails Program's network of creeks and rivers.

The PA Water Trails Program provides technical assistance, shares education and resources, and facilitates opportunities for networking and peer-to-peer learning for water trail managers.

On average PEC supports between 6 and 10 projects under this program.

Over the years project outcomes have included improved way-finding signage and safety messaging, up-to-date water trail maps, new and enhanced physical access sites, streamside habitat improvement, and environmental education and introduction to paddling opportunities for youth and underserved community members.

PEC has administered the PA Water Trail Mini-Grant program since 2017.

Mini grant funding is financed in part by a grant from the Community Conservation Partnerships Program, under the administration of the Department of Conservation and Natural Resources, Bureau of Recreation and Conservation.

Therefore, applicants should note that mini grants may not be used as a match for other DCNR funded projects.

PEC will no longer be accepting applications via email or mail. All applications must be submitted online. Applications and instructions are now available online.

For more information on programs, initiatives and special events, visit the PA Environmental Council website, visit the PEC Blog, PEC Bill/Regulation Tracker, follow PEC on Twitter or Like PEC on Facebook. Visit PEC's Audio Room for the latest podcasts. Click Here to receive regular updates from PEC.

For more information on programs, initiatives, upcoming events and help available to community-based watershed organizations, visit the PA Organization for Watersheds and Rivers website. Follow them on Facebook.

Related Articles:

-- PA Environmental Council Now Accepting Applications For Pocono Forests & Waters Conservation Landscape Mini Grants

-- South Mountain Partnership Accepting Mini Grant Applications Starting April 4

[Posted: April 19, 2022]

DCNR Assists With Tree Plantings At Flight 93 Memorial In Somerset County



On April 22, Department of Conservation and Natural Resources Secretary Cindy Adams Dunn announced that DCNR will be assisting with a large tree planting

effort on April 22-23 at the Flight 93 National Memorial in Somerset County.

"In addition to their many environmental benefits, trees are a symbol of life and growth, which is so important at a site that requires reflection on the brave sacrifice made by the 40 passengers and crew of Flight 93," Dunn said.

Dunn and DCNR staff will join the National Park Service, many partner agencies and hundreds of volunteers to complete the reforestation project that will soon result in 150,000 native trees planted at Flight 93 National Memorial.

This conservation project is part of the memorial's original design and reclaims the former surface mine with native trees to re-establish wildlife habitats, create essential windbreaks and complete the healing of the memorial landscape.

DCNR's Bureau of Forestry is donating 5,400 seedlings grown at the department's Myra Lloyd Dock Resource Center and nursery in Centre County.

DCNR foresters will be on site during the two days acting as team leaders and providing information on how to plant seedlings.

The Flight 93 National Memorial marks the spot where the plane went down in a field near Shanksville after the crew and passengers thwarted a plan by terrorists to crash in to the U.S. Capitol.

Since 2012 the DCNR Bureau of Forestry's nursery has supplied thousands of seedlings to help reforest the strip mined land surrounding the crash site, and DCNR foresters have led volunteers in planting the seedlings each spring.

For more information on state parks and forests and recreation in Pennsylvania, visit DCNR's website, Visit the Good Natured DCNR Blog, Click Here for upcoming events, Click Here to hook up with DCNR on other social media-- Facebook, Twitter, YouTube and Flickr.

NewsClips:

-- TribLive: Final Tree Planting Set At Flight 93 National Memorial Friday, Saturday For Reforestation Project

-- PA Capital-Star: Volunteers Gather At Flight 93 Memorial To Renew The Earth And To Remember

[Posted: April 22, 2022]

April 22 Take Five Fridays With Pam From PA Parks & Forests Foundation; 2,929 Volunteers Worked 41,987 Hours In 2021



The April 22 Take Five Fridays With Pam is now available from the PA Parks & Forests Foundation.

Lots of Earth Day events on the Foundation's Events webpage and DCNR's Calendar of Events for activities happening near you.

2,929 PA Parks & Forests volunteers worked 41,987 hours on behalf of State Parks and Forests in 2021!

Click Here to read the entire Take Five.

For more information on programs, initiatives, special events and how you can get involved, visit the PA Parks & Forests Foundation website. Click Here to sign up for regular

updates from the Foundation, Like them on Facebook or Follow them on Twitter or tune in to their YouTube Channel. Click Here to become a member of the Foundation.

The Foundation and their 46 chapters mobilize 65,000 volunteers annually to steward YOUR state parks and forests.

NewsClips:

-- PennLive - Marcus Schneck: Poll Finds Voters Want Federal Rescue Plan Money To Beef Up PA's State Parks, Forests

-- Altoona Mirror: Blair County Town's Efforts To Be Known As A Trail Town Paying Off In Revitalized Economy

-- Game Commission Recognizes John C. Oliver With Lifetime Achievement Award, Renames The Award After Oliver

-- WHYY: Philly Region Celebrates 350 Miles Of Walkable, Bikeable Trails

-- WESA: State Invests In Walking, Biking Trail To Connect Hazelwood, Greenfield In Allegheny County

-- TribLive: Final Tree Planting Set At Flight 93 National Memorial Friday, Saturday For Reforestation Project

-- Erie Times - Brian Whipkey: Here's Why You Should Visit Canoe Creek State Park In Blair County

-- AP: Federal Judge Orders FBI To Produce Records On Civil War Gold Hunt On State Forest Land In PA

Related Articles:

-- DCNR Blog: Wade Into Fly Fishing In State Parks, Forests

-- PA Environmental Council Now Accepting Applications For 2022 Water Trail Mini Grants

-- DCNR To Assist With Tree Plantings At Flight 93 Memorial In Somerset County

-- DCNR Joins Chester County Officials For Trailhead, Trail Opening

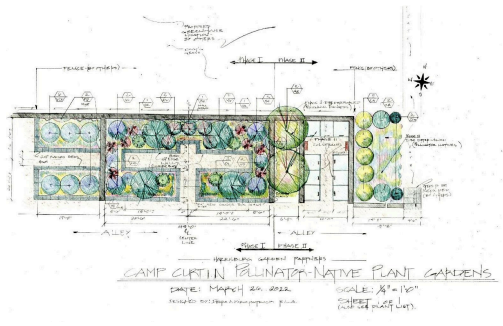
-- DCNR Announces $1 Million Grant For South Fayette Twp. Park Expansion In Allegheny County

-- DCNR French Creek State Park Pool To Be Closed For Summer Season Due To Lifeguard Shortage

-- Harrisburg Capitol Complex Will Participate In Lights Out Harrisburg To Assist Migrating Birds

[Posted: April 22, 2022]

Harrisburg Area YMCA's Camp Curtin Branch Urban Garden Adds Native Plants To Help Vegetables Grow



The Harrisburg Area YMCA's Camp Curtin Branch has partnered with the Harrisburg Garden Partners Group to show that planting native plants can help your vegetables grow.

This group of partners has come together to build support for community agriculture and food access at the YMCA Camp Curtin Branch Urban Garden, located on Jefferson Street, behind the 6th street building in Harrisburg, PA.

Phase one of gardening begins on May 21, 2022 with site preparation and a completed garden should be done by June 2022.

Rafiyqa Muhammad, Camp Curtin YMCA Branch Urban Garden Coordinator, established the Camp Curtain Urban Garden with sponsorship from GIANT FOOD in 2017 and the project has been growing ever since.

Not only is she teaching our youth and their families that they can come to the garden learn about how to plant and grow your own food but also these children and their families are learning about sustainability, upcycling, recycling, and working in neighborhoods that they are growing up in.

The Kittatinny Ridge Conservation Landscape and Audubon Mid-Atlantic, with funding made available by the Donald B. Dorothy L. Stabler Foundation and the Department of Conservation and Natural Resources, is installing bird-friendly native plants to pollinate the crops, enhance bird habitat in the neighborhood and beautify the space and encourage residents to install native plants in their yards at home.

"Planting native plants with or near your vegetables is a great way to show how bugs, birds, and plants can all work together and create a sustainable system. They are very different, but they need each other." Kristen Hand, DCNR Lead for the Kittatinny Ridge Conservation Landscape.

Harrisburg Garden Partners group with members from DCNR, Audubon Mid-Atlantic, Harrisburg Area YMCA's Camp Curtin Branch, GIANT FOOD, Harrisburg Housing Authority, Manada Conservancy, Sprocket Mural Works, Landscape Architectural Design, Capital Region Water, Chesapeake Bay Foundation, Keystone Ten Million Trees Partnership, Tri-County Action, Green Gardner Designs, Penn State Master Watershed Stewards, Camp Curtin School, City of Harrisburg, Bill Culwell Enterprises, NGOZI, Inc., and Rocky Gleason have several garden projects in the works for the next 5 years.

If you are interested in becoming a sponsor or would like to volunteer for the project please contact, Rafiyqa Muhammad, Harrisburg Area YMCA's Camp Curtin Branch Urban Garden Coordinator at 717-255-9739 or email: rafiyqam@aol.com.

