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Harrisburg, PA

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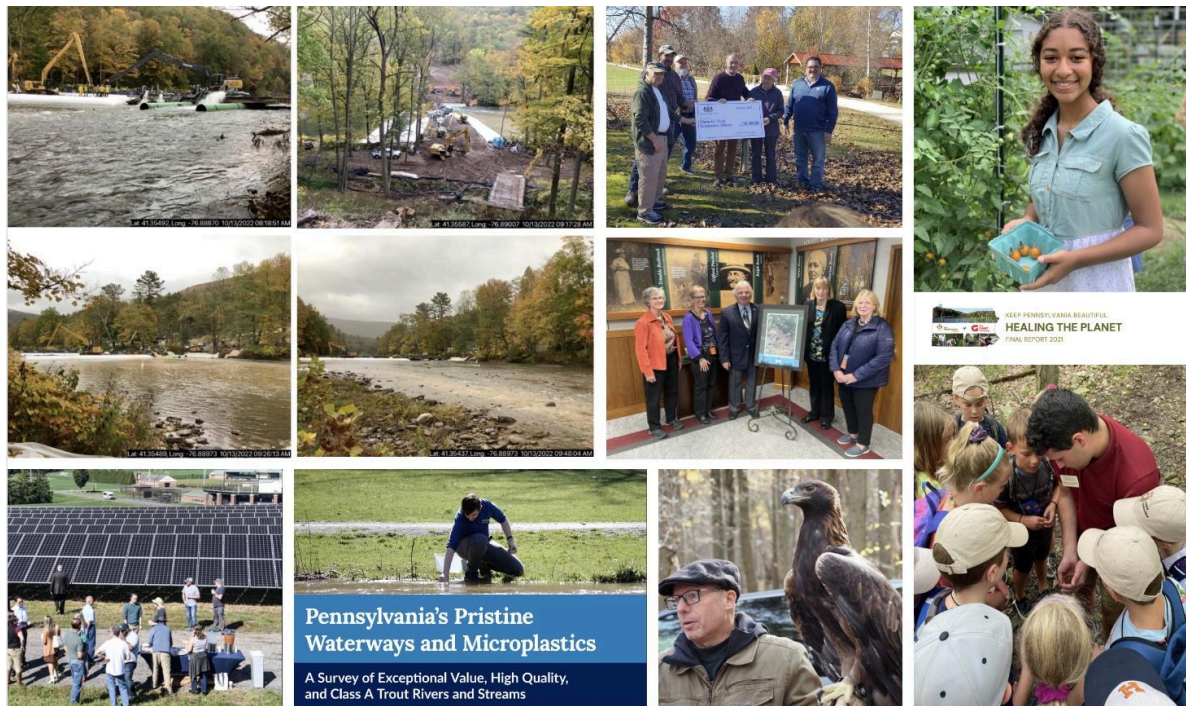
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76 New Stories - REAL Environmental & Conservation Leadership In PA



Here are 76 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!

- Post-Gazette - Anya Litvak: [Solar Energy Becoming Mainstream For PA Utilities - The Cheapest Form Of Electric Generation You Can Build](#) [And There Is Zero Fuel Cost]
- TribLive: [Homeowners Brace For Winter As Prices To Heat Homes Skyrocket, Biggest Spike Is For Natural Gas - More Than 34% Increase](#)
- DEP: [PA General Energy Cited For More Water Pollution Violations, Blocking The Whole Width Of Loyalsock Creek At Gas Pipeline/Water Withdrawal Construction Site In Lycoming County](#) [PaEN]
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- TribLive Editorial: [State Fines Should Be Higher Than Tax Cuts To Penalize Environmental Leaks](#) [PaEN]
- Republican Herald Editorial: [State Lawmakers Should Adopt Rules That Preclude State Taxpayers From Subsidizing Pollution From Oil & Gas Industry](#) [PaEN]
- Citizens Voice Editorial: [Subsidizing Pollution - Taxpayers Pay \\$1.7 Billion To Subsidize Shell Ethane Plant In Beaver County](#)
- Scranton Times/Republican Herald Editorial: [Legislators Like Plastics, Expect More](#) [PaEN]
- Republican Herald Editorial: [Dangerous Course For Oil & Gas Well Emissions, Obstructionists Should Get Out Of The Way](#) [PaEN]
- Pine Creek Headwaters Protection Group: [Potential Impacts Of Shale Gas Development Forest Fragmentation On Tioga State Forest Birds](#) - By Dr. Robert M. Ross [PaEN]
- Post-Gazette - Anya Litvak: [EQT, CNX See Bright Future For Appalachian Natural Gas, But Energy Agency Says Russia's War Has Caused Many To Rethink Use Of Gas](#)
- Citizens Voice: [DEP Will Monitor Culm Bank Site For Possible Underground Coal Mine Fire In Newport Twp. Near Proposed Natural Gas To Gasoline Plant Site In Luzerne](#)
- Scranton Times: [Coal Mine Subsidence Closes Portion Of Keystone Ave. In Blakely, Lackawanna County](#)
- A Study Finding [Microplastics In 100% Of Exceptional Value, High Quality, Class A Trout Streams Sampled In PA Is Disturbing To Wildlife Advocates](#) [PaEN]

- Scranton Times: [Study Finds Microplastic Pollution In NE PA's Cleanest Waterways](#)
- Scranton Times/Republican Herald Editorial: [Legislators Like Plastics, Expect More](#) [PaEN]
- Penn State Research: [PFAS 'Forever Chemicals' Persist Through Wastewater Treatment, May Enter Crops](#) - By [Penn State News](#) [PaEN]
- Environmental Health News: [A Guide To Environmental Health In Southwestern PA](#)
- PA Audubon Council [Recognizes DCNR Secretary Cindy Adams Dunn With First Walt Pomeroy Conservation Award](#) [PaEN]
- Scranton Times: [Keystone 10 Million Trees Partnership Celebrates 5 Million Trees Planted](#)
- Stroud Water Research Center: [Sharing Our Knowledge Of Watershed Restoration](#) [PaEN]
- LancasterOnline: [Little Conestoga Creek Blue/Green Corridor Restoration Project Receives \\$2 Million State RACP Grant](#)
- PennLive - Marcus Schneck: [Stream Restoration Projects To Dig Into Potential Opportunities Stream Muck Offers](#)
- DEP [Tours Kettle Creek Stream Restoration Project, Highlights Clinton County Clean Water Action Plan Progress](#) [PaEN]
- DCNR [Joins Volunteers, Alliance For Chesapeake Bay For 24-Hour Treelay Tree Plantings Oct. 28-29 In Adams, Cumberland, Lancaster, York Counties](#)
- Reminder: [Alliance For The Chesapeake Bay First-Ever 24-Hour Volunteer Tree Planting Relay In PA, MD, DC Oct. 28-29](#) [PaEN]
- Lebtown.com: [Two Lebanon County Borough Split \\$300,000 In Grants To Restore Stream Damage](#)
- Schuylkill Action Network [Annual Meeting Nov. 10, Berks Nature Rookery](#)
- Still Time To Register! [Bucknell University River Symposium, Nov. 4-5 In Lewisburg](#)
- Warren Times: [Residents With Private Water Wells Encouraged To Attend Penn State Extension Program, Have Water Tested](#)
- Warren Times Editorial: [Take Advantage Of Water Well Clinic, Test Your Water](#)
- Gov. Wolf [Announces Nearly \\$45 Million In Funding For Local Community Block Grant](#)

Projects, Including Wastewater, Drinking Water And Parks

-- Keep PA Beautiful: [Final Report On 2021 Healing The Planet Grants](#) Supported By The Giant Company

-- TribLive: [Penn Hills Shade Tree Commission Needs Volunteers For Planting In Allegheny County Nov. 12](#)

-- Clean Water [Is Up To You: The Family Forest Carbon Program](#) - By Carol Hillestad for [Brodhead Watershed Association](#), Monroe County [PaEN]

-- Scranton Times: [Officials Highlight Federal, State Investments In Conservation, Environment, Urban Revitalization](#)

-- Sen. DiSanto [Wants Commonwealth Agencies To Pay Their Fair Share Of Local Stormwater Fees](#)

-- Clean Air Council [Appeals DEP Waste Permit Exemption For Plastics Processing Facility In Northumberland County](#) [PaEN]

-- DEP [Urges Residents To Recycle Household Goods, Clothing Which Make Up 10% Of Municipal Waste Stream; Launches Circular Merchant Platform App](#) [PaEN]

-- Keep PA Beautiful [Litter Hawk Youth Award Program Now Open! Fun, Prizes & Litter Awareness For Grades K To 6](#) [PaEN]

-- Republican Herald: [Schuylkill County Participating In National Prescription Drug Take Back Day For 17th Time](#)

-- WHYY: [Delaware Valley Sites Collect Unused Medications On National Prescription Drug Take Back Day](#)

-- PennLive: [Harrisburg, Dauphin County Fight Illegal Dumping: ‘We Will Find You, And You Will Be Stopped’](#)

-- MCall: [It’s Easy To Be Green At Bethlehem’s New Verde Store](#)

-- Williamsport Sun: [Locals Help With Hurricane Ian Relief In Florida](#)

-- CEOs For Sustainability [Nov. 2 C-Suite Summit In Pittsburgh To Highlight Business Action Around Climate Change, Share New Insights On Regional Decarbonization Strategy](#) [PaEN]

-- EPA [Awards \\$34.6 Million In Clean School Bus Grants To PA School Districts](#) [PaEN]

-- Penn State Institutes Of Energy & The Environment/ PA GreenGov Council Nov. 10 [Webinar:](#)

[Household Carbon Reduction - Building Sciences Connection](#). 1:00 to 2:00 p.m.

-- PA Municipal League/Sustainable PA [Nov. 15 In-Person/Virtual Fall Sustainability Conference](#), The Inn at Villanova University, Radnor, Delaware County. 8:30 to 4:00 p.m.

-- PA Solar Center [Nov. 18 Webinar: PA Solar Guidebooks: Helping Landowners and Municipalities Navigate Solar Growth](#) [PaEN]

-- PennTAP: [Get A Free Pollution Prevention & Energy Efficiency Assessment For Your PA Manufacturing Business](#) [PaEN]

-- Southwestern PA Energy Efficiency [Roundtable Nov. 15 Webinar: Unraveling The Ins And Outs Of Retro-Commissioning And Saving Energy](#). 11:00 a.m. to Noon.

-- PPL Utilities: [This Halloween It's Time To Slay Those Energy Vampires](#)

-- University of Pittsburgh [Prof. Shanti Gamper-Rabindram On America's Energy Future Nov. 15 At Riverstone Books In Pittsburgh](#), 6:00 p.m.

-- Westmoreland Land Trust, [WeConservePA Host Site Visit To Ongoing Conservation Of Schwarz Farm](#) [PaEN]

-- Lebtown.com: [Swatara State Park To Expand By 136 Acres Thanks To Gift Of Land By Ward Burton Wildlife Foundation](#)

-- LancasterOnline: [Millersville University Acknowledges Native Americans' Stewardship Of Local Land](#)

-- York Dispatch: ['Houses Everywhere': Saving Farmland In York County For A New Generation](#)

-- WHY? [Chester County Farmer Makes A Horror Movie To Save The Family Farm](#)

-- Nominations [Now Being Accepted For 2023 Pennsylvania River Of The Year](#) [PaEN]

-- TribLive - Mary Ann Thomas: [Butler-Freeport 'The Little Trail That Could' Celebrates 30th Anniversary Saturday](#)

-- DCNR: [State, Local Officials Join In Dedication Of Enola Low Grade Rail Trail Bridge In Lancaster County](#)

-- DCNR [State Parks Fall Edition Of Their Environmental Education Newsletter Now Available](#) [PaEN]

-- TribLive: [Fundraiser To Help Vets, First Responders Through Outdoor Learning, Hunting](#)

[Scheduled In Ross On Nov. 10](#)

- NextPittsburgh: [Outdoor Inclusion Coalition Aims To Make Parks More Accessible For All](#)
- TribLive: [Longwood Residents Participate In Planting Meadow At Plum Retirement Community To Improve Wildlife Habitat, Attract Pollinators](#)
- TribLive: [4 Western PA Mayors Sign Monarch Pledge, Volunteers Sought To Help Save Butterflies, Other Pollinators](#)
- Phipps Conservatory [Native Plant And Sustainability Conference Nov. 12 In Pittsburgh](#). 9:45 a.m to 3:40 p.m.
- Penn State's Shaver's Creek [Environmental Center Breaks New Ground With Training Venomous Snakes](#)
- WeConservePA: [DCNR Bureau Of Forestry Forest Fridays: How Do Animals Know When To Go? When To Stock Up For The Winter?](#)
- Williamsport Sun: [Seven Mountains Audubon - A Look At The Many Songs Of The Year-Round Birds In PA](#)
- Nature At Risk: [The American Bald Eagle Flies High Once More](#) - By Carol Hillestad for [Brodhead Watershed Association](#), Monroe County
- Hawk Mountain [Sanctuary Announces New Senior Education Internship](#) [PaEN]
- Chesapeake Bay Journal - Karl Blankenship: [Civilian Conservation Corps: Tough Times Led To Lasting Legacies At Chesapeake Bay Region's Parks](#)

Visit the [PA Environment Digest](#) website to learn more.