Resource Links

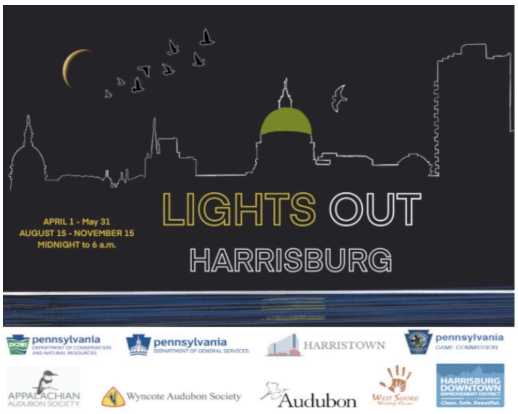
-- Pollinator Gardens: Help Encourage Ecological Diversity In Your Own Backyard [Videos]
-- Gardening For Butterflies: Penn State Extension
-- Planting For Pollinators: Penn State Extension
-- Penn State Extension Master Gardeners
-- Penn State Pollinator Garden Certification
-- Audubon PA: Bird Habitat Recognition Program
-- Chesapeake Bay Sustainable Landscape Professional Directory
-- Manada Conservancy In Dauphin County Offers Pollinator/Native Plant Landscape Design Service [Recommended]
-- Audubon Society of Western PA Offering Discounted Pollinator Seed Mix For Agricultural Properties In PA

Related Articles:

-- DCNR Blog: Bring Life To Your Yard With Native Plants - Start With These; Garden Templates; Where To Buy
-- DCNR Blog: Growing Native Plants To Thwart Invasive Species
-- DCNR Blog: Good Weeds (Native Plants)

-- DCNR Blog: Be Aware - Don't Be Fooled By These Common Look-A-Likes
-- DCNR Highlights Benefits Of Trees In Communities; TreeVitalize, TreePennsylvania, Keystone Tree Fund Can Help
-- Senate Hearing: Non-Native, Invasive Plant Species Ecologically Castrating The Landscape, But There Is A Solution
-- Feature: Recognizing The Value Of Native Plants For Pollinators - Dr. Doug Tallamy
-- Penn State Extension: Planting Pollinator-Friendly Gardens
-- PennDOT Launches New Pollinator Habitat Plan; Adopt And Beautify For Pollinators Program For Citizens Who Want To Help
[Posted: April 18, 2022]

Harrisburg Capitol Complex Will Participate In Lights Out Harrisburg To Assist Migrating Birds



Up to one billion birds die each year across the United States when they collide with buildings and windows, after being attracted and confused by bright artificial lights at night and glass.

On April 20, Department of Conservation and Natural Resources Secretary Cindy Adams Dunn announced that the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania is joining forces with the Appalachian Audubon Society and property owners in the City of Harrisburg to help reduce light pollution in Harrisburg to assist birds when they migrate in the spring and fall.

"This voluntary program involves turning off or blocking as many external and internal building lights as possible at night during migration seasons when birds are passing through the city and state capitol in large numbers," Dunn said. "We invite businesses and residents in the city to join in."

Dunn noted that the program applies to upper level and internal building lights and is not intended to impact street-level outdoor safety lighting.

Harrisburg joins Philadelphia and Pittsburgh, and more than 30 other cities nationwide, with Lights Out programs. The National Audubon Society, along with partners, established the first Lights Out program in 1999 in Chicago.

The Department of General Services is removing the spotlights from the Capitol Dome and turning out the lights in the atrium of the Keystone Building. Frequent messaging campaigns will also be conducted with all building tenants in the complex to ensure that lights are turned off at the end of the day.

"While we all can appreciate the beauty of a brightly lit skyline at night, and the stunning views it creates, what we cannot appreciate, or accept, are the deadly consequences those bright lights have on migratory birds flying through our city at night," DGS Acting Deputy Secretary for Property and Asset Management Jason Snyder said. "Lights Out Harrisburg brings to our attention to that issue and gives us an opportunity to be a part of the solution."

The first season of the annual Lights Out Harrisburg program began April 1 at the start of peak spring migration and runs through May 31 when most winged migrants will have passed

through Harrisburg.

In the fall, Lights Out Harrisburg and peak migration will occur between Aug. 15 and Nov. 15 as birds travel south.

Although the request is for lights out during these peak migration periods, light pollution is something to consider all year for Pennsylvania's resident birds.

Each year birds pass through Southcentral Pennsylvania during spring and fall while migrating between their breeding and wintering grounds. Many never complete their epic journey because they are killed when they fly into buildings and windows, confused by the bright artificial lights and glass.

"Light pollution is one of the many challenges facing Pennsylvania birds and it's a problem that we can begin to solve today. During the spring and fall migration periods, all commercial, residential, and municipal property owners and tenants are encouraged to voluntarily switch off unnecessary lights. Buildings and homes of any size are encouraged to participate. This is a collaborative effort by the Harrisburg community," said Appalachian Audubon Society President Ali Bowling.

Building owners interested in participating can find more information and sign up for Lights Out Harrisburg on the Appalachian Audubon website.

"Many eastern U.S. bird species are in steep decline, but that can change," said Pennsylvania Game Commission State Ornithologist Sean Murphy. "There are so many ways to help save birds. All Pennsylvanians can make a difference with everyday actions–Lights Out Harrisburg provides a safer path for migratory birds and will help bolster bird populations across the continent."

Lights Out Harrisburg is the result of a collaborative effort facilitated by DCNR including the local Audubon society chapter Appalachian Audubon, City of Harrisburg, GreenGov Council, DGS, Game Commission, Harristown Development Corp., Harrisburg Downtown Improvement District, National Audubon Society, Wyncote Audubon Society and the West Shore Wildlife Center.

"Harristown is proud to have enrolled our three largest towers, 333 Market Street, the Strawberry Square Tower and the Commonwealth Tower in this initiative," said Harristown Development Corp. President and CEO Bradley Jones. "Thank you to the Appalachian Audubon Society for their education and outreach helping us to make a positive difference during bird migration periods."

"Audubon's climate science revealed that two-thirds of North American bird species are at risk of extinction from climate change, including Harrisburg birds like Ovenbirds and Black-throated Blue Warblers. We have to do whatever we can to minimize the dangers birds face as they migrate along the Atlantic Flyway," said Audubon Mid-Atlantic Program Manager Keith Russell.

For more information on state parks and forests and recreation in Pennsylvania, visit DCNR's website, Visit the Good Natured DCNR Blog, Click Here for upcoming events, Click Here to hook up with DCNR on other social media-- Facebook, Twitter, YouTube and Flickr.

Related Articles:

-- Hawk Mountain Sanctuary's Benefit For Birds In-Person Gala, Online Auction May 12

-- Hawk Mountain Sanctuary To Host In-Person Spring Document Series 3 Saturdays Starting April 23

-- Wild Excellence Films Releases New Documentary: Golden Eagles: Witnesses To A Changing

West
[Posted: April 20, 2022]

Hawk Mountain Sanctuary's Benefit For Birds In-Person Gala, Online Auction May 12



The Berks County-based Hawk Mountain Sanctuary will hold its annual Benefit for Birds Spring Campaign and Online Auction starting May 12 and bidding will continue through June 30.
A new and improved in-person Gala kicks off the online auction on May 12, from 6 to 9 p.m. at the Folino Estate Winery in Kutztown.

Local small businesses, restaurants, and artists have gifted unique, handmade items and experiences that can be bid on virtually through Greater Giving. It is the Sanctuary's fourth year using the platform to operate the online auction.

The gala will be an evening of mingling, delicious hors d'oeuvres, live music, and raptor encounters. In addition, a live auction will give attendees exclusive access to bid on featured items and events.

"Attending is a must for those wanting to bid on experiences like a private, guided hawkwatching day and much more," says Tammy Jandrasitz-Bodey, event coordinator. Previously, the benefit has been virtual due to COVID 19, but it had sold out for nine years before that.

"After two years of having an online-only auction, bringing back an in-person event is a great way to meet friends in person and support a great organization," Tammy explains.

When attending, guests will celebrate the Sanctuary's supporters and members with the friendly faces of Hawk Mountain staff. Gala guests will also hear from President Sean Grace as he welcomes attendees and gives Hawk Mountain updates with a brief speech.

"This year's gala is extra special because we are re-envisioning the event, moving away from a traditional sit-down dinner to focusing more on mingling with wine and hors d'oeuvres at a new venue, and getting to know others in and around the organization," explains President Sean Grace. "This is a conservation celebration you do not want to miss!"

Details about both the in-person gala and online auction can be found at the Benefit for Birds Spring Campaign and Online Auction webpage. The online auction platform is intuitive and accessible to anyone with a laptop or mobile device.

Hawk Mountain staff will also be available for assistance and troubleshooting during the gala.

For more information on programs, initiatives and upcoming events, visit the Hawk Mountain Sanctuary website or call 610-756-6961. Click Here to sign up for regular updates from the Sanctuary, Like them on Facebook, Follow on Twitter, visit them on Flickr and visit their YouTube Channel. Click Here to support Hawk Mountain.

Related Article:

-- Hawk Mountain Sanctuary To Host In-Person Spring Document Series 3 Saturdays Starting April 23

[Posted: April 19, 2022]

Wild Excellence Films Releases New Documentary: Golden Eagles: Witnesses To A Changing West

On April 20, Pittsburgh-based Wild Excellence Films announced they released their newest documentary "Golden Eagles: Witnesses to a Changing West," an hour-long film to be broadcast on PBS stations in several states this spring, including New Mexico, California, Colorado, Wyoming, and Florida, and have other airings throughout the year.

The film tells the story of the stunning golden eagle, a raptor with a seven-foot wingspan and powerful talons that isn't immune to the challenges of the rapidly changing American West.

From climate change to sprawl, invasive species to disease, lead poisoning to energy development, the magnificent birds are under threat from many directions and are a species of serious conservation concern.

"Golden Eagles: Witnesses to a Changing West" takes viewers into the field with leading researcher Dr. Charles Preston and his team in the Bighorn Basin of Wyoming as they rappel down cliffs into eagle nests to place leg bands on the birds.

"Filming in this wild, underappreciated landscape was a challenge," said producer and cinematographer David Rohm. "But our footage of golden eagles and the people who dedicate their time to save them makes a strong case for conservation. It's an honor to be able to tell this story."

Never-before-seen footage of charismatic eaglets is paired with compelling narration to further the conservation message.

Gorgeous aerials of the sagebrush-steppe ecosystem; footage of grizzly bears, sage-grouse, and other animals; and dramatic landscapes show the diversity of this habitat.

Narrated by renowned naturalist and author Kenn Kaufman, this beautiful documentary makes the viewer feel like they're in the field with Dr. Preston for an intimate view of these birds and the science that can help save them.

Viewers will go behind the scenes at wildlife rehabilitation centers where eagles are treated for lead poisoning, and hear stories of Indigenous peoples' connections to the golden eagle, told by a member of the Crow Nation, Dr. Shane Doyle.