Going The RIGHT WAY:

- [76 New Stories - REAL Environmental & Conservation Leadership In PA](#)
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- 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](#)
[PaEN]

[Posted: October 30, 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--

- Senate, House Pass [Massive, 20-Year Taxpayer Subsidies For Natural Gas, Hydrogen And Petrochemical Industries In Hours With No Public Accountability Or Environmental Safeguards](#) [PaEN]
- Bill Goes [To Governor Creating Well Plugging Grant Program; Senate, House Again Fail To Address Woefully Inadequate Conventional Well Plugging Bonding](#) [PaEN]
- Senate Committee [OK'd Bills Rebranding Fossil Fuels As 'Low Emission,' Eliminating Incentives For EVs; Fails To End Ban On Raising Conventional Oil & Gas Well Bonding; Reports Out EHB Nominee Sarah Clark](#) [PaEN]
- Senator Yaw: [LNG Exports Critical In Preventing Emissions Backslide](#) [Real Story Is LNG Exports Keep PA Natural Gas Prices High, Which Is Where Industry Wants Them [As Business Media Keeps Reporting](#)]
- WSJ: [Tougher Federal Rules On Methane Leaks Coming, But Conventional Oil & Gas Wells That Are Responsible For 80%+ Of Leaks Might Catch A Break](#) [PA Examples]
- DEP: [PA General Energy Cited For More Water Pollution Violations, Blocking The Whole Width Of Loyalsock Creek At Gas Pipeline/Water Withdrawal Construction Site In Lycoming County](#) [PaEN]
- Public Herald: [Public Records Show PA Has 10,543 Injection Wells Where Conventional Oil & Gas Drilling Wastewater Is Often Used For Enhanced Recovery Of Oil & Gas](#)
- A Study Finding [Microplastics In 100% Of Exceptional Value, High Quality, Class A Trout Streams Sampled In PA Is Disturbing To Wildlife Advocates](#) [PaEN]
- TribLive: [Weather Conditions Prompt Allegheny County Health Dept. Air Pollution Warning For Tuesday](#)
- Post-Gazette: [Allegheny County Health Dept. Extends Air Pollution Warning For Mon Valley Through Monday Morning](#)
- Pittsburgh Business Times: [U.S. Steel Cuts Back Emissions In Allegheny County As Air Quality Warnings Continue](#)
- WHYY: [North, West Philly Continue To See Higher Concentration Of Lead Exposures, Despite Citywide Decline](#)
- Inside Climate News: [PA's Dairy Farmers Clamor For Candidates Who Will Cut Environmental Regulations](#)

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. **Are You Telling Your Story?**

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

Senate/House -----

- Senate, House Pass [Massive, 20-Year Taxpayer Subsidies For Natural Gas, Hydrogen And Petrochemical Industries In Hours With No Public Accountability Or Environmental Safeguards](#) [PaEN]
- StateImpactPA: [PA's Natural Gas Industry Set To Benefit From Billions In State Tax Credits](#)
- AP: [PA Lawmakers Send Gov. Wolf Large Package Of Energy Tax Credits](#)
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- PennLive Guest Essay: [Tax Credit Bill Gifts Natural Gas, Dirty Hydrogen With \\$4 Billion In Taxpayer Subsidies](#) - By Patrick McDonnell, PennFuture
- Spotlight PA - Stephen Caruso: [Wolf, PA Lawmakers Look To Push Through Massive Tax Incentives For Hydrogen Production, Natural Gas](#)
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- TribLive: [Homeowners Brace For Winter As Prices To Heat Homes Skyrocket, Biggest Spike Is For Natural Gas - More Than 34% Increase](#)
- Erie Times: [Fetterman, Dr. Oz Have At Least One Thing In Common To Critics: They've Waffled On Fracking](#)

- Sen. DiSanto [Wants Commonwealth Agencies To Pay Their Fair Share Of Local Stormwater Fees](#)
- Inside Climate News: [PA's Dairy Farmers Clamor For Candidates Who Will Cut Environmental Regulations](#)

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 -----

- 76 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]

Check Calendars For Events Near You!

- Check The Calendars For Events Near You: [PA Parks & Forests Foundation's Events](#) webpage and [DCNR's Calendar of Events](#).

Air

- TribLive: [Weather Conditions Prompt Allegheny County Health Dept. Air Pollution Warning For Tuesday](#)
- Post-Gazette: [Allegheny County Health Dept. Extends Air Pollution Warning For Mon Valley Through Monday Morning](#)
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Alternative Fuels

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- EPA [Awards \\$34.6 Million In Clean School Bus Grants To PA School Districts](#) [PaEN]
- TribLive: [2 Washington County School Districts Benefiting From EPA Clean Bus Grants](#)

- Columbia Gas [Launches Alternative Fuel Vehicle Pilot Program Using Adsorbed Natural Gas](#)
- Pittsburgh Business Times: [Columbia Gas Unveils Renewable Natural Gas Fleet Vehicle](#)
- WESA: [How A Tank Full Of Powder Turns Natural Gas Into Fuel For Pickup Trucks](#)
- The Economist: [Vehicle Battery-Makers Are Being Designed To Recycle Raw Materials](#)

Awards & Recognition

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- Nominations [Now Being Accepted For 2023 Pennsylvania River Of The Year](#) [PaEN]
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- Keep PA Beautiful: [Final Report On 2021 Healing The Planet Grants](#) Supported By The Giant Company

Biodiversity/Invasive Species

- Pine Creek Headwaters Protection Group: [Potential Impacts Of Shale Gas Development Forest Fragmentation On Tioga State Forest Birds](#) - By Dr. Robert M. Ross [PaEN]
- PennLive - Marcus Schneck: [Fish & Boat Commission Takes Emergency Steps After Invasive Species Found At Hatcheries](#)
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- PennLive - Marcus Schneck: [Hummingbirds, Other PA Birds On New List Of 70 Species 'At The Tipping Point'](#)

American Rescue Plan Funding

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Budget

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- Scranton Times: [Officials Highlight Federal, State Investments In Conservation, Environment](#)

Urban Revitalization

Chesapeake Bay

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- DEP Invites [Submission Of Water Quality Data For Stream Redesignation Evaluations In Columbia, Franklin, Fulton, Greene Counties](#) [PaEN]
- Chesapeake Bay Journal - Karl Blankenship: [Civilian Conservation Corps: Tough Times Led To Lasting Legacies At Chesapeake Bay Region's Parks Latest From The Chesapeake Bay Journal](#)
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Citizen Action

- DEP: [PA General Energy Cited For More Water Pollution Violations, Blocking The Whole Width Of Loyalsock Creek At Gas Pipeline/Water Withdrawal Construction Site In Lycoming County](#) [PaEN]
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- Westmoreland Land Trust, [WeConservePA Host Site Visit To Ongoing Conservation Of Schwarz Farm](#) [PaEN]
- Williamsport Sun: [Lycoming County Agriculture Land Preservation Board Accepting Applications](#)
- WHYY: [Chester County Farmer Makes A Horror Movie To Save The Family Farm](#)
- DCNR: [State, Local Officials Join In Dedication Of Enola Low Grade Rail Trail Bridge In Lancaster County](#)
- TribLive: [Longwood Residents Participate In Planting Meadow At Plum Retirement Community To Improve Wildlife Habitat, Attract Pollinators](#)
- Warren Times: [Residents With Private Water Wells Encouraged To Attend Penn State Extension Program, Have Water Tested](#)
- Warren Times Editorial: [Take Advantage Of Water Well Clinic, Test Your Water](#)
- DEP Invites [Submission Of Water Quality Data For Stream Redesignation Evaluations In Columbia, Franklin, Fulton, Greene Counties](#) [PaEN]
- DEP Invites [Comments On Substantial Changes To Radon Mitigation Standards Guidance](#) [PaEN]
- DEP To Host [Dec. 1 Public Meeting, Hearing On Proposed MAX Yukon Hazardous Waste Landfill No. 7 In Westmoreland County](#) [PaEN]
- DEP [Took Action On 767 Permits, 98% Within Permit Decision Guarantee Deadlines; Conducted 1,605 Inspections; Responded To 8 Environmental Emergencies Last Week](#)
- DEP [Posted 58 Pages Of Permit-Related Notices In Oct. 29 PA Bulletin](#) [PaEN]
- Oct. 28 [Take Five Fridays With Pam From PA Parks & Forests Foundation](#) [PaEN]
- Schuylkill Action Network [Annual Meeting Nov. 10, Berks Nature Rookery](#)
- Williamsport Sun: [Locals Help With Hurricane Ian Relief In Florida](#)
- PUC [Sets Nov. 17 Hearings On Philadelphia Natural Gas Works Weather Normalization Charge](#)
- Clean Air Council [Appeals DEP Waste Permit Exemption For Plastics Processing Facility In](#)

[Northumberland County](#) [PaEN]

-- DEP [Urges Residents To Recycle Household Goods, Clothing Which Make Up 10% Of Municipal Waste Stream; Launches Circular Merchant Platform App](#) [PaEN]

-- Republican Herald: [Schuylkill County Participating In National Prescription Drug Take Back Day For 17th Time](#)

-- WHYY: [Delaware Valley Sites Collect Unused Medications On National Prescription Drug Take Back Day](#)

-- PennLive: [Harrisburg, Dauphin County Fight Illegal Dumping: 'We Will Find You, And You Will Be Stopped'](#)

Climate

-- Post-Gazette - Anya Litvak: [Solar Energy Becoming Mainstream For PA Utilities - The Cheapest Form Of Electric Generation You Can Build](#) [And There Is Zero Fuel Cost]

-- WSJ: [Tougher Federal Rules On Methane Leaks Coming, But Conventional Oil & Gas Wells That Are Responsible For 80%+ Of Leaks Might Catch A Break](#) [PA Examples]

-- CEOs For Sustainability [Nov. 2 C-Suite Summit In Pittsburgh To Highlight Business Action Around Climate Change, Share New Insights On Regional Decarbonization Strategy](#) [PaEN]

-- Clean Water [Is Up To You: The Family Forest Carbon Program](#) - By Carol Hillestad for [Brodhead Watershed Association](#), Monroe County [PaEN]

-- Penn State Institutes Of Energy & The Environment/ PA GreenGov Council Nov. 10 [Webinar: Household Carbon Reduction - Building Sciences Connection](#). 1:00 to 2:00 p.m.

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-- University of Pittsburgh [Prof. Shanti Gamper-Rabindram On America's Energy Future Nov. 15 At Riverstone Books In Pittsburgh](#), 6:00 p.m.