"We were excited to be filming these magnificent birds and to be working with such a great, passionate team," said cinematographer Melissa Rohm. "One of our focuses was filming the banding of golden eagle nestlings. We captured some unique, never-before-seen moments, and we're looking forward to sharing the eagles' story with a wide audience. Many people aren't familiar with golden eagles, but we hope the film will inspire conservation of this magnificent species."

Wild Excellence Films worked closely with Wyoming PBS; the Draper Natural History Museum; Kristin Combs of Wyoming Wildlife Advocates; Dr. Shayne Doyle of the Crow Nation; Teton Raptor Center; Jill King from Styling the New West; Susan Ahalt from Ironside Bird Rescue; and naturalist, artist, and author Kenn Kaufman.

Funders for the film include the Nancy-Carroll Draper Charitable Foundation; Wyoming Cultural Trust; Wyoming Community Foundation; Community Foundation of Jackson Hole; Meg and Bert Raynes Wildlife Fund; Rocky Mountain Power Foundation; and Wyoming Humanities Council.

For more information and to review other Pennsylvania-based documentaries, visit the Wild Excellence Films website.

Related Articles:

-- Wild Excellence Films Wins Waterwalker Film Festival Award For Paddleboarding Film 'A Quiet Excitement' Showcasing SW PA Lakes and Creeks
-- Wild Excellence Films Releases Documentary About 'The Last Prairie' At Jennings Environmental Ed Center In Butler County
-- Wild Excellence Films: WQED Pittsburgh To Show Cook Forest Film Oct. 14
-- Wild Excellence Films To Tell The Story Of The Flight 93 National Memorial
-- Paddle Without Pollution's Presque Isle Water Trail Film Now Available On Demand

Related Articles This Week:

-- Hawk Mountain Sanctuary's Benefit For Birds In-Person Gala, Online Auction May 12
-- Hawk Mountain Sanctuary To Host In-Person Spring Document Series 3 Saturdays Starting April 23

[Posted: April 20, 2022]

Environment & Energy Educational Opportunities For Students & Adults

Opportunities to learn more about environmental and energy issues affecting Pennsylvania for students and adults--

-- U.S. Dept. Of Education Recognizes Spring-Ford School District, Shippensburg University As Green Ribbon Schools [PaEN]
-- DEP Announces Award Of $632,897 In Environmental Education Grants To Support 63 Projects Across The State [PaEN]
-- Citizens Voice: DEP Provides Grant For Outdoor Environmental Education Project At Wyoming Seminary
-- York Dispatch: 1,500 Trees Planted To Complete 20 Acre Riparian Forest Buffer In Northeastern School District
-- DEP News & Views: Happy Earth Day! From DEP
-- Gov. Wolf: Visit PA's 2022 Earth Day Virtual Exhibit Hall
-- TribLive: Fox Chapel High School Students Earn Top Honors At STEM Contest At Heinz Field
-- Daily Item: Milton Area 5th Graders Organize Litter Clean Up At White Deer Elementary
-- The Philadelphia Citizen: Philadelphia Energy Authority Report: Installing Solar Panels On Schools Would Save $20,000 A Year In Energy Costs
-- MCall: Da Vinci Science Center In Allentown One Step Closer To Reality
-- Green Philly: Classroom On Wheels, How Stroud Water Research Center Is Changing Environmental Ed
-- Stroud Water Research Center: Calling Lancaster County Teachers - Join Outdoor Leadership Network Initiative [PaEN]
-- Stroud Water Research Center Latest Upstream Newsletter
-- Westmoreland Conservation District: Hands-On Envirothon Returns For High School Students April 28 [PaEN]
-- Exelon Foundation Announces Green Lab Grant Winners, 2023 Applications Open; Plans To

Advance STEM Education In Under-Resourced Communities
-- TribLive Guest Essay: [Pittsburgh] Mayor Gainey, Please Focus On Environmental Justice - Winchester Thurston School Students
-- Westmoreland Conservation District April 20 After The Storms - Virtual Homeowner Driveway Program Webinar, 6:30 - 7:30 p.m.
-- May 25 Susquehanna River Basin Commission Workshop On Alternative Hydrogeological Evaluation Process For Consultants & Geologists [PaEN]
-- PA Resources Council Offers Ideas To Go Green On Earth Day And Every Day! [PaEN]
-- The Allegheny Front: New Book Looks At Big Decisions Small Communities Had To Make When Shale Gas Fracking Came To Town
-- Financial Times: The Climate Game - Can You Reach Net Zero By 2050?
-- Partnership For The Delaware Estuary: Gardens For Clean Water Newsletter
-- Warren Times: Audubon Community Nature Center Offering Trail Guide Training Friday Mornings In April
-- Scranton Times: Hummingbirds On Their Way Back To Northeast PA
-- WITF: 150,000 Migrating Snow Geese Drew Thousands Of Visitors To Middle Creek Wildlife Area
-- LancasterOnline - Sean Sauro: Backyard Bird Feeders Can Stay Up Despite Avian Flu
-- WITF: Avian Flu Spreads To More Lancaster County Poultry Farms
-- Hawk Mountain Sanctuary's Benefit For Birds In-Person Gala, Online Auction May 12 [PaEN]
-- Hawk Mountain Sanctuary To Host In-Person Spring Document Series 3 Saturdays Starting April 23
-- Warren Times: Warren County Historical Society Holds April 21 Event On Current & Future Of The Allegheny River
-- Citizens Voice: Earth Day Event For Kids Set For Friday In Nesbitt Park Along Susquehanna River
-- Williamsport Sun: Middle Susquehanna RiverKeeper To Host April 22 Event To Raise Awareness About River Issues At Montour Preserve
-- WHYY: Tree-Plantings And Trash Walks: Earth Day 2022 In Philly
-- PennLive - Marcus Schneck: With Bird Flu Spreading, What's The Advice For Backyard Bird Feeders
-- Williamsport Sun - Bill Bower: The Kingfisher Is Often Heard Before Being Seen
-- Bay Journal: Wild Abundance Awaits At New Glenroy Nature Preserve [Nottingham, Chester County] - By Ad Crable
-- TribLive: Wildlife Observation Blind To Open At Murrysville Nature Reserve On Earth Day
-- Wilkes-Barre Times: Former Area Fish Warden Authors Book On 27-Year Career

Visit the PA Parks & Forests Foundation's Events webpage and DCNR's Calendar of Events for activities happening near you.

Visit DEP's Teaching Green webpage to learn about more environmental education resources.

Visit the PA Environment Digest Calendar Of Events for more opportunities.
[Posted: April 24, 2022] PA Environment Digest

U.S. Dept. Of Education Recognizes Spring-Ford School District, Shippensburg University As Green Ribbon Schools

On April 22, the Wolf Administration announced that Spring-Ford Area School District in Montgomery County and Shippensburg University in Cumberland County have been named Green Ribbon Schools by the U.S. Department of Education in recognition of their environmental sustainability efforts.

"Pennsylvania's schools play a critical role in helping to preserve and protect the world around us by encouraging students to learn and actively engage in environmental sustainability practices," said Secretary of Education Dr. Noe Ortega. "Green Ribbon Schools exemplify the importance of this mission and demonstrate a commitment to promoting environmental awareness in the classroom."

Spring-Ford Area School District was awarded the School District Sustainability Award and Shippensburg University was awarded the Postsecondary Sustainability Award.

Nationally, 27 schools, five districts, and four postsecondary institutions were honored. The full list of honorees can be found on the U.S. Department of Education website.

Both schools will also receive recognition through the Commonwealth's Pathways to Green Schools Program.

"Our future depends on understanding and protecting our environment, and these schools exemplify a stellar commitment," said Department of Environmental Protection Secretary Patrick McDonnell. "The efforts of these schools prove that reducing our environmental impacts, educating the next generation to be good stewards of our natural resources, and saving money are all interconnected."

Since 2011, the Green Ribbon Schools Program has nominated schools, districts, and institutions of higher education across the country for their dedication to reducing environmental impact and cost, improving health and wellness of schools, and providing environmental education to students.

"We applaud these schools for their commitment to sustainability and positive environmental stewardship," Department of Conservation and Natural Resources Secretary Cindy Adams Dunn said. "Schools are where our young people – the next generation of conservationists – learn and grow, which is why it is so important to have green schools like these leading by example here in Pennsylvania."

PDE and the U.S. Department of Education select and announce awardees in the spring of each year.

Awardees show progress in the following areas: reducing environmental impacts, such as waste, water, greenhouse gases, and transportation; improving health and wellness with consideration to air quality, lighting, thermal comfort, school nutrition, and outdoor physical activity; and offering effective environmental and sustainability education that emphasizes hands-on, real-world learning, civic engagement, STEM connections, and green career preparation.

For more information on U.S. Department of Education's Green Ribbon Schools webpage and Pennsylvania's Pathways to Green Schools Program webpage.

Related Articles:
-- DEP Announces Award Of $632,897 In Environmental Education Grants To Support 63 Projects Across The State
-- Westmoreland Conservation District: Hands-On Envirothon Returns For High School Students April 28
-- Stroud Water Research Center: Calling Lancaster County Teachers - Join Outdoor Leadership Network Initiative
[Posted: April 22, 2022]

DEP Announces Award Of $632,897 In Environmental Education Grants To Support 63 Projects Across The State



The Department of Environmental Protection last week announced a total of $632,897 in Environmental Education Grants have been awarded to 63 projects, 50 of which engage youth and adults living and/or working within environmental justice areas.

Grants were awarded to schools, institutions, conservation districts, and environmental and community organizations.

"These grants help provide the foundation for environmental education for people of all ages," said DEP Secretary Patrick McDonnell. "This year's Earth Day theme is 'Invest in Our Planet' and each of these projects represents an investment into furthering the environmental education of Pennsylvanians."

"Whether through workshops or hands on activities, environmental education can occur in many formats," said DEP Southeast Regional Director Pat Patterson. "With approximately one-third of the Commonwealth's population living here in Southeast Pennsylvania, these such investments in our students and communities will have lasting impacts for years to come."