-- Utility Dive: [PJM Capacity Proposal: Fuel For Ongoing Market 'Crisis' Or A Needed Step To Limit Overprocurement?](#)

-- NYT: [War In Ukraine Likely To Speed Shift To Clean Energy, IEA Says](#)

-- AP: [Report: Global Crises Can Speed Up Move To Clean Energy](#)

-- AP: [Poll: Most In U.S. Want More Action On Climate Change](#)

-- AP: [UN Report: Climate Pollution Reductions 'Highly Inadequate'](#)

-- The Guardian: [UN Finds 'No Credible Pathway To 1.5C In Place'](#)

-- The Guardian: [Goal Of Limiting Global Heating To 1.5C 'More Fragile' Than Ever, Says Cop27 Chair](#)

-- Financial Times: [World On Track For Up To 2.6C Temperature Rise By 2100, Reports UN](#)

-- WSJ: [Carbon-Capture Projects Are Taking Off, Here's How They Stash The Greenhouse Gas](#)

-- Inside Climate News: [With Fossil Fuel Companies Facing Pressure To Reduce Carbon Emissions, Private Equity Is Buying Up Their Aging Oil, Natural Gas And Coal Assets](#)

-- AP: [Climate Questions: How Do We Know Humans Triggered Warming?](#)

-- AP: [Climate Questions: Who Are The Big Emitters Of Greenhouse Gases?](#)

Coal Mining

-- Citizens Voice: [DEP Will Monitor Culm Bank Site For Possible Underground Coal Mine Fire In Newport Twp. Near Proposed Natural Gas To Gasoline Plant Site In Luzerne](#)

-- Scranton Times: [Coal Mine Subsidence Closes Portion Of Keystone Ave. In Blakely, Lackawanna County](#)

-- Inside Climate News: [With Fossil Fuel Companies Facing Pressure To Reduce Carbon Emissions, Private Equity Is Buying Up Their Aging Oil, Natural Gas And Coal Assets](#)

Compliance Action

-- DEP: [PA General Energy Cited For More Water Pollution Violations, Blocking The Whole Width Of Loyalsock Creek At Gas Pipeline/Water Withdrawal Construction Site In Lycoming County](#) [PaEN]

Conservation Districts

Court Action

-- Clean Air Council [Appeals DEP Waste Permit Exemption For Plastics Processing Facility In Northumberland County](#) [PaEN]

DCNR

-- PA Audubon Council [Recognizes DCNR Secretary Cindy Adams Dunn With First Walt Pomeroy Conservation Award](#) [PaEN]

-- Nominations [Now Being Accepted For 2023 Pennsylvania River Of The Year](#) [PaEN]

-- DCNR Leased [176 Acres Of Susquehanna River Submerged Land To SWN Natural Gas Production Company In Susquehanna County For \\$704,000](#) [PaEN]

-- Scranton Times: [Keystone 10 Million Trees Partnership Celebrates 5 Million Trees Planted](#)

-- LebTown.com: [Swatara State Park To Expand By 136 Acres Thanks To Gift Of Land By Ward Burton Wildlife Foundation](#)

-- DCNR [Notice Of Revised State Forest Schedule Of Fees](#)

-- Republican Herald: [DCNR Shares Info About Catawissa Motorized Recreation Area Plans At Meeting In East Union](#)

-- DCNR: [State, Local Officials Join In Dedication Of Enola Low Grade Rail Trail Bridge In Lancaster County](#)

-- DCNR [State Parks Fall Edition Of Their Environmental Education Newsletter Now Available](#) [PaEN]

-- DCNR [Issues 5th Weekly Fall Foliage Report - Sightseers Should Target SE PA For Best Color](#) [PaEN]

-- Oct. 28 [Take Five Fridays With Pam From PA Parks & Forests Foundation](#) [PaEN]

-- TribLive - Mary Ann Thomas: [Butler-Freeport 'The Little Trail That Could' Celebrates 30th Anniversary Saturday](#)

-- NextPittsburgh: [Outdoor Inclusion Coalition Aims To Make Parks More Accessible For All](#)

-- Chesapeake Bay Journal - Karl Blankenship: [Civilian Conservation Corps: Tough Times Led To Lasting Legacies At Chesapeake Bay Region's Parks](#)

- DCNR: [Benjamin Rush State Park To Host Mentored Deer Hunt Oct. 28-29 In Philadelphia](#)
- WeConservePA: [DCNR Bureau Of Forestry Forest Fridays: How Do Animals Know When To Go? When To Stock Up For The Winter?](#)

DEP

- DEP: [PA General Energy Cited For More Water Pollution Violations, Blocking The Whole Width Of Loyalsock Creek At Gas Pipeline/Water Withdrawal Construction Site In Lycoming County](#) [PaEN]
- DEP [Permit Notices -- Oil & Gas Industrial Facilities](#) [PaEN]
- Bill Goes [To Governor Creating Well Plugging Grant Program; Senate, House Again Fail To Address Woefully Inadequate Conventional Well Plugging Bonding](#) [PaEN]
- Senate Committee [OK'd Bills Rebranding Fossil Fuels As 'Low Emission,' Eliminating Incentives For EVs; Fails To End Ban On Raising Conventional Oil & Gas Well Bonding; Reports Out EHB Nominee Sarah Clark](#) [PaEN]
- Citizens Voice: [DEP Will Monitor Culm Bank Site For Possible Underground Coal Mine Fire In Newport Twp. Near Proposed Natural Gas To Gasoline Plant Site In Luzerne](#)
- Scranton Times: [Coal Mine Subsidence Closes Portion Of Keystone Ave. In Blakely, Lackawanna County](#)
- Penn State Research: [PFAS 'Forever Chemicals' Persist Through Wastewater Treatment, May Enter Crops](#) - By [Penn State News](#) [PaEN]
- DEP [Urges Residents To Recycle Household Goods, Clothing Which Make Up 10% Of Municipal Waste Stream; Launches Circular Merchant Platform App](#) [PaEN]
- Environmental Quality Board [Publishes Final Regulation On Municipal Waste Rural Transfer Facility Permit-By-Rule](#)
- DEP To Host [Dec. 1 Public Meeting, Hearing On Proposed MAX Yukon Hazardous Waste Landfill No. 7 In Westmoreland County](#) [PaEN]
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- DEP [Posted 58 Pages Of Permit-Related Notices In Oct. 29 PA Bulletin](#) [PaEN]

Delaware River

- Delaware River Basin Commission [Holds Nov. 9 Hearing On Water Requests; Dec. 7 Quarterly Business Meeting](#) [PaEN]
- Delaware [RiverKeeper Oct. 28 RiverWatch Video Report](#)

DRBC

- Delaware River Basin Commission [Holds Nov. 9 Hearing On Water Requests; Dec. 7 Quarterly Business Meeting](#) [PaEN]

Drinking Water

- Penn State Research: [PFAS 'Forever Chemicals' Persist Through Wastewater Treatment, May Enter Crops](#) - By [Penn State News](#) [PaEN]
- Warren Times: [Residents With Private Water Wells Encouraged To Attend Penn State Extension Program, Have Water Tested](#)
- Warren Times Editorial: [Take Advantage Of Water Well Clinic, Test Your Water](#)
- Gov. Wolf [Announces Nearly \\$45 Million In Funding For Local Community Block Grant Projects, Including Wastewater, Drinking Water And Parks](#)
- Inquirer: [Philly Schools Are Getting \\$5 Million To Ensure Students Have Clean Drinking Water](#)
- WHYY: [North, West Philly Continue To See Higher Concentration Of Lead Exposures, Despite Citywide Decline](#)

Economic Development

- Post-Gazette - Anya Litvak: [Solar Energy Becoming Mainstream For PA Utilities - The Cheapest Form Of Electric Generation You Can Build](#) [And There Is Zero Fuel Cost]
- Senate, House Pass [Massive, 20-Year Taxpayer Subsidies For Natural Gas, Hydrogen And Petrochemical Industries In Hours With No Public Accountability Or Environmental Safeguards](#) [PaEN]
- PennLive Guest Essay: [Tax Credit Bill Gifts Natural Gas, Dirty Hydrogen With \\$4 Billion In Taxpayer Subsidies](#) - By Patrick McDonnell, PennFuture
- Citizens Voice: [DEP Will Monitor Culm Bank Site For Possible Underground Coal Mine Fire In Newport Twp. Near Proposed Natural Gas To Gasoline Plant Site In Luzerne](#)
- PennTAP: [Get A Free Pollution Prevention & Energy Efficiency Assessment For Your PA Manufacturing Business](#) [PaEN]
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- DCED [Awards \\$7,481 Industrial Sites Reuse Grant For Environmental Assessment Of Former Railroad Station In Altoona](#)

Education

- DCNR [State Parks Fall Edition Of Their Environmental Education Newsletter Now Available](#) [PaEN]
- Warren Times: [Residents With Private Water Wells Encouraged To Attend Penn State Extension Program, Have Water Tested](#)
- Warren Times Editorial: [Take Advantage Of Water Well Clinic, Test Your Water](#)
- TribLive: [4 Western PA Mayors Sign Monarch Pledge, Volunteers Sought To Help Save Butterflies, Other Pollinators](#)
- DEP Environmental Justice Newsletter: [Grants Available, Cooking In A Healthy Kitchen, EV Grants Webinar, Help Wanted](#)
- NextPittsburgh: [Forest Bathing Brings Japanese Wellness Trend To The Pittsburgh Woodlands](#)
- US [Geological Survey Pennsylvania Waters Fall 2022 Newsletter Now Available](#) [PaEN]
- Erie Times: [Spooky Species: Don't Let These Real PA Creatures Cross Into The Cryptid Class](#)
- Keep PA Beautiful [Litter Hawk Youth Award Program Now Open! Fun, Prizes & Litter Awareness For Grades K To 6](#) [PaEN]

- CEOs For Sustainability [Nov. 2 C-Suite Summit In Pittsburgh To Highlight Business Action Around Climate Change, Share New Insights On Regional Decarbonization Strategy](#) [PaEN]
- PennTAP: [Get A Free Pollution Prevention & Energy Efficiency Assessment For Your PA Manufacturing Business](#) [PaEN]
- South Mountain Partnership [Nov. 4 Conewago Creek Walk & Talk Event, Adams County](#). 3:00 to 4:30 p.m.
- PUC [Holding 'Be Utility Wise' Events Oct. 27 In Berks County, Nov. 9 In Cambria County](#)
- Penn State [EarthTalk Oct. 31 On Engineering Enhanced Thin-Film Solar Cells](#), 4:00 p.m.
- Still Time To Register! [Bucknell University River Symposium, Nov. 4-5 In Lewisburg](#)
- Hawk Mountain Sanctuary [Nov. 5 Eagle Day: A Golden Opportunity To See North America's Largest Bird Of Prey](#)
- Warren Times: [Audubon Nature Center First Sunday Storytime Nov. 6 Is Free](#)
- TribLive: [Fundraiser To Help Vets, First Responders Through Outdoor Learning, Hunting Scheduled In Ross On Nov. 10](#)
- Penn State Institutes Of Energy & The Environment/ PA GreenGov Council Nov. 10 [Webinar: Household Carbon Reduction - Building Sciences Connection](#). 1:00 to 2:00 p.m.
- Phipps Conservatory [Native Plant And Sustainability Conference Nov. 12 In Pittsburgh](#). 9:45 a.m to 3:40 p.m.
- TribLive: [Penn Hills Shade Tree Commission Needs Volunteers For Planting In Allegheny County Nov. 12](#)
- South Mountain Partnership [Nov. 13 Tending Change In Michaux State Forest Walk & Talk Event, Franklin County LTBA](#). Noon to 1:30 p.m.
- Penn State [GIS Day Celebrating A World Of Possibilities Nov. 14-15](#)
- Southwestern PA Energy Efficiency [Roundtable Nov. 15 Webinar: Unraveling The Ins And Outs Of Retro-Commissioning And Saving Energy](#). 11:00 a.m. to Noon.
- PA Municipal League/Sustainable PA [Nov. 15 In-Person/Virtual Fall Sustainability Conference](#), The Inn at Villanova University, Radnor, Delaware County. 8:30 to 4:00 p.m.
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- PA Solar Center [Nov. 18 Webinar: PA Solar Guidebooks: Helping Landowners and Municipalities Navigate Solar Growth](#) [PaEN]
- DCNR [Issues 5th Weekly Fall Foliage Report - Sightseers Should Target SE PA For Best Color](#) [PaEN]
- Penn State Researchers: [Prescribed Fire Could Reduce Tick Populations, Pathogen Transmission](#)
- LancasterOnline: [Millersville University Acknowledges Native Americans' Stewardship Of Local Land](#)
- PA Parks & Forests Foundation Blog: [What Is A Riparian Forest Buffer And Why Should You Care?](#) - By Teddi Stark, DCNR [Watershed Forestry Program](#) Manager [PaEN]
- Hawk Mountain [Sanctuary Announces New Senior Education Internship](#) [PaEN]
- PennLive - Marcus Schneck: [Wildlife Winter Forecast - Squirrels Seem Confused, But Woolly Bears See Mild Season On The Way](#)
- WeConservePA: [DCNR Bureau Of Forestry Forest Fridays: How Do Animals Know When To Go? When To Stock Up For The Winter?](#)
- Williamsport Sun: [Seven Mountains Audubon - A Look At The Many Songs Of The](#)

Year-Round Birds In PA

- Nature At Risk: [The American Bald Eagle Flies High Once More](#) - By Carol Hillestad for [Brodhead Watershed Association](#), Monroe County
- Penn State's Shaver's Creek [Environmental Center Breaks New Ground With Training Venomous Snakes](#)
- Delaware RiverKeeper: [Help Save The Delaware River Atlantic Sturgeon](#)
- York Daily Record: Brian Whipkey: [Bigfoot, Mountain Lions, Other Mythical Creatures: PA Officials Discuss What They Know](#)
- AP: [Poll: Most In U.S. Want More Action On Climate Change](#)
- AP: [UN Report: Climate Pollution Reductions 'Highly Inadequate'](#)
- The Guardian: [UN Finds 'No Credible Pathway To 1.5C In Place'](#)
- Financial Times: [World On Track For Up To 2.6C Temperature Rise By 2100, Reports UN](#)
- AP: [Climate Questions: What's Going On With Climate Change?](#)
- AP: [Climate Questions: How Much Has The Climate Changed Already?](#)
- AP: [Climate Questions: Who Is Most Vulnerable To Climate Change?](#)
- AP: [Climate Questions: Why Do Small Degrees Of Warming Matter?](#)
- AP: [Climate Questions: How Does Carbon Dioxide Trap Heat?](#)
- AP: [Climate Questions: How Do We Know Humans Triggered Warming?](#)
- AP: [Climate Questions: Who Are The Big Emitters Of Greenhouse Gases?](#)

Emergency Response

- Williamsport Sun: [Locals Help With Hurricane Ian Relief In Florida](#)

6th Oil/Natural Gas Price Spike: True Energy Independence Means Renewables

[There Is No Limit To What Oil/Natural Gas Industry Can Make You Pay]

- TribLive: [Homeowners Brace For Winter As Prices To Heat Homes Skyrocket, Biggest Spike Is For Natural Gas - More Than 34% Increase](#)
- National Fuel Gas [Requests PUC To Approve 9.2% Increase In Base Delivery Charge: Separate Cost Of Gas Up 127.8% Since May 2021](#) [PaEN]
- PUC [Approves 9% Increase In The Basic Monthly Bill For Typical PECO Natural Gas Division Customers: On Top Of An 103.2% Increase In Cost Of Natural Gas](#) [PaEN]
- Ohio River Valley Institute Blog: [Natural Gas Costs Are Principal Driver Of Current Inflation: Increasing Gas Production For Export Also Increases Prices And Volatility](#)
- TribLive: [Pittsburgh, National Gasoline Prices Continue Seasonal Decline](#)
- Pittsburgh Business Times: [Range Resources Plans Cutback To One Drilling Rig In 2023 To Keep Production Flat Or Only Slightly Growing, Limiting Capital Expenditures](#)
- Williamsport Sun Editorial: [We Need More Drilling, More Pipelines, More Refineries As Families Struggle With Higher Heating Bills](#)
- DelcoTimes Letter: [Many Questions About Proposed LNG Export Terminal In Chester, Delaware County](#) - PA League Of Women Voters
- Reuters: Column: [Higher LNG Exports May Turbocharge U.S. Energy Transition By Driving Higher Natural Gas Prices](#)
- Reuters: [U.S. Natural Gas Price Gains 5% On Technical Move, Forecast LNG Export Rise](#)
- Bloomberg: [Two Massive LNG Plants Start Construction In Texas](#)

- CNBC: [Wave Of 60 LNG Tankers Waiting To Unload Is Overwhelming Europe, Hitting Natural Gas Prices](#)
- Reuters: [LNG Ships Play Waiting Game Off Spain's Coast As Higher Prices Eyed](#)
- Bloomberg: [European Natural Gas Glut To Help Ease Winter LNG Crunch In Asia](#)
- Bloomberg: [West Texas Natural Gas Prices Go Negative For First Time In Two Years](#) [Obviously, Not In PA]
- Bloomberg: [Heating Oil Being Rationed In New York City; New England Utility Urges Biden To Declare Emergency To Avoid Natural Gas Shortage](#)
- Financial Times: [US Exports Record Oil Volumes As Fuel Price Tensions Build At Home](#)
- Bloomberg: [Exxon Said It Is Returning Its Profits To The American People In The Form Of Higher Dividends To Its Shareholders](#) [91 cents/share]
- Bloomberg: [Windfall Oil & Natural Gas Profits Go To Shareholders, Companies Face Backlash](#)

National/International

- Bloomberg: [Europe Can't Rely On U.S. Natural Gas To Plug Growing Gap Next Year](#)
- Bloomberg: [European Natural Gas Prices Slump On Mild Weather, Ample Supplies](#)
- Reuters: IEA: [Tightening LNG Markets, Major Oil Producers Cutting Supply Have Put The World In The Middle Of A Global Energy Crisis](#)
- Reuters: [Oil Prices Drop As China Demand Data Disappoints](#)
- The Guardian: [New Prime Minister Will Keep Ban On Fracking In UK](#)
- Reuters: [Biden Says Shell Is Misusing Its Profits By Not Cutting Gasoline Prices](#)
- Bloomberg: [Exxon Profit Surpasses Expectations On Natural Gas Export Surge](#)
- Financial Times: [ExxonMobil Profit Triples To Record \\$20 Billion On Higher Energy Prices](#)
- WSJ: [Exxon Hits Record Profits Again As Oil Industry Sees Banner Quarter](#)
- NYT: [Exxon And Chevron Rack Up Giant Profits](#)
- Reuters: [TotalEnergies, Shell Post Bumper Profits, LNG Business Diverges](#)
- Bloomberg: [Big Oil's Profits Just Keep Rolling In As World Economy Sputters; 3rd Quarter Earnings Set To Top \\$50 Billion](#)
- Reuters: [Valero Kicks Off U.S. Refiners Earnings Season With Surging Quarterly Profit](#)
- NYT: [War In Ukraine Likely To Speed Shift To Clean Energy, IEA Says](#)
- AP: [Global Energy Crisis, Spiraling Energy Costs Can Speed Up Move To Clean Energy](#)

Energy

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- StateImpactPA: [PA's Natural Gas Industry Set To Benefit From Billions In State Tax Credits](#)
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- PennLive Guest Essay: [Tax Credit Bill Gifts Natural Gas, Dirty Hydrogen With \\$4 Billion In Taxpayer Subsidies](#) - By Patrick McDonnell, PennFuture
- Citizens Voice Editorial: [State Insists On Paying Polluters](#) [PaEN]

- Williamsport Sun Editorial: [We Need More Drilling, More Pipelines, More Refineries As Families Struggle With Higher Heating Bills](#)
- Erie Times: [Fetterman, Dr. Oz Have At Least One Thing In Common To Critics: They've Waffled On Fracking](#)
- National Fuel Gas [Requests PUC To Approve 9.2% Increase In Base Delivery Charge; Separate Cost Of Gas Up 127.8% Since May 2021](#) [PaEN]
- PUC [Approves 9% Increase In The Basic Monthly Bill For Typical PECO Natural Gas Division Customers; On Top Of An 103.2% Increase In Cost Of Natural Gas](#) [PaEN]
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- Pittsburgh Business Times: [Range Resources Plans Cutback To One Drilling Rig In 2023 To Keep Production Flat Or Only Slightly Growing, Limiting Capital Expenditures](#)
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-- PPL Utilities: [This Halloween It's Time To Slay Those Energy Vampires](#)

Environmental Health

- Penn State Research: [PFAS 'Forever Chemicals' Persist Through Wastewater Treatment, May Enter Crops](#) - By [Penn State News](#) [PaEN]
- Environmental Health News: [A Guide To Environmental Health In Southwestern PA](#)
- TribLive: [Weather Conditions Prompt Allegheny County Health Dept. Air Pollution Warning For Tuesday](#)
- Post-Gazette: [Allegheny County Health Dept. Extends Air Pollution Warning For Mon Valley Through Monday Morning](#)
- Pittsburgh Business Times: [U.S. Steel Cuts Back Emissions In Allegheny County As Air Quality Warnings Continue](#)
- WHYY: [North, West Philly Continue To See Higher Concentration Of Lead Exposures, Despite Citywide Decline](#)
- NextPittsburgh: [Forest Bathing Brings Japanese Wellness Trend To The Pittsburgh Woodlands](#)

Environmental Hearing Board

- Senate Committee [OK'd Bills Rebranding Fossil Fuels As 'Low Emission,' Eliminating Incentives For EVs; Fails To End Ban On Raising Conventional Oil & Gas Well Bonding; Reports Out EHB Nominee Sarah Clark](#) [PaEN]

Environmental Heritage

- Chesapeake Bay Journal - Karl Blankenship: [Civilian Conservation Corps: Tough Times Led To Lasting Legacies At Chesapeake Bay Region's Parks](#)
- LancasterOnline: [Millersville University Acknowledges Native Americans' Stewardship Of Local Land](#)

Environmental Justice

- DEP Environmental Justice Newsletter: [Grants Available, Cooking In A Healthy Kitchen, EV Grants Webinar, Help Wanted](#)

EPA

- EPA [Awards \\$34.6 Million In Clean School Bus Grants To PA School Districts](#) [PaEN]
- TribLive: [2 Washington County School Districts Benefiting From EPA Clean Bus Grants](#)

Farming

- State Conservation Commission [Accepting REAP Farm Conservation Tax Credit Applications Until Nov. 18](#) [PaEN]
- Scranton Times: [Keystone 10 Million Trees Partnership Celebrates 5 Million Trees Planted](#)
- Clean Water [Is Up To You: The Family Forest Carbon Program](#) - By Carol Hillestad for [Brodhead Watershed Association](#), Monroe County [PaEN]
- PennLive - Marcus Schneck: [Stream Restoration Projects To Dig Into Potential Opportunities Stream Muck Offers](#)
- Williamsport Sun: [Lycoming County Agriculture Land Preservation Board Accepting Applications](#)

- York Dispatch: [‘Houses Everywhere’: Saving Farmland In York County For A New Generation](#)
- WHYY: [Chester County Farmer Makes A Horror Movie To Save The Family Farm](#)
- Inside Climate News: [PA’s Dairy Farmers Clamor For Candidates Who Will Cut Environmental Regulations](#)
- Help Wanted: US Dept. Of Agriculture [Temporary County Program Technician Located In Schuylkill County](#)

Fish & Boat Commission

- PennLive - Marcus Schneck: [Fish & Boat Commission Takes Emergency Steps After Invasive Species Found At Hatcheries](#)

Flooding

- Williamsport Sun: [Locals Help With Hurricane Ian Relief In Florida](#)

Forests

- DCNR Leased [176 Acres Of Susquehanna River Submerged Land To SWN Natural Gas Production Company In Susquehanna County For \\$704,000](#) [PaEN]
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- Clean Water [Is Up To You: The Family Forest Carbon Program](#) - By Carol Hillestad for [Brodhead Watershed Association](#), Monroe County [PaEN]
- Reminder: [Alliance For The Chesapeake Bay First-Ever 24-Hour Volunteer Tree Planting Relay In PA, MD, DC Oct. 28-29](#) [PaEN]
- DCNR [Notice Of Revised State Forest Schedule Of Fees](#)
- DCNR [Issues 5th Weekly Fall Foliage Report - Sightseers Should Target SE PA For Best Color](#) [PaEN]
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- Penn State Researchers: [Prescribed Fire Could Reduce Tick Populations, Pathogen Transmission](#)
- Pine Creek Headwaters Protection Group: [Potential Impacts Of Shale Gas Development Forest Fragmentation On Tioga State Forest Birds](#) - By Dr. Robert M. Ross [PaEN]
- South Mountain Partnership [Nov. 13 Tending Change In Michaux State Forest Walk & Talk Event, Franklin County LTBA](#). Noon to 1:30 p.m.
- NextPittsburgh: [Forest Bathing Brings Japanese Wellness Trend To The Pittsburgh Woodlands](#)
- TribLive: [Penn Hills Shade Tree Commission Needs Volunteers For Planting In Allegheny County Nov. 12](#)
- Chesapeake Bay Journal - Karl Blankenship: [Civilian Conservation Corps: Tough Times Led To Lasting Legacies At Chesapeake Bay Region’s Parks](#)
- WeConservePA: [DCNR Bureau Of Forestry Forest Fridays: How Do Animals Know When To Go? When To Stock Up For The Winter?](#)

Game Commission

- Erie Times - Brian Whipkey: [Quality Of PA Deer Harvest Improved Due To 20 Years Of antler Point Restrictions](#)
- DCNR: [Benjamin Rush State Park To Host Mentored Deer Hunt Oct. 28-29 In Philadelphia](#)

Grants/Funding

- State Conservation Commission [Accepting REAP Farm Conservation Tax Credit Applications Until Nov. 18](#) [PaEN]
- PennLive - Marcus Schneck: [Stream Restoration Projects To Dig Into Potential Opportunities Stream Muck Offers](#)
- LancasterOnline: [Little Conestoga Creek Blue/Green Corridor Restoration Project Receives \\$2 Million State RACP Grant](#)
- Sen. Gordner [Announces \\$200,000 Grant For Shamokin Creek Restoration Project In Northumberland County](#) [PaEN]
- Scranton Times: [Officials Highlight Federal, State Investments In Conservation, Environment, Urban Revitalization](#)
- Gov. Wolf [Announces Nearly \\$45 Million In Funding For Local Community Block Grant Projects, Including Wastewater, Drinking Water And Parks](#)
- DCED [Awards \\$7,481 Industrial Sites Reuse Grant For Environmental Assessment Of Former Railroad Station In Altoona](#)
- EPA [Awards \\$34.6 Million In Clean School Bus Grants To PA School Districts](#) [PaEN]
- TribLive: [2 Washington County School Districts Benefiting From EPA Clean Bus Grants](#)

Green Buildings

- Penn State Institutes Of Energy & The Environment/ PA GreenGov Council Nov. 10 [Webinar: Household Carbon Reduction - Building Sciences Connection](#). 1:00 to 2:00 p.m.