The 2022 program selected applications for the development of innovative formal and non-formal education projects that:
-- Address grant program priorities of water, climate change, and/or environmental justice;
-- Provide opportunities to expand the public's understanding of Pennsylvania's environmental issues; and
-- Develop skills required to make informed decisions.

Grants were awarded to schools, institutions, conservation districts, and environmental and community organizations.

Thirty-four local projects received mini grants of up to $3,000; twenty-eight projects with a broad or statewide reach received general grants of up to $20,000; and one project, designed to engage students and teachers at the local, state, and national levels, received a grant of $65,710.

More than 90% of grant funds will support projects that engage youth and adults living and/or working within Environmental Justice areas.

The Environmental Education Grants Program was established by the Environmental Education Act of 1993, which mandates setting aside five percent of the pollution fines and penalties DEP collects annually for environmental education in Pennsylvania.

Since its inception, the DEP has awarded $12.3 million in environmental education grant funding to support 2,135 projects.

Grants Awarded

The grants awarded by DEP include--

Allegheny

-- Bloomfield-Garfield Corporation "Garfield Native Gardens": Host public workshops and green-industry training programs. Participants and volunteers will install a demonstration native plant habitat garden. ($3,000)

-- Pennsylvania Interfaith Power & Light: "Caring for Creation with SW PA IPL" consists of seven recorded climate change education sessions and three celebration sessions at two southwestern Pennsylvania urban farms. Programs will include listening sessions and hands-on introductions to urban farming on a variety of topics, including climate change, environmental justice, social justice, energy, water and waste conservation, organic planting, native tree or shrub plantings, and healthy eating. ($20,000)

-- Venture Outdoors "Exploring Our Waterways with Pittsburgh Youth": Engage 50-60 City of Pittsburgh elementary and middle school students in water quality lessons and field studies. ($8,380)

Armstrong

--Armstrong Center for Community Learning: Launch a year-long project for high school students addressing clean water and engaging them in several activities throughout the region such as tree plantings, tours, storm drain stenciling and water testing. ($13,529)

Bradford

-- Bradford County Conservation District: Conduct two (2) Forestry education symposiums for private landowners and forestry logging professionals on topics such as sustainable forestry practices and Erosion & Sedimentation plans. ($11,996)

Butler

-- Seneca Valley School District: Using a Flex Farm-Generation 4 technology system, 5th grade environmental curriculum will address the food chain, photosynthesis, the water cycle, and sustainability concepts. ($3,000)

Cameron

-- Cameron County Conservation District: Hold multiple education programs for all ages that address effective ways of reducing nonpoint source and source point water pollution. ($1,553)

Centre

-- Penns Valley Conservation Association: Expand its 5th to 7th grade Meaningful Climate Change and Watershed Education Toolkits (MC2WET) to meet the needs of all 3rd grade level students in the Penns Valley Area School District. ($2,921)

-- **The Pennsylvania State University**: Hold a hands-on professional development workshop for PreK-12 educators on the key roles pollinators and pollinator landscapes play in ecological resiliency. ($2,061)

Chester County

-- The Land Conservancy for Southern Chester County: Expand the New Leaf Sensory Garden by installing two (2) new stations, with the assistance of summer interns. Conduct Pre-school and summer camp field experiences, including lessons and activities. ($3,000)

Clarion

-- Clarion County Conservation District: Install two interpretive signs at an AMD passive

treatment system and organize 3 field tours for high school and university teachers, agency partners and the community. ($3,000)

Clinton

-- Clinton County Conservation District (2 projects): Spark the interest of girls (grades 8-10) in STEM studies by hosting a "She Can" weekend workshop led by professional women ($1,949); and Create a farmer education program promoting the Resource Enhancement and Protection (REAP) program. ($850)

Columbia

-- Columbia County Conservation District: Host multiple events for farmers, landowners, K-12 students and the public utilizing rainfall simulator kits and a slake demonstration kit to promote water quality protection through proper soil management. ($2,833)

Crawford

-- Allegheny College: Create an education program for campus educators, K-12 classes and the community involving the new permaculture food forest to address climate change and promote sustainable local food systems. ($3,000)

Cumberland

-- Cumberland County Conservation District: Hold a three-night environmental camp program for grades 4-6, which will include hands-on activities that address watershed management, nonpoint source water pollution, climate change, wildlife habitats and environmentally themed careers. ($3,000)

-- Shippensburg University: Provide a summer learning program for youth in grades 1-12, which will engage them in three water and climate change experiential opportunities. ($2,989)

Dauphin

-- Dauphin County Conservation District: Conduct three Stormwater for Homeowners workshops for residents in multiple municipalities. Rain barrels will be distributed, and attendee follow-up will be conducted. ($3,000)

-- Girl Scouts in the Heart of Pennsylvania: Install learning stations addressing water, climate change, and food insecurity. Provide hands-on activities, creek investigations and opportunities to implement the Meaningful Watershed Educational Experience framework. ($18,323)

Erie

-- Regional Science Consortium: Beginning with teacher trainings, schools will implement an Adopt-a-Stream water monitoring program involving environmental audits and implementation of stewardship action projects. ($19,997)

-- School District of the City of Erie (2 projects): Expand the existing 'Residential Garden Program-Paying It Forward.' Former participants will mentor new students and families. ($3,000); and establish a school garden for student field studies and guest presentations on topics such as climate change, environmental justice and food sovereignty. ($2,993)

Fayette

-- Mountain Watershed Association "Water Guardians Environmental Youth Club": Host an afterschool program for 4th and 5th graders. During classroom and field experiences students will delve into environmental issues and be introduced to ecologically themed careers. ($18,600)

Franklin

-- Greencastle-Antrim School District: Create an on-site science lab to enhance existing K-12 curriculum, that provides hands-on learning opportunities and guides student-driven actions addressing water quality and climate change. ($12,368)

Juniata
-- Juniata County Conservation District (2 projects): Provide 9th-12th grade students with formal classroom education in raising American eels for release into local waters. ($2,745); and establish an outdoor classroom for studying climate resilience, including hands-on Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math (STEM) activities, where students will explore and test their climate change ideas and solutions. ($3,000)
Lackawanna
-- Marywood University: Host an Environmental Stewardship camp for youth (ages 10-14) to help raise awareness on topics such as climate change and watershed conservation, and introduce potential environmentally themed career opportunities. ($2,921)
Lehigh
-- Lehigh County Conservation District: Incorporate use of an outdoor living laboratory, including weekly hands-on lessons, into a new high school Environmental Science course. ($3,000)
Luzerne
-- Eastern Pennsylvania Coalition for Abandoned Mine Reclamation (EPCAMR): Create a virtual reality curriculum involving a tour of the Askam Abandoned Mine Drainage Treatment System. ($13,879)
-- Wyoming Seminary College Preparatory School: Establish pollinator and birding gardens to serve as outdoor learning sites. Deliver tours, speaking engagements and workshops to students, teachers, and the public. ($20,000)
McKean
-- **The Pennsylvania State University**: Implement a hands-on environmental education series, supporting STEM studies, for elementary students and educators addressing water, watersheds and climate change. ($3,000)
Monroe
-- Monroe County Conservation District: Host multiple interactive educational field days for 10th grade students and water resource workshops for Master Watershed Stewards and local Envirothon teams. Develop an educational video for local municipalities and developers. ($10,589)
Montgomery County
-- The Friends of Briar Bush: Provide a two-part, hands-on watershed education program to approximately 180 fourth grade students to help them connect watershed and stormwater management concepts with their school sites. ($2,357)
Northumberland
-- Shamokin Creek Restoration Alliance: Host a field day for high school students focused on native plants and green building design. Students will plant a rain garden. ($2,995)
Philadelphia County
-- Awbury Arboretum Association, Inc.: Conduct native wildlife field studies and experiential lessons, including at least one STEM activity, for PreK-5th grade children. Teacher surveys will address integration of topics with classroom teaching. ($3,000)
-- Philadelphia Solar Energy Association: Develop a 6th grade curriculum addressing solar energy and climate change that includes lesson plans, teacher trainings and interactive materials. ($18,739)
-- Villanova University: Host climate change workshops that engage high school students in

hands-on STEM activities and field experiences to observe sustainability initiatives adopted by academic institutions. ($19,425)

Pike

-- Pike County Conservation District (2 projects): Host multiple Leaf Pack Network workshops addressing nonpoint source water pollution for educators, high school students and the public. ($2,562); and install two native plant gardens and conduct pollinator workshops. ($2,908)

Potter

-- Potter County Conservation District: Host two (2) pond workshops, including PSU surface water testing and follow-up, for landowners and contractors. ($1,658).

Snyder

-- Snyder County Conservation District: Provide a hands-on camp experience for 1st-4th graders involving rotating environmental stations. Friends and family members will help install conservation practices. ($2,580)

Washington

-- California Area School District "Success Relies on Sustainable Schools": Using a multi-tiered system, coordinate district programs to develop green, sustainable K-12 schools that reduce energy, food waste, conserve water, introduce environmentally friendly transportation and increase recycling. ($20,000)

Wayne

-- Lacawac Sanctuary Foundation: Hold a 2-day Lake School, providing hands-on field-based education and training in lake water quality monitoring for private homeowner association members. ($19,983)

Westmoreland

-- Brandywine Conservancy "PA Master Naturalist in the Laurel Highlands": Train volunteer Pennsylvania Master Naturalist leaders including providing 30 service hours to conservation organizations, schools and municipalities. ($3,000)

Wyoming

-- Wyoming County Conservation District: Hold two (2) field experiences for students (grades 4-6). Rotational stations will address a variety of topics including PA agriculture, soils, water quality, wildlife, forestry, and climate change. ($2,148)

York

-- York County Libraries: Provide hands-on activities and resources, including books and Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, and Math (STEAM) kits, for youth ages 10-15, addressing climate change and alternative forms of energy. ($2,997)

Regional Projects

-- Group Against Smog & Pollution (GASP) "Clearing the Air: Air Quality Education for Public Officials and Staff": Develop an air quality primer and host nine workshops for elected leaders and staff in Allegheny, Beaver, Butler, Washington, Greene, Fayette, Westmoreland, and Armstrong counties. ($19,922)

-- Jacobs Creek Watershed Association "Macro Monday": consists of four quarterly "Macro Monday" events in Westmoreland and Fayette counties for pre-K-12 children and their guardians to perform hands-on stream activities to learn about macroinvertebrates and water quality. ($2,989)

-- LEAF Project Inc.: Engage diverse youth ages 14-18 from Cumberland, Dauphin and Perry counties, in hands-on learning addressing agricultural, food systems and consumer practices.