Green Infrastructure

- Scranton Times: [Keystone 10 Million Trees Partnership Celebrates 5 Million Trees Planted](#)
- Clean Water [Is Up To You: The Family Forest Carbon Program](#) - By Carol Hillestad for [Brodhead Watershed Association](#), Monroe County [PaEN]
- State Conservation Commission [Accepting REAP Farm Conservation Tax Credit Applications Until Nov. 18](#) [PaEN]
- Stroud Water Research Center: [Sharing Our Knowledge Of Watershed Restoration](#) [PaEN]
- PennLive - Marcus Schneck: [Stream Restoration Projects To Dig Into Potential Opportunities Stream Muck Offers](#)
- Sen. Gordner [Announces \\$200,000 Grant For Shamokin Creek Restoration Project In Northumberland County](#) [PaEN]
- DEP [Tours Kettle Creek Stream Restoration Project, Highlights Clinton County Clean Water Action Plan Progress](#) [PaEN]
- Lebtown.com: [Two Lebanon County Borough Split \\$300,000 In Grants To Restore Stream Damage](#)
- DCNR [Joins Volunteers, Alliance For Chesapeake Bay For 24-Hour Treelay Tree Plantings Oct. 28-29 In Adams, Cumberland, Lancaster, York Counties](#)
- Reminder: [Alliance For The Chesapeake Bay First-Ever 24-Hour Volunteer Tree Planting Relay In PA, MD, DC Oct. 28-29](#) [PaEN]
- LancasterOnline: [Little Conestoga Creek Blue/Green Corridor Restoration Project Receives \\$2 Million State RACP Grant](#)
- TribLive: [Big Sewickley Creek Watershed Group Using Mini Grants To Shine Light On](#)

Conservation Efforts

- DEP Invites [Submission Of Water Quality Data For Stream Redesignation Evaluations In Columbia, Franklin, Fulton, Greene Counties](#) [PaEN]
- South Mountain Partnership [Nov. 4 Conewago Creek Walk & Talk Event, Adams County](#). 3:00 to 4:30 p.m.
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- PA Parks & Forests Foundation Blog: [What Is A Riparian Forest Buffer And Why Should You Care?](#) - By Teddi Stark, DCNR [Watershed Forestry Program](#) Manager [PaEN]
- TribLive: [4 Western PA Mayors Sign Monarch Pledge, Volunteers Sought To Help Save Butterflies, Other Pollinators](#)
- York Dispatch: [‘Houses Everywhere’: Saving Farmland In York County For A New Generation](#)
- Gov. Wolf [Announces Nearly \\$45 Million In Funding For Local Community Block Grant Projects, Including Wastewater, Drinking Water And Parks](#)
- LebTown.com: [Swatara State Park To Expand By 136 Acres Thanks To Gift Of Land By Ward Burton Wildlife Foundation](#)
- TribLive: [Longwood Residents Participate In Planting Meadow At Plum Retirement Community To Improve Wildlife Habitat, Attract Pollinators](#)
- Pine Creek Headwaters Protection Group: [Potential Impacts Of Shale Gas Development Forest Fragmentation On Tioga State Forest Birds](#) - By Dr. Robert M. Ross [PaEN]
- Penn State Researchers: [Prescribed Fire Could Reduce Tick Populations, Pathogen Transmission](#)

Hazardous Substances

- Penn State Research: [PFAS 'Forever Chemicals' Persist Through Wastewater Treatment, May Enter Crops](#) - By [Penn State News](#) [PaEN]
- WHYY: [North, West Philly Continue To See Higher Concentration Of Lead Exposures, Despite Citywide Decline](#)

Help Wanted

- Hawk Mountain [Sanctuary Announces New Senior Education Internship](#) [PaEN]
- Help Wanted: [Trout Unlimited - PA Abandoned Mine Drainage Project Manager](#)
- Help Wanted: [PA Resources Council - Zero Waste PA Program Manager; Events Coordinator](#)
- Help Wanted: US Dept. Of Agriculture [Temporary County Program Technician Located In Schuylkill County](#)

Land Conservation

- Westmoreland Land Trust, [WeConservePA Host Site Visit To Ongoing Conservation Of Schwarz Farm](#) [PaEN]
- York Dispatch: [‘Houses Everywhere’: Saving Farmland In York County For A New Generation](#)
- Williamsport Sun: [Lycoming County Agriculture Land Preservation Board Accepting Applications](#)
- LebTown.com: [Swatara State Park To Expand By 136 Acres Thanks To Gift Of Land By Ward](#)

Burton Wildlife Foundation

- TribLive: [Penn Hills Shade Tree Commission Needs Volunteers For Planting In Allegheny County Nov. 12](#)
- TribLive: [4 Western PA Mayors Sign Monarch Pledge, Volunteers Sought To Help Save Butterflies, Other Pollinators](#)
- Phipps Conservatory [Native Plant And Sustainability Conference Nov. 12 In Pittsburgh. 9:45 a.m to 3:40 p.m.](#)
- TribLive: [Longwood Residents Participate In Planting Meadow At Plum Retirement Community To Improve Wildlife Habitat, Attract Pollinators](#)
- Penn State Researchers: [Prescribed Fire Could Reduce Tick Populations, Pathogen Transmission](#)
- LancasterOnline: [Millersville University Acknowledges Native Americans' Stewardship Of Local Land](#)

Land Recycling

- DCED [Awards \\$7,481 Industrial Sites Reuse Grant For Environmental Assessment Of Former Railroad Station In Altoona](#)

Littering/Illegal Dumping

- Keep PA Beautiful: [Final Report On 2021 Healing The Planet Grants](#) Supported By The Giant Company
- Keep PA Beautiful [Litter Hawk Youth Award Program Now Open! Fun, Prizes & Litter Awareness For Grades K To 6](#) [PaEN]
- PennLive: [Harrisburg, Dauphin County Fight Illegal Dumping: 'We Will Find You, And You Will Be Stopped'](#)
- TribLive: [Westmoreland Police Departments, Sheriff's Office Collecting Unused Meds Saturday](#)

Mine Reclamation

- Citizens Voice: [DEP Will Monitor Culm Bank Site For Possible Underground Coal Mine Fire In Newport Twp. Near Proposed Natural Gas To Gasoline Plant Site In Luzerne](#)
- Scranton Times: [Coal Mine Subsidence Closes Portion Of Keystone Ave. In Blakely, Lackawanna County](#)
- Help Wanted: [Trout Unlimited - PA Abandoned Mine Drainage Project Manager](#)
- Inside Climate News: [With Fossil Fuel Companies Facing Pressure To Reduce Carbon Emissions, Private Equity Is Buying Up Their Aging Oil, Natural Gas And Coal Assets](#)

Oil & Gas

- DEP: [PA General Energy Cited For More Water Pollution Violations, Blocking The Whole Width Of Loyalsock Creek At Gas Pipeline/Water Withdrawal Construction Site In Lycoming County](#) [PaEN]
- DEP [Permit Notices -- Oil & Gas Industrial Facilities](#) [PaEN]
- Bill Goes [To Governor Creating Well Plugging Grant Program; Senate, House Again Fail To Address Woefully Inadequate Conventional Well Plugging Bonding](#) [PaEN]
- Senate, House Pass [Massive, 20-Year Taxpayer Subsidies For Natural Gas, Hydrogen And](#)

[Petrochemical Industries In Hours With No Public Accountability Or Environmental Safeguards](#)
[PaEN]

- StateImpactPA: [PA's Natural Gas Industry Set To Benefit From Billions In State Tax Credits](#)
- AP: [PA Lawmakers Send Gov. Wolf Large Package Of Energy Tax Credits](#)
- Citizens Voice Editorial: [State Insists On Paying Polluters](#) [PaEN]
- PennLive Guest Essay: [Tax Credit Bill Gifts Natural Gas, Dirty Hydrogen With \\$4 Billion In Taxpayer Subsidies](#) - By Patrick McDonnell, PennFuture
- Spotlight PA - Stephen Caruso: [Wolf, PA Lawmakers Look To Push Through Massive Tax Incentives For Hydrogen Production, Natural Gas](#)
- WSJ: [Tougher Federal Rules On Methane Leaks Coming, But Conventional Oil & Gas Wells That Are Responsible For 80%+ Of Leaks Might Catch A Break](#) [PA Examples]
- A Study Finding [Microplastics In 100% Of Exceptional Value, High Quality, Class A Trout Streams Sampled In PA Is Disturbing To Wildlife Advocates](#) [PaEN]
- Scranton Times: [Study Finds Microplastic Pollution In NE PA's Cleanest Waterways](#)
- Scranton Times/Republican Herald Editorial: [Legislators Like Plastics, Expect More](#) [PaEN]
- Public Herald: [Public Records Show PA Has 10,543 Injection Wells Where Conventional Oil & Gas Drilling Wastewater Is Often Used For Enhanced Recovery Of Oil & Gas](#)
- Williamsport Sun Editorial: [We Need More Drilling, More Pipelines, More Refineries As Families Struggle With Higher Heating Bills](#)
- Senate Committee [OK'd Bills Rebranding Fossil Fuels As 'Low Emission,' Eliminating Incentives For EVs; Fails To End Ban On Raising Conventional Oil & Gas Well Bonding; Reports Out EHB Nominee Sarah Clark](#) [PaEN]
- Penn State Research: [PFAS 'Forever Chemicals' Persist Through Wastewater Treatment, May Enter Crops](#) - By [Penn State News](#) [PaEN]
- Pine Creek Headwaters Protection Group: [Potential Impacts Of Shale Gas Development Forest Fragmentation On Tioga State Forest Birds](#) - By Dr. Robert M. Ross [PaEN]
- PennLive - Marcus Schneek: [Hummingbirds, Other PA Birds On New List Of 70 Species 'At The Tipping Point'](#)
- DCNR Leased [176 Acres Of Susquehanna River Submerged Land To SWN Natural Gas Production Company In Susquehanna County For \\$704,000](#) [PaEN]
- Williamsport Sun: [Legislation On Oil & Gas Royalty Payment Transparency To Hit Gov's Desk](#)
- TribLive: [Pittsburgh, National Gasoline Prices Continue Seasonal Decline](#)
- TribLive: [Homeowners Brace For Winter As Prices To Heat Homes Skyrocket, Biggest Spike Is For Natural Gas - More Than 34% Increase](#)
- National Fuel Gas [Requests PUC To Approve 9.2% Increase In Base Delivery Charge; Separate Cost Of Gas Up 127.8% Since May 2021](#) [PaEN]
- PUC [Approves 9% Increase In The Basic Monthly Bill For Typical PECO Natural Gas Division Customers; On Top Of An 103.2% Increase In Cost Of Natural Gas](#) [PaEN]
- Ohio River Valley Institute Blog: [Natural Gas Costs Are Principal Driver Of Current Inflation; Increasing Gas Production For Export Also Increases Prices And Volatility](#)
- Pittsburgh Business Times: [Columbia Gas Unveils Renewable Natural Gas Fleet Vehicle](#)
- WESA: [How A Tank Full Of Powder Turns Natural Gas Into Fuel For Pickup Trucks](#)
- PUC [Sets Nov. 17 Hearings On Philadelphia Natural Gas Works Weather Normalization Charge](#)

-- Environmental Health News: [A Guide To Environmental Health In Southwestern PA](#)

-- WHYY: [7 Arrested At ‘People’s Decommissioning’ Of Oil Tank Farm At Former Philadelphia Refinery In Southwest Philly](#)

-- Erie Times: [Fetterman, Dr. Oz Have At Least One Thing In Common To Critics: They’ve Waffled On Fracking](#)

-- PUC [Approves 9% Increase In The Basic Monthly Bill For Typical PECO Natural Gas Division Customers; On Top Of An 103.2% Increase In Cost Of Natural Gas](#) [PaEN]

-- Inquirer - Andrew Maykuth: [PUC Approves 9% Increase For PECO Natural Gas Customers](#)

-- Pittsburgh Business Times: [Range Resources Plans Cutback To One Drilling Rig In 2023 To Keep Production Flat Or Only Slighting Growing, Limiting Capital Expenditures](#)

-- Post-Gazette - Anya Litvak: [EQT, CNX See Bright Future For Appalachian Natural Gas, But Energy Agency Says Russia’s War Has Caused Many To Rethink Use Of Gas](#)

-- Pittsburgh Business Times: [EQT Drilling Points To Pipeline Maintenance, Drought For 30% Slowdown In New Wells](#)

-- Senator Yaw: [LNG Exports Critical In Preventing Emissions Backslide](#) [Real Story Is LNG Exports Keep PA Natural Gas Prices High, Which Is Where Industry Wants Them [As Business Media Keeps Reporting](#)]

-- Financial Times: [US Exports Record Oil Volumes As Fuel Price Tensions Build At Home](#)

-- DelcoTimes Letter: [Many Questions About Proposed LNG Export Terminal In Chester, Delaware County](#) - PA League Of Women Voters

-- Reuters: Column: [Higher LNG Exports May Turbocharge U.S. Energy Transition By Driving Higher Natural Gas Prices](#)

-- Reuters: [U.S. Natural Gas Price Gains 5% On Technical Move, Forecast LNG Export Rise](#)

-- AP: [Global Energy Crisis, Spiraling Energy Costs Can Speed Up Move To Clean Energy](#)

-- Bloomberg: [Two Massive LNG Plants Start Construction In Texas](#)

-- Bloomberg: [West Texas Natural Gas Prices Go Negative For First Time In Two Years](#) [Obviously, Not In PA]

-- CNBC: [Wave Of 60 LNG Tankers Waiting To Unload Is Overwhelming Europe, Hitting Natural Gas Prices](#)

-- Reuters: [LNG Ships Play Waiting Game Off Spain’s Coast As Higher Prices Eyed](#)

-- Bloomberg: [European Natural Gas Glut To Help Ease Winter LNG Crunch In Asia](#)

-- Bloomberg: [Europe Can’t Rely On U.S. Natural Gas To Plug Growing Gap Next Year](#)

-- Reuters: IEA: [Tightening LNG Markets, Major Oil Producers Cutting Supply Have Put The World In The Middle Of A Global Energy Crisis](#)

-- Reuters: [Biden Says Shell Is Misusing Its Profits By Not Cutting Gasoline Prices](#)

-- Bloomberg: [Exxon Profit Surpasses Expectations On Natural Gas Export Surge](#)

-- Financial Times: [ExxonMobil Profit Triples To Record \\$20 Billion On Higher Energy Prices](#)

-- WSJ: [Exxon Hits Record Profits Again As Oil Industry Sees Banner Quarter](#)

-- NYT: [Exxon And Chevron Rack Up Giant Profits](#)

-- Reuters: [TotalEnergies, Shell Post Bumper Profits, LNG Business Diverges](#)

-- Bloomberg: [Big Oil’s Profits Just Keep Rolling In As World Economy Sputters; 3rd Quarter Earnings Set To Top \\$50 Billion](#)

-- Reuters: [Valero Kicks Off U.S. Refiners Earnings Season With Surging Quarterly Profit](#)

-- Inside Climate News: [With Fossil Fuel Companies Facing Pressure To Reduce Carbon Emissions, Private Equity Is Buying Up Their Aging Oil, Natural Gas And Coal Assets](#)

Pipelines

-- Reuters: [Federal Judge Questions New Water Permit For Mountain Valley Pipeline](#)

Permitting

-- DEP [Permit Notices -- Oil & Gas Industrial Facilities](#) [PaEN]

-- DEP: [PA General Energy Cited For More Water Pollution Violations, Blocking The Whole Width Of Loyalsock Creek At Gas Pipeline/Water Withdrawal Construction Site In Lycoming County](#) [PaEN]

-- DEP To Host [Dec. 1 Public Meeting, Hearing On Proposed MAX Yukon Hazardous Waste Landfill No. 7 In Westmoreland County](#) [PaEN]

-- Clean Air Council [Appeals DEP Waste Permit Exemption For Plastics Processing Facility In Northumberland County](#) [PaEN]

-- DEP [Took Action On 767 Permits, 98% Within Permit Decision Guarantee Deadlines; Conducted 1,605 Inspections; Responded To 8 Environmental Emergencies Last Week](#)

-- DEP [Posted 58 Pages Of Permit-Related Notices In Oct. 29 PA Bulletin](#) [PaEN]

Public Participation

-- DEP [Permit Notices -- Oil & Gas Industrial Facilities](#) [PaEN]

-- DEP To Host [Dec. 1 Public Meeting, Hearing On Proposed MAX Yukon Hazardous Waste Landfill No. 7 In Westmoreland County](#) [PaEN]

-- DEP Invites [Comments On Substantial Changes To Radon Mitigation Standards Guidance](#) [PaEN]

-- DEP Invites [Submission Of Water Quality Data For Stream Redesignation Evaluations In Columbia, Franklin, Fulton, Greene Counties](#) [PaEN]

-- PUC [Notice Extending Comment Period On Use Of Fully Projected Future Test Year Proposed Rulemaking](#)

-- PUC [Seeks Comments On Proposed Settlement With National Gas & Electric LLC Over Sales And Marketing Practices](#)

-- PUC [Notice Seeks Members For PA One Call Damage Prevention Committee](#)

-- Delaware River Basin Commission [Holds Nov. 9 Hearing On Water Requests; Dec. 7 Quarterly Business Meeting](#) [PaEN]

-- Republican Herald: [DCNR Shares Info About Catawissa Motorized Recreation Area Plans At Meeting In East Union](#)

-- DEP [Took Action On 767 Permits, 98% Within Permit Decision Guarantee Deadlines; Conducted 1,605 Inspections; Responded To 8 Environmental Emergencies Last Week](#)

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PUC

-- TribLive: [Homeowners Brace For Winter As Prices To Heat Homes Skyrocket, Biggest Spike Is For Natural Gas - More Than 34% Increase](#)

-- PUC [Approves 9% Increase In The Basic Monthly Bill For Typical PECO Natural Gas Division Customers; On Top Of An 103.2% Increase In Cost Of Natural Gas](#) [PaEN]

-- Inquirer - Andrew Maykuth: [PUC Approves 9% Increase For PECO Natural Gas Customers](#)

-- National Fuel Gas [Requests PUC To Approve 9.2% Increase In Base Delivery Charge;](#)

[Separate Cost Of Gas Up 127.8% Since May 2021](#) [PaEN]

- PUC [Sets Nov. 17 Hearings On Philadelphia Natural Gas Works Weather Normalization Charge](#)
- PUC [Notice Extending Comment Period On Use Of Fully Projected Future Test Year Proposed Rulemaking](#)
- PUC [Directs Allegheny County Contractor To Pay \\$2,500 Penalty For PA One Call Violations](#)
- PUC [Holding ‘Be Utility Wise’ Events Oct. 27 In Berks County, Nov. 9 In Cambria County](#)
- PUC: [2021-22 Audit Investigations Identified Over \\$60 Million In Savings For Utilities & Consumers](#)
- PUC [Elects Newly Confirmed Commissioner Stephen DeFrank As Vice Chairman](#)
- PUC [Recognizes National Critical Infrastructure Security Month](#)
- PUC [Notice Seeks Members For PA One Call Damage Prevention Committee](#)
- Utility Dive: [PJM Capacity Proposal: Fuel For Ongoing Market ‘Crisis’ Or A Needed Step To Limit Overprocurement?](#)

Radiation Protection

- DEP Invites [Comments On Substantial Changes To Radon Mitigation Standards Guidance](#) [PaEN]

Radon

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Recreation

- Nominations [Now Being Accepted For 2023 Pennsylvania River Of The Year](#) [PaEN]
- LebTown.com: [Swatara State Park To Expand By 136 Acres Thanks To Gift Of Land By Ward Burton Wildlife Foundation](#)
- Republican Herald: [DCNR Shares Info About Catawissa Motorized Recreation Area Plans At Meeting In East Union](#)
- DCNR: [State, Local Officials Join In Dedication Of Enola Low Grade Rail Trail Bridge In Lancaster County](#)
- DCNR [Notice Of Revised State Forest Schedule Of Fees](#)
- DCNR [State Parks Fall Edition Of Their Environmental Education Newsletter Now Available](#) [PaEN]
- DCNR [Issues 5th Weekly Fall Foliage Report - Sightseers Should Target SE PA For Best Color](#) [PaEN]
- DCNR: [Benjamin Rush State Park To Host Mentored Deer Hunt Oct. 28-29 In Philadelphia](#)
- Oct. 28 [Take Five Fridays With Pam From PA Parks & Forests Foundation](#) [PaEN]
- TribLive - Mary Ann Thomas: [Butler-Freeport ‘The Little Trail That Could’ Celebrates 30th Anniversary Saturday](#)
- LancasterOnline: [Manor Twp. To Host Nov. 7 Full-Moon Bike Ride On New Enola Low Grade Rail Trail Across The Safe Harbor Trestle Bridge](#)
- LancasterOnline - Ad Crable: [Sizing Up The Daunting Thousand Steps Trail In Huntingdon County, One Of PA’s Most Unique Pathways](#)
- Post-Gazette - John Hayes: [Great Allegheny Passage Trail Section Temporarily Closed To](#)

[Drain Eagle Lake In Allegheny County](#)

- NextPittsburgh: [Outdoor Inclusion Coalition Aims To Make Parks More Accessible For All](#)
- Altoona Mirror: [Altoona Acquires Wooded Lots For Trails At Garfield Park](#)
- PennLive: [City Of Harrisburg Invests \\$13 Million In Outdoor Projects In Parks](#)
- Inquirer Guest Essay: [Someone Screamed For Help On The Schuylkill River Trail, No One Stopped](#)
- Fish & Boat Commission [Encourages Safety While Fishing And Boating During Cold Weather Months](#)
- Chesapeake Bay Journal - Karl Blankenship: [Civilian Conservation Corps: Tough Times Led To Lasting Legacies At Chesapeake Bay Region's Parks](#)

Recycling/Waste

- Public Herald: [Public Records Show PA Has 10,543 Injection Wells Where Conventional Oil & Gas Drilling Wastewater Is Often Used For Enhanced Recovery Of Oil & Gas](#)
- DEP To Host [Dec. 1 Public Meeting, Hearing On Proposed MAX Yukon Hazardous Waste Landfill No. 7 In Westmoreland County](#) [PaEN]
- Keep PA Beautiful: [Final Report On 2021 Healing The Planet Grants](#) Supported By The Giant Company
- Keep PA Beautiful [Litter Hawk Youth Award Program Now Open! Fun, Prizes & Litter Awareness For Grades K To 6](#) [PaEN]
- Environmental Quality Board [Publishes Final Regulation On Municipal Waste Rural Transfer Facility Permit-By-Rule](#)
- DEP [Urges Residents To Recycle Household Goods, Clothing Which Make Up 10% Of Municipal Waste Stream; Launches Circular Merchant Platform App](#) [PaEN]
- TribLive: [Westmoreland Police Departments, Sheriff's Office Collecting Unused Meds Saturday](#)
- Inquirer - Andrew Maykuth: [Inside A Chester County E-Waste Recycler Where Thousands Of Old Laptops Get Restored Or Destroyed Every Month](#)
- Clean Air Council [Appeals DEP Waste Permit Exemption For Plastics Processing Facility In Northumberland County](#) [PaEN]
- A Study Finding [Microplastics In 100% Of Exceptional Value, High Quality, Class A Trout Streams Sampled In PA Is Disturbing To Wildlife Advocates](#) [PaEN]
- Scranton Times: [Study Finds Microplastic Pollution In NE PA's Cleanest Waterways](#)
- Scranton Times/Republican Herald Editorial: [Legislators Like Plastics, Expect More](#) [PaEN]
- Republican Herald: [Schuylkill County Participating In National Prescription Drug Take Back Day For 17th Time](#)
- WHY? [Delaware Valley Sites Collect Unused Medications On National Prescription Drug Take Back Day](#)
- PennLive: [Harrisburg, Dauphin County Fight Illegal Dumping: 'We Will Find You, And You Will Be Stopped'](#)
- Help Wanted: [PA Resources Council - Zero Waste PA Program Manager; Events Coordinator](#)
- The Guardian: [Only 5% Of Plastic Waste Generated In U.S. Recycled, Report Says](#)
- The Economist: [Vehicle Battery-Makers Are Being Designed To Recycle Raw Materials](#)

Regulations

-- Environmental Quality Board [Publishes Final Regulation On Municipal Waste Rural Transfer Facility Permit-By-Rule](#)