Youth leaders will facilitate public education campaigns addressing food choices and climate change. ($20,000)

Projects Awarded to Multiple Counties

-- Discovery Pathways: Train up to 20 youth steward community leaders from South Philadelphia immigrant and refugee communities. Youth will lead programs, in Philadelphia and Bucks counties, and develop materials for non-English speaking families, encouraging them to access local parks and outdoor recreation areas. ($3,000)

-- Lower Merion Conservancy: Develop a hands-on program for students (grades 4-8) in Montgomery and Philadelphia counties that addresses solutions for nonpoint source water pollution, excess stormwater runoff and climate change environmental impacts. Create environmental clubs and install small-scale, low cost Green Stormwater Infrastructure on school properties and public lands. ($20,000)

-- Nurture Nature Center: Expand the Watershed-Friendly Property certification and education program, including handouts, outreach kits and promotional materials, to reach large urban properties/institutions. Pilot the program in York, Philadelphia and Delaware counties for future statewide implementation. ($20,000)

-- Pennsylvania Envirothon: Implement a statewide project that encourages high school students' exploration of environmental issues and provides them with tools for creating healthy communities through stewardship actions. Students and teachers interact at the county state and national levels. Analyze the existing program to determine ways of expanding engagement of teachers and youth in environmental justice areas. ($65,710)

-- Pennsylvania Interfaith Power & Light (2 projects): Hold seven (7) recorded climate change education sessions and three (3) celebrations at Philadelphia locations. Programs will include listening sessions and hands-on experiences. ($20,000); and Hold seven (7) recorded climate change education sessions and three (3) celebrations at SW PA Urban farms. Programs will include listening sessions and hand-on experiences. ($20,000)

-- Pennsylvania Resources Council: Conduct eight (8) watershed protection and stormwater management workshops for residents in Delaware, Allegheny, Beaver and Fayette counties. Participants will receive a 'Watershed Wisdom' booklet and instructions for setting up, using and maintaining rain barrels. ($18,950)

-- Riverbend Environmental Education Center: Host a replicable summer Institute for teachers (grades 3-5) from Delaware, Montgomery, and Philadelphia counties that promotes the MWEE framework and builds teacher capacity to support student learning across multiple disciplines. Hold monthly virtual meetings with attendees to plan EE classroom implementation. ($20,000)

-- Spirit and Truth Fellowship: Conduct a four (4) season workshop series for residents in Philadelphia and Delaware counties that: Teaches home energy efficiency strategies; Expands student participation in the solar installation vocational education program; Increases awareness of climate change challenges; and Facilitates consensus building to implement climate solutions. ($14,741)

-- Stroud Water Research Center (two projects): Create innovative macroinvertebrate touch tanks to deliver programs for K-12 students, families and the public in Chester county ($3,000); and Implement a collaborate model for establishing six (6) outdoor spaces in Chester and Lancaster counties, that support watershed education involving K-12 teachers and students and promotes community interactions with schools. ($20,000)

-- **The Pennsylvania State University**: Hold a 5-day residential camp program for students

(grades 9-12) from Centre, Huntingdon and Chester counties, focusing on local water quality issues, climate change and social/leadership experiences. ($5,500)
-- **The Pennsylvania State University**: Host a 20-hour Environmental Stewardship Program creating a total of 16 trainees in Blair, Chester, Lackawanna and Susquehanna counties. Participants will train an additional 80 people, lead workshops, and implement group projects. ($19,525)

For more information on this program, visit DEP's Environmental Education Grants webpage.

Related Articles:
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-- Westmoreland Conservation District: Hands-On Envirothon Returns For High School Students April 28
-- Stroud Water Research Center: Calling Lancaster County Teachers - Join Outdoor Leadership Network Initiative
[Posted: April 21, 2022]

Westmoreland Conservation District: Hands-On Envirothon Returns For High School Students April 28



Next week, nearly 100 area high school students will be out of the classroom and at Twin Lakes Park in Hempfield Township, Westmoreland County competing in the Envirothon natural-resource challenge in-person for the first time in two years.
The 36-year-old competition returns to its original hands-on format on April 28.
At Twin Lakes, students will measure trees, interpret maps, identify birds, and explore the nuances of a current environmental issue -- how to sustainably manage the waste that society creates.

Also at the April 28 event, they will hear a presentation by Melissa Reckner, program manager of Penguin Court in Laughlintown, on using the iNaturalist app to document natural world observations.

Nineteen teams from eight area high schools -- Derry Area, Franklin Regional, Greensburg Salem, Kiski Area, Mt. Pleasant Area, Norwin, Southmoreland, and Yough-- are scheduled to participate.

The winning team will go on to represent Westmoreland County in the statewide PA Envirothon competition, which will be held next month as a hybrid competition.

The Westmoreland Conservation District has sponsored the Westmoreland County Envirothon every year since 1986.

The District's partners in this effort include: the Game Commission, Fish and Boat Commission, Department of Conservation and Natural Resources Bureau of Forestry, and the U.S. Department of Agriculture Natural Resources Conservation Service.

Sponsors of this year's event are Smithfield Foods; Apex Energy, LLC; and the Pennsylvania Envirothon, Inc.

For more information on this program, visit the PA Envirothon website.

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-- DEP Announces Award Of $632,897 In Environmental Education Grants To Support 63 Projects Across The State

-- Stroud Water Research Center: Calling Lancaster County Teachers - Join Outdoor Leadership Network Initiative

[Posted: April 20, 2022]

Stroud Water Research Center: Calling Lancaster County Teachers - Join Outdoor Leadership Network Initiative



Are you a Lancaster County teacher? Do you want to learn about outdoor leadership skills and how to bring your students into nature while becoming better stewards of our local watersheds?

Join the Outdoor Leadership Network Initiative and gain experience from teachers who have been teaching and engaging students in environmental literacy and action for years!

Funded by the Chesapeake Bay Trust Environmental Education Grant Program in 2019, backbone partners including Millersville University, Lancaster Conservation District, and the Stroud Center, have brought professional learning and outdoor leadership to Lancaster County school districts (Conestoga Valley, Ephrata, and Columbia) for grades 4–12.

This initiative has included over 25 teachers, and we are recruiting for summer 2022's training June 20-24!

Click Here to watch a video about the initiative.

To learn more about the upcoming training or how to get involved, check out the video below or email salliegregory@lancasterconservation.org for more information.

For more information on programs, initiatives and special events, visit the Stroud Water Research Center website, Click Here to subscribe to UpStream. Click Here to subscribe to Stroud's Educator newsletter. Click Here to become a Friend Of Stroud Research, Like them on Facebook, Follow on Twitter and visit their YouTube Channel.

The Chester County-based Stroud Center seeks to advance knowledge and stewardship of freshwater systems through global research, education, and watershed restoration.

Resource Link:

-- Stroud Water Research Center Latest Upstream Newsletter

Related Articles:

-- U.S. Dept. Of Education Recognizes Spring-Ford School District, Shippensburg University As Green Ribbon Schools

-- DEP Announces Award Of $632,897 In Environmental Education Grants To Support 63 Projects Across The State
-- Westmoreland Conservation District: Hands-On Envirothon Returns For High School Students April 28
[Posted: April 20, 2022]

PA Resources Council Offers Ideas To Go Green On Earth Day And Every Day!



In celebration of Earth Day 2022, the PA Resources Council offers three suggestions for going "green" on April 22 — and every day of the year!

-- Roll Up Your Sleeves

-- Become involved in community cleanup efforts organized by groups such as Allegheny CleanWays and Friends of the Riverfront

-- Bring awareness to local litter problems by submitting photographs to PRC's annual Lens on Litter contest

-- Register for a PRC composting or rain barrel webinar

-- Learn To Recycle Right

-- Call the DEP Recycling Hotline at 1-800-346-4242 with recycling questions

-- Take part in PRC's free monthly Recycling & Waste Reduction Webinar (next one takes place May 12 at 6:30 p.m.)

-- Clear The Clutter

-- Clean out the basement and garage and attend a PRC household chemical collection event

-- Rid your home of unwanted electronics and other hard-to-recycle items by dropping off TVs, computers, tires and more at an upcoming hard-to-recycle collection event

-- Give a second life to gently used materials by donating unwanted items to Goodwill or another charity

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency estimates that the average American produces 4.4 pounds of waste each day – that's 1,600 pounds a year.

Since much of this waste is in some way recyclable, a typical resident of Pennsylvania has the potential to keep more than a half ton of waste from entering landfills each and every year.

For more information on programs, initiatives and special events, visit the PA Resources Council website. Click Here to sign up for regular updates, follow PRC on Twitter or Like them on Facebook. Click Here for PRC's Events Calendar. Click Here to support their work.

PRC is Pennsylvania's oldest grassroots environmental organization founded in 1939. PRC has worked to protect resources for future generations through environmental education, recycling, waste diversion programs, anti-litter campaigns and other initiatives.