Renewable Energy

- Post-Gazette - Anya Litvak: [Solar Energy Becoming Mainstream For PA Utilities - The Cheapest Form Of Electric Generation You Can Build](#) [And There Is Zero Fuel Cost]
- CEOs For Sustainability [Nov. 2 C-Suite Summit In Pittsburgh To Highlight Business Action Around Climate Change. Share New Insights On Regional Decarbonization Strategy](#) [PaEN]
- Penn State [EarthTalk Oct. 31 On Engineering Enhanced Thin-Film Solar Cells](#), 4:00 p.m.
- PA Solar Center [Nov. 18 Webinar: PA Solar Guidebooks: Helping Landowners and Municipalities Navigate Solar Growth](#) [PaEN]
- MCall: [What's Happening With Proposed Hydro Plants Along 3 Lehigh Valley Canals?](#)
- Utility Dive: [PJM Capacity Proposal: Fuel For Ongoing Market 'Crisis' Or A Needed Step To Limit Overprocurement?](#)
- Utility Dive: [Texas Solar, Wind Energy Saved Consumers Nearly \\$28 Billion Over 12 Years: Report](#)
- NYT: [War In Ukraine Likely To Speed Shift To Clean Energy, IEA Says](#)
- AP: [Global Energy Crisis, Spiraling Energy Costs Can Speed Up Move To Clean Energy](#)

Schuylkill River

- Inquirer Guest Essay: [Someone Screamed For Help On The Schuylkill River Trail, No One Stopped](#)

Stormwater

- Scranton Times: [Keystone 10 Million Trees Partnership Celebrates 5 Million Trees Planted](#)
- PennLive - Marcus Schneck: [Stream Restoration Projects To Dig Into Potential Opportunities Stream Muck Offers](#)
- Sen. DiSanto [Wants Commonwealth Agencies To Pay Their Fair Share Of Local Stormwater Fees](#)

Susquehanna River

- DEP: [PA General Energy Cited For More Water Pollution Violations, Blocking The Whole Width Of Loyalsock Creek At Gas Pipeline/Water Withdrawal Construction Site In Lycoming County](#) [PaEN]
- DCNR Leased [176 Acres Of Susquehanna River Submerged Land To SWN Natural Gas Production Company In Susquehanna County For \\$704,000](#) [PaEN]
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- Still Time To Register! [Bucknell University River Symposium. Nov. 4-5 In Lewisburg](#)

Sustainability

- CEOs For Sustainability [Nov. 2 C-Suite Summit In Pittsburgh To Highlight Business Action Around Climate Change, Share New Insights On Regional Decarbonization Strategy](#) [PaEN]
- Penn State Institutes Of Energy & The Environment/ PA GreenGov Council Nov. 10 [Webinar: Household Carbon Reduction - Building Sciences Connection](#). 1:00 to 2:00 p.m.
- PA Municipal League/Sustainable PA [Nov. 15 In-Person/Virtual Fall Sustainability Conference](#), The Inn at Villanova University, Radnor, Delaware County. 8:30 to 4:00 p.m.
- PennTAP: [Get A Free Pollution Prevention & Energy Efficiency Assessment For Your PA Manufacturing Business](#) [PaEN]
- MCall: [It's Easy To Be Green At Bethlehem's New Verde Store](#)
- The Guardian: [Businesses Call For Nature Impact Disclosures To Be Mandatory By 2030](#)

Wastewater Facilities

- Gov. Wolf [Announces Nearly \\$45 Million In Funding For Local Community Block Grant Projects, Including Wastewater, Drinking Water And Parks](#)

Watershed Protection

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- Schuylkill Action Network [Annual Meeting Nov. 10, Berks Nature Rookery](#)
- PA Parks & Forests Foundation Blog: [What Is A Riparian Forest Buffer And Why Should You Care?](#) - By Teddi Stark, DCNR [Watershed Forestry Program](#) Manager [PaEN]
- A Study Finding [Microplastics In 100% Of Exceptional Value, High Quality, Class A Trout Streams Sampled In PA Is Disturbing To Wildlife Advocates](#) [PaEN]
- Scranton Times: [Study Finds Microplastic Pollution In NE PA's Cleanest Waterways](#)
- Scranton Times/Republican Herald Editorial: [Legislators Like Plastics, Expect More](#) [PaEN]
- Gov. Wolf [Announces Nearly \\$45 Million In Funding For Local Community Block Grant Projects, Including Wastewater, Drinking Water And Parks](#)
- Sen. DiSanto [Wants Commonwealth Agencies To Pay Their Fair Share Of Local Stormwater Fees](#)
- Delaware River Basin Commission [Holds Nov. 9 Hearing On Water Requests; Dec. 7 Quarterly Business Meeting](#) [PaEN]
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- Fish & Boat Commission [Encourages Safety While Fishing And Boating During Cold Weather Months](#)
- PennLive - Marcus Schneck: [Fish & Boat Commission Takes Emergency Steps After Invasive Species Found At Hatcheries](#)
- Erie Times: [Crowded Out? Stream Access Builds Concern Despite Erie-Area Steelhead Fishery Successes](#)
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- DCNR: [Benjamin Rush State Park To Host Mentored Deer Hunt Oct. 28-29 In Philadelphia](#)
- Hawk Mountain Sanctuary [Nov. 5 Eagle Day: A Golden Opportunity To See North America's Largest Bird Of Prey](#)
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- PennLive - Marcus Schneck: [Wildlife Winter Forecast - Squirrels Seem Confused, But Woolly Bears See Mild Season On The Way](#)
- WeConservePA: [DCNR Bureau Of Forestry Forest Fridays: How Do Animals Know When To Go? When To Stock Up For The Winter?](#)
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- TribLive: [PA Fisherman Pleads Not Guilty To Charges In Fishing Tournament Scandal](#)

West Nile/Zika Virus

- Penn State Researchers: [Prescribed Fire Could Reduce Tick Populations, Pathogen Transmission](#)

Opportunities

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- Help Wanted: [Trout Unlimited - PA Abandoned Mine Drainage Project Manager](#)
- Help Wanted: [PA Resources Council - Zero Waste PA Program Manager; Events Coordinator](#)
- Help Wanted: US Dept. Of Agriculture [Temporary County Program Technician Located In Schuylkill County](#)

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[Posted: October 30, 2022]

Senate, House Pass Massive, 20-Year Taxpayer Subsidies For Natural Gas, Hydrogen And Petrochemical Industries In Hours With No Public Accountability Or Environmental Safeguards

On October 26, the [Senate Appropriations Committee](#) reported out [House Bill 1059](#) (Hickernell-R-Lancaster) [after amending it to](#) provide \$106.6 million in annual taxpayer subsidies to manufacturing and other businesses that use natural gas and hydrogen in their operations for at least 20 years.

The bill also more than doubles the tax credit for using natural gas to make petrochemicals or fertilizer from natural gas.



Over the next 20 years, taxpayer subsidies for these industries will cost over \$2.1 billion and that's on top of the \$1.5 billion taxpayer subsidies the General Assembly previously adopted for just one plant-- the Shell Ethane Refinery in Beaver County.

Called the Pennsylvania Economic Development For A Growing Economy (PA Edge) Tax Credits, the amendment would provide--

- \$50 million annually for using natural gas or "clean hydrogen" as defined by the U.S. Department of Energy in manufacturing for a 20 year period beginning January 1, 2024 to December 31, 2043;
- Increase the current tax credit for using natural gas to make petrochemicals or fertilizer from \$26,666,668 to \$56,666,668 annually, with no end date;
- \$20 million in tax credits annually to support semiconductor & biomedical manufacturing, with no end date; and
- \$15 million in tax credits annually to support milk processing facilities, with no end date.

[Click Here for the Senate Fiscal Note and Summary.](#)

The Committee adopted the amendment by a vote of 21 to 3 with Senators Haywood (D-Philadelphia), Kearney (D-Chester) and Saval (D-Philadelphia) opposing. The amended bill was reported out of Committee by the same vote.

House Bill 1059 was passed by the [Senate 41 to 8](#) and the House concurred in Senate changes by a [vote of 139 to 59](#).

The bill now goes to the Governor's desk.

Subsidies Without Accountability

As the [Tribune Review](#), [Republican Herald](#) and the [Citizens Voice](#) newspapers recently editorialized after yet [another major penalty was assessed](#) for violations at a natural gas facility-- state lawmakers should adopt rules that preclude state taxpayers from subsidizing pollution from the oil and gas industry.

The [Tribune Review](#) said-- "The Shell refinery in Beaver County that is connected to gas-processing plants by the pipeline comes with \$1.5 billion in state tax incentives.

"Shell isn't alone. Pennsylvania loves to hand over tax breaks to encourage businesses to move in, build new or expand.

"But why not marry DEP's diligence to something with a little more bite when it comes to a business functioning on the state's dime?

"Why not treat corporate welfare recipients more like people who get public money?" [Read more here.](#)

The [Republican Herald](#) said--"Remarkably, while suing the pipeline for environmental violations, the state government also heavily subsidizes the Shell refinery with \$1.7 billion in tax credits.

"Since first awarding the credits a decade ago, the Legislature has gone all in on such subsidies, awarding them for similar but smaller projects around the state, including for a pipeline in Schuylkill County.

"None of those subsidies are contingent upon environmental compliance. So, for example, the Shell petrochemical refinery's subsidies aren't affected by the related pipeline's fine, which amounts to a miniscule fraction of the public subsidy.

"Lawmakers should adopt rules that preclude state taxpayers from having to subsidize pollution."

Propping Up Uncompetitive Natural Gas

It seems clear the tax credits are also an attempt to try to make natural gas competitive again through taxpayers subsidies after U.S. and Pennsylvania natural gas prices have increased dramatically as a result of their link to world energy markets.

As national business media have reported, natural gas drillers have been focused on keeping natural gas prices high to reward their investors with significant profits. [Read more here.](#)

Range Resources just announced Tuesday it will be cutting back to one drilling rig in 2023 to keep production flat or only slightly growing and limiting capital expenditures. [Read more here.](#)

Reaction

[PennFuture](#) President & CEO Patrick McDonnell issued this statement on the Senate action--

"Today, the Pennsylvania Senate voted on \$2 billion in new tax breaks for the fossil fuel industry. State lawmakers clearly have not learned from example after example of broken promises.

"More subsidies for the fracking and petrochemical industries will continue to deliver disappointing economic results along with huge environmental risks. Let's not repeat our mistakes.

"The so-called Economic Development for a Growing Economy (PA EDGE) tax credits would spend billions in tax cuts on projects offering a relatively small number of permanent job opportunities. Meanwhile, these giveaways are a polluter's dream come true.

"The package does nothing to invest in proven and inexpensive clean energy technologies, nor is it a comprehensive economic strategy for the state. Rather, this is slapdash industrial policy at its worst that will perpetuate Pennsylvania's addiction to fossil fuels.

"These subsidies will mean a further buildout of pipelines and other infrastructure at a time when the state legislature has failed to address the very real safety and siting concerns raised by affected residents around the state.

"While hydrogen technology may have a role in addressing climate pollution, its production need not come at the expense of Pennsylvania's environment, climate, or the health of surrounding communities."

[Natural Resources Defense Council](#) senior attorney Mark Szybist issued this statement on the tax credit legislation--

"HB 1059 is a deeply flawed bill, chiefly because its new tax credits will provide massive financial support to petrochemical manufacturing and shale gas extraction unconditioned on either pollution limits or protections for communities where supported facilities will be located.

"The bill's provision to establish a tax credit for clean hydrogen represents a huge missed opportunity for the state to leverage recently enacted federal clean hydrogen programs. Instead, it includes a massive loophole under which a steel or cement plant that might otherwise be subsidized for utilizing clean hydrogen that meets federal standards, could tap a subsidy for shale gas for decades, perversely driving more carbon pollution – not less.

"And adding insult to injury is the process by which HB 1059 was passed – the legislative language was released and voted on in less than twenty-four hours without a single hearing or opportunity for public input. This is a case study in how not to enact a law that's in the interest of the people of Pennsylvania."

Shale Gas + 20

The first commercial oil well was drilled in Pennsylvania in 1859. The first oil or gas well hydraulically fracked was in 1963. The first shale gas well was drilled in 2003 and that well was the first shale gas well fracked in 2004.

The vast network of industrial oil and gas facilities spread out on Pennsylvania's landscape is so big it is difficult to comprehend because we only see one piece at a time.

Like the parable of the [blind men and the elephant](#), we each only see our one part of the creature and cannot imagine, based on our limited experience, what it is that we are seeing and what the collective impact of those facilities are on our lives and the environment.