Related Articles:

-- PA Resources Council Hosts Household Chemical Collection Events In Allegheny, Cambria Counties During May
-- PA Resources Council Announces 2022 Household Chemical, Electronics Waste,

Hard-To-Recycle Collection Events In Eastern, Western PA
-- Keep Pennsylvania Beautiful: Communities Celebrate Earth Day By Joining Pick Up Pennsylvania
-- Keep PA Beautiful's Fayette County Affiliate Transitions From All Volunteer Led To County Recycling Office
[Posted: April 20, 2022]

News From PA House & Senate

The information you need to follow legislation in the House and Senate- starting with articles and NewsClips from last week--

Environment & Energy NewsClips--

-- StateImpactPA - Rachel McDevitt: PA's New Climate Rule Met With Applause, Court Threats Upon Finalization
-- House Environmental Committee To Hold April 25 Info. Meeting On Republican Package Of Bills Attempting To Address Local Flooding [PaEN]
-- Warren Times: Stream Maintenance Package Proposed By House Republicans
-- House Environmental Committee Meets April 26 To Consider Solar/Wind Energy Bonding, Windmill Interference Bills [PaEN]
-- The Center Square: Despite Setbacks, Carbon Capture May Come To Pennsylvania
-- Williamsport Sun: State Representatives Discuss Need For Conservation Funding At Lycoming County Conservation District Dinner
-- Erie Times: We Can't Take Freedom For Granted - Self-Interview With Republican Gubernatorial Candidate Jake Corman [One Question On Environment, Climate]
-- TribLive Editorial: Earth Day Is No Time For Politics

Top 10 Stories On Harrisburg/PA Politics Last Week--

Because In Politics Everything Is Connected To Everything Else--

-- Top 10 Stories: Harrisburg/PA Politics Reported By Local News Media Last Week [PaEN]

On The Governor's Desk

The following bill was given final action by the Senate and House and now is on the Governor's desk for his action--

Open Space Maintenance Funding: House Bill 221 (R-Monroe) authorizes use of a portion of open space funding for maintenance purposes [Senate Fiscal Note & Summary] was signed into law as Act 15.

Bill Calendars

NEW! House Republican Expected House Floor Action

House (April 25): House Bill 1161 (Mizgorski-R- Allegheny) authorizing the establishment of a local solar energy subscriber program [not preferred by clean energy advocates Read more here]; House Bill 2069 (Cutler-R- Lancaster) Amend Article III, Section 9, to exempt the disapproval of a regulation by the General Assembly from the presentment requirement for the governor's approval or disapproval [Read more here]; House Bill 2070 (Cutler- R-Lancaster) Amend Article IV, to add a new section providing that any executive order or proclamation issued by the governor, which purports to have the force of law, may not be in effect for more than 21 days, unless extended by concurrent resolution of the General Assembly [Read more here]; House Resolution 74 (Daley-D-Montgomery) directing the Legislative Budget and Finance Committee to conduct a study of wildlife conservation corridors <> Click Here for full House Bill Calendar.

Senate (May 23): Senate Resolution 229 (Dush-R-Jefferson, Yudichak-I-Luzerne, Flynn-D-Lackawanna) was introduced directing the Joint State Government Commission to study the economic, environmental and health impacts related to the development of a critical and rare earth mineral industry in Pennsylvania (sponsor summary). <> Click Here for full Senate Bill Calendar.

Committee Meetings

House
April 25-- House Environmental Resources and Energy Committee holds informational meeting on a package of eight bills that attempt to address localized flooding problems by digging out stream channels and not through natural stream restoration techniques designed to prevent flooding and debris build up. Room G-50 of the Irvis Building starting at 8:30 a.m.. *Click Here to watch online*. *Click Here to read more on the agenda*.
April 26-- House Environmental Resources and Energy Committee is scheduled to meet on House Bill 2104 (Rapp-R-Forest) setting statewide bonding and decommissioning requirements for solar and wind energy facilities. The bill also preempts local governments from adopting their own regulations; House Bill 2367 (Mako-R-Northampton) prohibiting the construction of wind energy facilities that negatively affect military installation's airspace, flight paths or training. Room G-50 of the Irvis Building starting at the Call of the Chair-- sometime after the House convenes. *Click Here to watch online*. *Click Here to read more on the agenda.*
April 27-- House Local Government Committee meets to consider House Bill 1462 (T.Davis-D-Bucks) requiring municipalities to notify property owners of changes in FEMA special flood hazard area maps. Room 523 Irvis Building. 9:30 a.m. *Click Here to watch online*.
April 27-- House State Government Committee meets to consider House Bill 811 (Cox-R-Berks) removing future employees of the Susquehanna River Basin Commission from the state employees retirement system. Room G-50 Irvis Building. 9:00 a.m. *Click Here to watch online*.
<> Click Here for full House Committee Schedule.

Senate
<> Click Here for full Senate Committee Schedule.

Bills Pending In Key Committees

Check the PA Environmental Council Bill Tracker for the status and updates on pending state **legislation and regulations** that affect environmental and conservation efforts in Pennsylvania.

Session Schedule

Here is the latest voting session schedule for the Senate and House--

Senate
May 23, 24, 25
June 6, 7, 8, 13, 14, 15, 20, 21, 22, 23, 24, 27, 28, 29, 30

House
April 25, 26, 27
May 23, 24, 25
June 7, 8, 9, 13, 14, 15, 20, 21, 22, 23, 24, 27, 28, 29, 30
September 12, 13, 14, 19, 20, 21
October 24, 25, 26
November 14, 15, 16

[Posted: April 23, 2022]

House Environmental Committee Meets April 26 To Consider Solar/Wind Energy Bonding, Windmill Interference Bills

The House Environmental Resources and Energy Committee is scheduled to hold a meeting April 26 to consider legislation on decommissioning solar and wind energy facilities and protecting military facilities from windmill interference.

The legislation includes--

-- Solar/Wind Energy Facility Decommissioning: House Bill 2104 (Rapp-R-Forest) setting statewide bonding and decommissioning requirements for solar and wind energy facilities. The bill also preempts local governments from adopting their own regulations.

-- Prohibit Wind Energy Interference With Military Facilities: House Bill 2367 (Mako-R-Northampton) prohibiting the construction of wind energy facilities that negatively affect military installation's airspace, flight paths or training.

The meeting will be held in Room G-50 of the Irvis Building starting at the Call of the Chair-- sometime after the House convenes. *Click Here to watch online*.

Rep. Daryl Metcalfe (R-Butler) serves as Majority Chair of the House Environmental Committee and can be contacted by calling 717-783-1707 or sending email to: dmetcalf@pahousegop.com. Rep. Greg Vitali (D-Delaware) serves as Minority Chair and can be contacted by calling 717-787-7647 or sending email to: gvitali@pahouse.net.

Related Articles:

-- House Environmental Committee To Hold April 25 Info. Meeting On Republican Package Of Bills Attempting To Address Local Flooding

-- Senate Passes Heavily Amended Senate Bill 284 To Set Decommissioning Rules For Utility-Scale Solar Energy Facilities
[Posted: April 20, 2022]

House Environmental Committee To Hold April 25 Info. Meeting On Republican Package Of Bills Attempting To Address Local Flooding

The House Environmental Resources and Energy Committee is scheduled to hold an April 25 informational meeting on a package of eight bills that attempt to address localized flooding problems by digging out stream channels and not through natural stream restoration techniques designed to prevent flooding and debris build up.

On the agenda to present comments are--
-- **Deven Martin**, Delmar Twp, PA State Assn. Of Township Supervisors
-- **Daryl Miller**, Bradford County, County Commissioners Assn. Of PA
-- **Erick Coolidge**, Tioga County
-- **Darrin Youkeer**, PA Farm Bureau
-- **Johnny Painter**, Painterland Farms, Tioga County
-- **Phil Wood**, Wood Family Farm, Tioga County

The meeting will be held in Room G-50 of the Irvis Building starting at 8:30 a.m.. *Click Here to watch online*.

Background

House Republicans have recently introduced a package of eight bills to address localized flooding problems by digging out stream channels and not through natural stream restoration techniques designed to prevent flooding and debris build up.

DEP, working with the Bradford County Conservation District and other districts, has developed Guidelines for Maintaining Streams to outline environmentally safe techniques for maintaining clear stream channels and simplified emergency permits they issue for the removal of debris that address short-term, localized flooding problems.

Through the Growing Greener Program, DEP has also been promoting natural stream restoration efforts that not only improve water quality but help prevent flooding and reduce the necessity and expense of repeated stream clearing activities.

DEP has also been working with Villanova's Center for Resilient Water Systems to update its Stormwater Best Management Practices Manual to emphasize cost-effective green infrastructure solutions to manage stormwater and reduce flooding.

In other words, DEP, working with local partners, is looking at the problem of reducing flood damage in three dimensions and these bills look at only one.

The House Republican bills include--
-- **House Bill 2404 (Owlett-R-Tioga):** Would allow local government organizations to apply for a permit for continuing maintenance for a period of at least 10 years for the streams within their jurisdiction. This permit would grant an affirmative duty to the local government entity to properly maintain the streams and would not require the local government to get pre-approval for maintenance projects.
-- **House Bill 2405 (Pickett-R-Bradford):** Would create a program that allows counties to opt in to address hazards within their streams by allowing for emergency maintenance permits in consultation with their county conservation district. This is modeled after a pilot project that has

proven successful in Bradford County
-- **House Bill 2406 (Fritz-R-Susquehanna):** Would create a permit specific to smaller maintenance projects for the mitigation of flood-related hazards of less than 250 linear feet. This permit would be reviewed and issued by the local county conservation district.
-- **House Bill 2407 (Hamm-R-Lycoming):** Would clarify that the Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission has no authority for permitting or enforcement related to stream clearing or maintenance activities. This authority shall belong solely to DEP and the county conservation districts as appropriate.
-- **House Bill 2408 (Armanini-R-Clearfield):** Would declare that no permit or authorization shall be required for maintenance activities conducted on a culvert.
-- **House Bill 2409 (O'Neal-R-Washington):** Would state that no permit shall be required for the removal of flood-related hazards from streams that are deemed to be an emergency by a state or county.
-- **House Bill 2410 (Smith-R-Jefferson):** Would state that no permit shall be required for stream maintenance activities conducted 50 feet or less upstream or downstream of a bridge or culvert.
-- **House Bill 2411 (Hershey-R-Mifflin)** requires DEP to issue an annual report on flooding and stream restoration.

Rep. Daryl Metcalfe (R-Butler) serves as Majority Chair of the House Environmental Committee and can be contacted by calling 717-783-1707 or sending email to: dmetcalf@pahousegop.com. Rep. Greg Vitali (D-Delaware) serves as Minority Chair and can be contacted by calling 717-787-7647 or sending email to: gvitali@pahouse.net.

NewsClip:
-- Warren Times: Stream Maintenance Package Proposed By House Republicans

Related Articles:
-- House Environmental Committee Meets April 26 To Consider Solar/Wind Energy Bonding, Windmill Interference Bills
-- 71% Increase In Very Heavy Precipitation Events In Last 54 Years In PA: Learn How To Prepare For Emergencies - 30 Days/30 Ways
-- Penn State: Increased Flooding Due To Climate Change Will Be Worse In Small Watersheds; Underestimating Flood Risks Due To Climate Change Can Lead To Poor Infrastructure Design
-- First Street Foundation Resilience Report: 588,804 Properties In PA Have 26% Chance Of Being Severely Affected By Flooding Over Next 30 Years
-- Gov. Wolf: 2021 Climate Impacts Report Projects Pennsylvania Will Be 5.9° F Warmer by Midcentury, Precipitation To Increase, Targets Areas to Reduce Risk
-- The Economic Value Of Green Infrastructure: Calculating A Return On Investments In Parks, Watershed Restoration, Farmland BMPs, Open Spaces
-- Franklin & Marshall College Launches Chesapeake Bay Watershed Initiative Based On Legacy Sediments Research

[Posted: April 20, 2022]

The Feds

Articles and NewsClips about federal actions impacting Pennsylvania--

-- EPA: State Plan To Clean Up PA's Part Of Chesapeake Bay Watershed Lacks Funding To Meet

Water Pollution Reduction Goals [PaEN]
-- DEP To Host Online Information Event On Federal Bipartisan Infrastructure Law Conventional Oil & Gas Well Plugging Program April 28 [PaEN]
-- Scranton Times Guest Essay: Seize The Rare Opportunity To Resolve Toxic Mine Drainage - by Robert Hughes, Eastern PA Coalition for Abandoned Mine Reclamation
-- U.S. Dept. Of Energy Soliciting Proposals For $84 Million Program To Demonstrate Enhanced Geothermal Energy Systems; PA Opportunity With Mine Water [PaEN]
-- VOX: Geothermal Energy May Be Buried At The Bottom Of Abandoned Oil Wells
-- WESA: Federal American Rescue Plan Dollars Go To Replacing Hundreds Of Lead Water Lines In Pittsburgh
-- WITF: Feds Award $420 Million For Dam Repairs, Flood-Control Projects, Including Some In PA
-- NRCS-PA: Federal Bipartisan Infrastructure Law To Fund 2 Watershed Flood Prevention, Restoration Projects In Underserved PA Communities [PaEN]
-- NPR: Biden To Issue Earth Day Order To Safeguard Old-Growth Forests
-- PennLive - Marcus Schneck: John Heinz National Wildlife Refuge To Get Federal Money For Fish Passage Project
-- U.S. Dept. Of Education Recognizes Spring-Ford School District, Shippensburg University As Green Ribbon Schools [PaEN]
-- Appalachian Voices: Appalachian Groups Urge Biden, Congress To Ensure Climate Action Helps Energy Transition Communities [PaEN]
-- Pittsburgh Business Times: Hydrogen Hub Proponents Say Outreach Key To Getting It Built In Appalachia
-- AP: Biden Administration Restores Environmental Reviews For Major Infrastructure Projects
-- Scranton Times Editorial: Environmental Reviews Of Major Infrastructure Projects Crucial
-- Bloomberg: U.S. Is Set To Launch A $6 Billion Effort To Save Nuclear Plants

[Posted: April 24, 2022]

Appalachian Voices: Appalachian Groups Urge Biden, Congress To Ensure Climate Action Helps Energy Transition Communities

On April 18, dozens of Appalachian organizations and national partners submitted a letter to President Joe Biden, U.S. Speaker of the House Nancy Pelosi and Senate Majority Leader Chuck Schumer urging them to make sure that a budget reconciliation package under negotiation in Congress targets climate action spending in ways that help communities in coal-impacted Appalachia and elsewhere benefit from the transition to a clean-energy economy.

The Pennsylvania groups signing the letter include: Beaver County (PA) Marcellus Awareness Community (BCMAC); Center for Coalfield Justice; Eastern PA Coalition for Abandoned Mine Reclamation; Keystone Energy Efficiency Alliance; Keystone Progress; Keystone Progress Education Fund; Keystone Research Center; Moms Clean Air Force -

Pennsylvania Chapter; PennFuture; Pennsylvania Council of Churches; Protect Franklin Park; RER Energy Group; and Solar United Neighbors of Pennsylvania

"The decline of the coal industry in Appalachia has left many communities in the region grappling with unemployment, low income levels, black lung disease and environmental degradation," said the letter, which was signed by 71 Appalachian groups and seven national organizations. "The transition to a clean energy economy must be centered around justice and equity for all Americans and support communities that have historically been hit hardest by the fossil fuel industry and its decline."

U.S. Sen. Joe Manchin, whose opposition halted negotiations on last year's Build Back Better Act, has said he would support a smaller budget reconciliation package that would include $555 billion in clean energy investments to help the United States reach its carbon reduction goals.

The groups urged Congress to ensure these investments helped former coal communities and others impacted by the clean energy transition transform their economies.

"President Biden promised bold action on climate, while lifting up the fossil-fuel impacted communities that have struggled the most," said Tom Cormons, Executive Director of Appalachian Voices. "Now is the time for Congress to fulfill that promise, creating jobs and helping to bring on a brighter economic future in places where action is deeply and urgently needed. That means getting this legislation to the finish line."

"Our company is creating jobs in Southwest Virginia and West Virginia coal communities as we develop solar projects and savings for public schools and other public serving institutions," said Dr. Tony Smith, President and Founder of Secure Futures, LLC, a Virginia-based certified B-Corp solar development company. "We are coping with huge uncertainties and volatility in the supply chain and the loss of U.S. solar manufacturing capacity as we build solar arrays that will generate savings for 35 years and permanent jobs in coal communities. We remain concerned that there is a narrow window of opportunity to act on this much needed legislation to sustain that momentum."

"Virginia's coalfield region has great potential to become a clean energy hub while protecting our beautiful local natural resources," said Sharon Fisher, President of The Clinch Coalition in southwestern Virginia. "We need Congress to act now to address climate change while supporting the communities that are grappling with the decline of coal and its health and environmental impacts."

"Right now, our region faces unprecedented challenges – but we also have an incredible opportunity," said Dana Kuhnline, ReImagine Appalachia Campaign Manager. "We have a once-in-a-generation chance to respond to the climate crisis while repairing our nation's infrastructure, cleaning up dangerous pollution, investing in working families and jumpstarting our clean energy future. Federal investment in our infrastructure, built by our region's skilled workforce who can pivot to help us build the future we want, can position Appalachia to once again become a global powerhouse while creating a blue collar union jobs bonanza."

"In no part of the country is the passage of a pro-worker, pro-family reconciliation package more important than West Virginia and Appalachia," said Kelly Allen, Executive Director, WV Center on Budget and Policy. "In order to provide a path forward for our region, we must address climate change by investing in clean energy and lower costs for workers and families by continuing health care and child care improvements made in the American Rescue Plan Act. Best of all we can pay for these investments and more by rolling back the inequitable

2017 tax cuts so that the richest Americans and corporations, who've seen their wealth soar over the past two years, pay their fair share in taxes."

"I want to live in a West Virginia where young people don't have to move away from the state they love to find opportunities," said Holly Bradley, WV Organizer for Chesapeake Climate Action Network. "West Virginians are resilient, hardworking and we've learned to be adaptable because we didn't have another choice. I wish for our elected officials to listen to our people, find common ground and ensure that our state does not get left in the literal coal dust as the rest of the nation transitions to renewable energy."

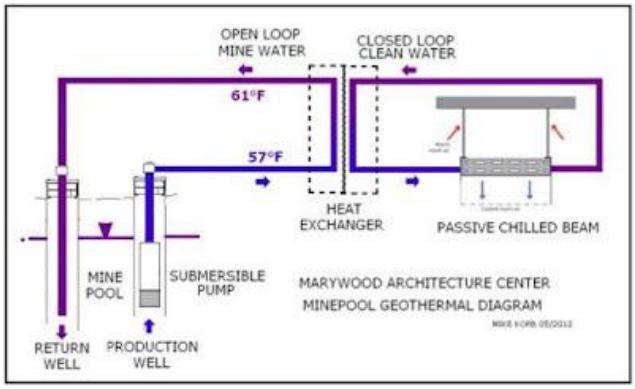
"These unprecedented investments would mean so much for working families in West Virginia," said Angie Rosser, executive director of West Virginia Rivers Coalition. "Families that have sacrificed so much in the past to help power this nation deserve to prosper from the transition to clean energy rather than have their needs forgotten yet again."

"We cannot afford to miss this opportunity," the groups wrote in the letter. "Please act immediately to move forward on a legislative package that includes the $555 billion clean energy jobs and climate plan that will help transform coal-impacted Appalachia."

Click Here for the complete announcement.

[Posted: April 18, 2022]

U.S. Dept. Of Energy Soliciting Proposals For $84 Million Program To Demonstrate Enhanced Geothermal Energy Systems; PA Opportunity With Mine Water



On April 19, the U.S. Department of Energy issued a request for information (RFI) to support $84 million in enhanced geothermal systems (EGS) pilot demonstration projects included in the federal Bipartisan Infrastructure Law.

The legislation authorizes DOE to support four competitively selected pilot projects that demonstrate EGS in different types of geology.

The demonstration projects will provide valuable information about EGS in the field and help spur further growth of geothermal energy—which has the potential to be a critical source of abundant, always-available zero-carbon energy and an opportunity for fossil communities to maintain economic stability by transitioning to producing clean energy.

These demonstration projects could help advance DOE's goals to deploy more than 60 gigawatts (GW) of geothermal electricity-generating capacity by 2050—resulting in clean, reliable power for 129 million American homes and businesses, and contributing to President Biden's goals for a net-zero emissions economy.

"The U.S. has incredible, untapped geothermal potential beneath our very feet, which can be harnessed to meet our energy demands with a round-the-clock, clean renewable resource available across the country," said U.S. Secretary of Energy Jennifer M. Granholm. "Investments within President Biden's Bipartisan Infrastructure Law are allowing us to incentivize access to that resource nationwide, while helping fossil communities and workers leverage existing

infrastructure and skills to seamlessly transition to producing clean energy."

EGS projects can significantly increase geothermal energy deployment throughout the United States in both the electric and non-electric sectors.

Substantial and sustained investment, including in technology development and demonstrations, is vital to ensure that the country can utilize the untapped potential of EGS. electricity-generating capacity alone by 2050.

That's the equivalent of approximately 8% of projected U.S. electricity-generating capacity.

Accessing geothermal resources for energy production requires fluid to flow through openings in rocks, thus facilitating recovery of heat energy that is usually produced through hot water or steam.

EGS projects use manmade reservoirs to enable heat recovery for energy generation in areas where geothermal resources exist but cannot be accessed using conventional methods.

The RFI solicits feedback from industry, academia, research laboratories, government agencies, and other stakeholders on demonstration project attributes and outcomes that will most likely lead to successful EGS deployment in the future.

DOE is also seeking suggestions for the possible structure of the demonstration projects, including how DOE's investments can be most impactful in promoting workforce development, and environmental and energy justice through the EGS Pilot Demonstrations Program.

The announcement is a Request for Information and not a Funding Opportunity Announcement. No applications are being accepted at this time. Responses to the RFI must be submitted via email to BIL_EGSPilotDemos@ee.doe.gov by 5 p.m. ET on May 13, 2022.

Click Here to view the RFI in EERE Exchange for more information.

Learn more about EGS' potential and other geothermal research in DOE's Geothermal Technologies Office.

NewsClip:

-- VOX: Geothermal Energy May Be Buried At The Bottom Of Abandoned Oil Wells

Related Article:

Leadership Opportunity: Pennsylvania Should Make Mine Water Geothermal A Key Part Of Its Clean Energy Transformation

[Posted: April 19, 2022]

EPA Releases White Paper For Comment On Reducing Climate Pollution From New Natural Gas-Fired Electric Generation



On April 21, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency issued for public input a draft white paper on control techniques and measures that could reduce greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions from new stationary combustion turbines.

These turbines, which are currently projected to be a significant part of U.S. electricity generation in future years, primarily use natural gas to create electricity.

The draft white paper is an important step forward

in EPA's efforts to engage communities and the power sector on strategies to improve clean air and reduce climate pollution in the years ahead.

"As part of our comprehensive power sector strategy announced by Administrator Regan last month, this white paper is intended to advance EPA's work to cut greenhouse gas emissions and amplify the leadership that we are seeing from power companies, states, investors, communities and other organizations," said Principal Deputy Assistant Administrator for Air and Radiation Joseph Goffman. "This is an important dialogue to have now, as we tackle our climate and health goals to protect communities while ensuring clean, reliable and affordable electricity."

Recent Energy Information Administration (EIA) projections show the power sector is likely to continue investing in new stationary combustion turbines – both combined cycle and simple cycle turbines.

With the draft white paper, EPA plans to engage with the states, Tribes, communities, power sector leaders, the public, and other stakeholders about the applicability and feasibility of a wide range of potential mitigation options for GHG pollution from new stationary combustion turbines.

The draft white paper presents information on the performance of state-of-the-art combustion turbine technologies and describes additional opportunities for GHG emission cuts.

Specifically, the draft white paper discusses the potential of efficiency improvements; of firing or co-firing natural gas with alternative fuels such as hydrogen; of using carbon capture, utilization, and storage (CCUS) technology; and of co-location with energy storage, among other topics.

While the white paper doesn't set policy or establish performance standards, it helps inform a robust public dialogue on approaches to reduce climate pollution from new gas-fired turbines.

Although the white paper is not targeted to any specific regulatory or policy context, EPA anticipates that the white paper may be useful to inform future rulemaking efforts, to serve as a resource for states and a variety of stakeholders, and to initiate a broader conversation on the future of natural gas-fired power generating sources.

The information may assist states and local air pollution control agencies, Tribal authorities, and regulated entities in their consideration of technologies and measures that may be implemented to reduce GHG emissions from stationary combustion turbines.

The discussion of technologies and measures in this paper may also provide context for permit development under the prevention of significant deterioration (PSD) program of the Clean Air Act, including in the assessment of the best available control technology (BACT) for GHG emissions from stationary combustion turbines.

States and the public may also find the white paper useful to inform state-level actions to combat climate change and individual permitting considerations.

In addition, EPA anticipates the public dialogue on the draft will help inform the Agency's ongoing review of the Clean Air Act section 111(b) new source performance standard for new natural gas-fired stationary combustion turbine electric utility generating units.

The draft white paper and instructions on how to submit comments are available on EPA's website.

EPA is asking for public comment for 45 days, through June 6, 2022.

EPA will collect comments via a non-regulatory docket at www.regulations.gov, Docket ID: EPA-HQ-OAR-2022-0289.

[Posted: April 21, 2022]

Public Participation Opportunities/Calendar Of Events

Click Here for a list of public participation opportunities and a calendar of events.

Grants & Awards

Click Here for grants, awards, recognition programs and contest deadlines.

-- DEP To Host Online Information Event On Federal Bipartisan Infrastructure Law Conventional Oil & Gas Well Plugging Program April 28
-- Exelon Foundation Announces Green Lab Grant Winners, 2023 Applications Open; Plans To Advance STEM Education In Under-Resourced Communities
-- PA Environmental Council Now Accepting Applications For 2022 Water Trail Mini Grants [PaEN]

PA Bulletin

Highlights of the environmental and energy notices in the latest PA Bulletin--

The Environmental Quality Board published the final regulation establishing a program to reduce carbon pollution from power plants consistent with the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative in the April 23 PA Bulletin. Read more here.

The Department of Environmental Protection published notice in the April 23 PA Bulletin that it has approved Sunoco Pipeline LP's request for a major permit amendment for restoration activities after a spill of drilling fluid near Marsh Creek State Park in Chester County. *(PA Bulletin page 2425)* Read more here.

The Department of Environmental Protection published notice in the April 23 PA Bulletin related to a federal consistency determination under the federal Coastal Zone Management Act for an Erie Harbor North Pier Repair Project for public comment.

The Department of Environmental Protection published notice in the April 23 PA Bulletin of an opportunity to bid on an abandoned mine reclamation project in Washington County.

Susquehanna River Basin Commission published these notices in the April 23 PA Bulletin--
-- Registration of Grandfathered Water Withdrawals In March
-- Projects Approved For Consumptive Water Use In March
-- Projects Approved For Minor Modifications In March

PA Bulletin - April 23, 2022

Note: The Department of Environmental Protection published 66 pages of public notices related

to proposed and final permit and approval/ disapproval actions in the April 23 PA Bulletin - pages 2366 to 2426.

Sign Up For DEP's eNotice: Did you know DEP can send you email notices of permit applications submitted in your community? Notice of new technical guidance documents and regulations? All through its eNotice system. Click Here to sign up.

Related Tools ----------

Visit DEP's Public Participation Center for public participation opportunities.

DEP Proposals Out For Public Review
Other Proposals Open For Public Comment - DEP webpage
Submit Comments on Proposals Through DEP's eComment System
Recently Closed Comment Periods For Other Proposals - DEP webpage
Other Proposals Recently Finalized - DEP webpage

DEP Regulations In Process
Proposed Regulations Open For Comment - DEP webpage
Submit Comments on Proposals Through DEP's eComment System
Proposed Regulations With Closed Comment Periods - DEP webpage
Recently Finalized Regulations - DEP webpage
DEP Regulatory Update - DEP webpage

DEP Technical Guidance In Process
Draft Technical Guidance Documents - DEP webpage
Technical Guidance Comment Deadlines - DEP webpage
Submit Comments on Proposals Through DEP's eComment System
Recently Closed Comment Periods For Technical Guidance - DEP webpage
Technical Guidance Recently Finalized - DEP webpage
Copies of Final Technical Guidance - DEP webpage
DEP Non-Regulatory/Technical Guidance Documents Agenda [February 2022] - DEP webpage

Stories Invited - About PA Environment Digest

Send your stories, photos and links to videos about your project, environmental issues or programs for publication in the **PA Environment Digest** to: PaEnviroDigest@gmail.com.

PA Environment Digest is a publication of **PA Environment News LLC** and is edited by David E. Hess, former Secretary Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection. He can be contacted by sending email to: PaEnviroDigest@gmail.com.

Did you know you can search back issues of **PA Environment Digest** since May 28, 2004 on dozens of topics, by county and on any keyword you choose? Just click on the search page.

PA Environment Digest weekly was the winner of the PA Association of Environmental Educators' 2009 Business Partner of the Year Award.

Also take advantage of these related publications--

PA Environment Daily Blog: provides daily environmental NewsClips and significant stories and announcements on environmental topics in Pennsylvania of immediate value. Sign up and receive as they are posted updates through your favorite RSS reader. You can also sign up for a once daily email alerting you to new items posted on this blog. Add your constructive comment to any blog posting.

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PA Abandoned Mine Reclamation Conference June 22-23

The PA Abandoned Mine Reclamation Conference will be held in-person and virtually June 22-23 at the Ramada Inn and Conference Center in State College. This year's theme-- New Opportunities On The Horizon! Registration Open! Read more here.

Supporting Member PA Organization For Watersheds & Rivers; PA Outdoor Writers Assn.; PA Trout Unlimited

PA Environment Digest is a supporting member of the PA Organization for Watersheds & Rivers, PA Outdoor Writers Association, PA Council Trout Unlimited and the Doc Fritchey Chapter Trout Unlimited.