Serious and fundamental questions have been raised about all aspects of the operations of the oil and gas industry from the well pad to the stove top that have not been resolved based on the most recent 20 years of experience in Pennsylvania.

Serious and fundamental questions have been raised about the industry since the first comprehensive Oil and Gas Act was passed in 1984, but they haven't been effectively dealt with and people and the environment have suffered.

This industry has been protected by politicians that continue to allow it to literally dump their waste and responsibilities on taxpayers to clean up.

This industry has paid record penalties for environmental violations, it creates brownfields and waste disposal sites everywhere it operates, abandons oil and gas wells as part of their ongoing business model, significant questions have been raised about the health impacts of each part of its operation from the uncontrolled spreading of drilling wastewater on roads to the operations of well pads, pipelines, gas processing facilities and compressor stations.

After the most recent 20 years of unparalleled growth and change in the industry and its massive development across Pennsylvania's landscape, it is past time to take a hard look at the impact of this huge industry that affects nearly every corner of Pennsylvania and how we can do a much better job of protecting our health and the environment.

This latest attempt by the General Assembly and the Governor to prop up and protect the oil and gas industry with more taxpayer money after they rewarded us with record price spikes is a classic-- Ready - Fire - Aim -- scenario.

We've been through this before with the timber industry that denuded our hillsides, the first oil and gas boom where wells were drilled every 100 feet and oil was floated down streams to get to market, the coal industry that stripped our land bare and left our streams orange and mountains of unreclaimed moonscape.

And now an oil and gas industry-- the more sophisticated unconventional shale gas and the uncontrolled and protected conventional industry-- that 20 more years of development has left us with significant problems unaddressed.

Pennsylvania needs to do better.... Much better.

(Photos: Be ready for the development of much more natural gas infrastructure across Pennsylvania, [courtesy of Bob Donnan](#).)

NewsClips:

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 - Ohio River Valley Institute Blog: [Natural Gas Costs Are Principal Driver Of Current Inflation; Increasing Gas Production For Export Also Increases Prices And Volatility](#)
- [Posted: October 27, 2022]

Citizens Voice Editorial: State Insists On Paying Polluters

This editorial first appeared in the [Scranton Times](#) and [Citizens Voice](#) on October 28, 2022--

Pennsylvania has failed to get a piece of the new domestic wave of high-tech, next-generation microchip production, as major producers have broken ground on nearly \$100 billion worth of new plants in Arizona, Ohio and upstate New York.

Lawmakers instead have decided to double down on committing more state resources to the fossil-fuel industry.

Without so much as a public speech, hearing or floor debate, the General Assembly this week passed a \$2 billion package of tax credits, 90% of which will go to the natural gas industry.

The objective is to establish one or more “hydrogen hubs” in Pennsylvania, under a U.S. Department of Energy program.

The DOE will provide \$7 billion in grants to establish at least six and as many as 10



“regional clean hydrogen hubs” around the country. The new state tax credit giveaway is meant to sweeten the pot for potential developers.

Hydrogen can be used to supplant more carbon-heavy forms of energy for industrial production, transportation and more. It’s a legitimate part of a broad technological effort to reduce carbon emissions.

But there are multiple ways to produce hydrogen at the necessary scale, including from renewable sources. But Pennsylvania has decided to go all in on producing it exclusively from natural gas, enriching the industry at public expense while diminishing the potential environmental benefits of hydrogen production.

The process itself will produce substantial emissions from the combustion of natural gas, which advocates claim can be reduced by 76% using unproven carbon-capture and storage technology.

And it does not account for the environmental costs of increased natural gas production, including methane leakage that could reduce or eliminate the carbon-reducing benefits of hydrogen fuel.

This giveaway is just the latest. The state already has approved major subsidies for proposed plants to convert natural gas into antifreeze and gasoline, and another \$1.7 billion to reward Shell for producing plastics that largely will be used for single-use bags and films.

In all, the subsidies amount to more than \$4 billion over 20 years.

If these projects are worthwhile to the industry, it makes no sense for Pennsylvanians to have to subsidize them, since the gas that is the raw material is here.

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-- Pine Creek Headwaters Protection Group: Potential Impacts Of Shale Gas Development Forest Fragmentation On Tioga State Forest Birds - By Dr. Robert M. Ross [PaEN]

-- DCNR Leased 176 Acres Of Susquehanna River Submerged Land To SWN Natural Gas Production Company In Susquehanna County For \$704,000 [PaEN]

-- Public Herald: Public Records Show PA Has 10,543 Injection Wells Where Conventional Oil & Gas Drilling Wastewater Is Often Used For Enhanced Recovery Of Oil & Gas

-- Penn State Research: PFAS 'Forever Chemicals' Persist Through Wastewater Treatment, May Enter Crops - By Penn State News [PaEN]

-- A Study Finding Microplastics In 100% Of Exceptional Value, High Quality, Class A Trout Streams Sampled In PA Is Disturbing To Wildlife Advocates [PaEN]

-- TribLive: [Homeowners Brace For Winter As Prices To Heat Homes Skyrocket, Biggest Spike Is For Natural Gas - More Than 34% Increase](#)

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-- PUC [Approves 9% Increase In The Basic Monthly Bill For Typical PECO Natural Gas Division Customers; On Top Of An 103.2% Increase In Cost Of Natural Gas](#) [PaEN]

-- Ohio River Valley Institute Blog: [Natural Gas Costs Are Principal Driver Of Current Inflation: Increasing Gas Production For Export Also Increases Prices And Volatility](#)
[Posted: October 28, 2022]

DEP: PA General Energy Cited For More Water Pollution Violations, Blocking The Whole Width Of Loyalsock Creek At Gas Pipeline/Water Withdrawal Construction Site In Lycoming County

An [October 13 inspection](#) by the Department of Environmental Protection again found multiple violations of the state Clean Streams Law and Solid Waste Management Act at the PA General Energy Shawnee water withdrawal and natural gas pipeline construction site on the Loyalsock Creek in Gamble Township, Lycoming County.

DEP also found the company had blocked the entire width of Loyalsock Creek with a coffer dam and other construction activities without approval.

DEP did the inspection as a result of a citizen complaint of another huge plume of muddy sediment in the Loyalsock Creek originating at the construction site.

The violations included--

- Discharging a substance resulting in pollution of Waters of the Commonwealth;
- Failure to design and implement erosion and sediment practices to protect water quality;
- Failure to conduct work in accordance with the approved permit-- specifically obstructing the entire width of Loyalsock Creek with a coffer dam, flume pipes and a mat bridge that were not in the approved permit; and
- Failure to obtain DEP approval for changes to the plans and specifications for work that would affect the waterway or structural stability of the project-- specifically for obstructing the entire width of Loyalsock Creek.

[Click Here for a copy of the inspection report and photos.](#)

DEP did follow-up inspections on October 17, 20 and 24 that showed no violations.

These violations are in addition to formal Notices of Violation DEP issued to PA General Energy on August 29 and September 8 for similar water pollution at the same site. [Read more here.](#)

Project Background

The PA General Energy Loyalsock/Shawnee natural gas pipeline and surface water withdrawal construction site is on both sides of Route 87 and the Loyalsock Creek,



approximately 8 miles north of Montoursville in Gamble Township, Lycoming County.

The natural gas gathering pipeline system and freshwater supply pipelines are being built to connect the development of three shale gas tracts leased from the Department of Conservation and Natural Resources in [Loyalsock State Forest](#) that are expected to add up to 80 additional shale gas wells.

The pipelines will connect two leased tracts of state forest land on a plateau on the north side of the Loyalsock Creek, run about a mile down steep hillsides, under the Loyalsock Creek and State Route 87, and 1.5 miles up steep slopes up to a third leased tract on state forest land on the south side of the Creek.

The freshwater pipeline will be constructed above ground. PGE will attempt to use new underground “micro-tunneling” technology for the natural gas pipeline, down steep slopes on both sides of the Creek.

Loyalsock EV Stream

The Loyalsock is classified by DEP as an Exceptional Value stream whose water quality must be protected by law, with no degradation. The Creek was also named by the Department of Conservation and Natural Resources as the 2018 Pennsylvania River of the Year and called a “timeless treasure.” [Read more here.](#)

The Loyalsock Creek is home to the Eastern Hellbender, named the state’s official amphibian after a campaign by the Chesapeake Bay Foundation PA Student Leadership Council. It only thrives in clean water. [Read more here.](#)

Surveys of Loyalsock Creek in Lycoming County over the last two summers by [Dr. Peter Petokas](#), from [Lycoming College Clean Water Institute](#), found habitats of the rare [Eastern Hellbender salamander](#) are being significantly impacted by sediment plumes from natural gas pipeline crossing and shale gas drilling-related water withdrawal construction projects. [Read more here.](#)

Public Urged To Report Problems

“Any member of the public concerned about this or other potential environmental issues they may observe at any time should contact their regional DEP office to file a complaint,” said Mary Lehman, DEP’s Northcentral Regional Office. “Complaints may be filed over the phone or [through a web form.](#)”

“DEP investigates all complaints and will keep complainant identities confidential.”

For more information on specific follow-up actions, contact Megan Lehman, DEP’s Environmental Community Relations officer at 570-327-3659.

Related Articles:

-- NO SPECIAL PROTECTION: [The Exceptional Value Loyalsock Creek In Lycoming County Is Dammed And Damned](#) - [Video Dispatch From The Loyalsock](#) - By Barb Jarmoska, [Keep It Wild PA](#) [PaEN]

-- Exceptional Value Water Quality [Designation, State Forest Land, River Honors Were Not Enough To Protect Loyalsock Creek From Natural Gas Drilling & Pipelines In Lycoming County](#) - By [Friends Of The 'Sock](#) [PaEN]

-- DEP Issues [2 NOVs Against PA General Energy For Water Pollution Discharges Into The Loyalsock Creek From Gas Pipeline/Water Withdraw Construction In Lycoming County](#) [PaEN]

-- Rare Eastern Hellbender [Habitat In Loyalsock Creek, Lycoming County Harmed By Sediment Plumes From Pipeline Crossings, Shale Gas Drilling Water Withdrawal Construction Projects](#)

[PaEN]

-- DEP, Fish & Boat Commission [Investigate Multiple, Continuing Water Pollution Discharges From PGE Natural Gas Pipeline Construction Site On Loyalsock Creek, Lycoming County](#)

[PaEN]

-- Susquehanna River Basin Commission [Has No Exclusion Zones For Water Withdrawals From Any Streams, Including EV Or HQ Streams Subject To Water Quality Antidegradation Rules](#)

[PaEN]

Related Articles This Week:

-- DEP [Permit Notices -- Oil & Gas Industrial Facilities](#) [PaEN]

-- Senate, House Pass [Massive, 20-Year Taxpayer Subsidies For Natural Gas, Hydrogen And Petrochemical Industries In Hours With No Public Accountability Or Environmental Safeguards](#)

[PaEN]

-- Citizens Voice Editorial: [State Insists On Paying Polluters](#) [PaEN]

-- Scranton Times/Republican Herald Editorial: [Legislators Like Plastics, Expect More](#) [PaEN]

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-- Penn State Research: [PFAS 'Forever Chemicals' Persist Through Wastewater Treatment, May Enter Crops](#) - By [Penn State News](#) [PaEN]

-- A Study Finding [Microplastics In 100% Of Exceptional Value, High Quality, Class A Trout Streams Sampled In PA Is Disturbing To Wildlife Advocates](#) [PaEN]

-- TribLive: [Homeowners Brace For Winter As Prices To Heat Homes Skyrocket, Biggest Spike Is For Natural Gas - More Than 34% Increase](#)

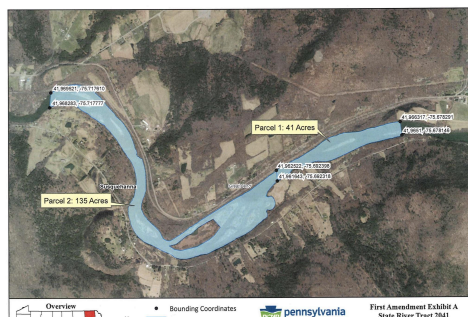
-- National Fuel Gas [Requests PUC To Approve 9.2% Increase In Base Delivery Charge; Separate Cost Of Gas Up 127.8% Since May 2021](#) [PaEN]

-- PUC [Approves 9% Increase In The Basic Monthly Bill For Typical PECO Natural Gas Division Customers; On Top Of An 103.2% Increase In Cost Of Natural Gas](#) [PaEN]

-- Ohio River Valley Institute Blog: [Natural Gas Costs Are Principal Driver Of Current Inflation; Increasing Gas Production For Export Also Increases Prices And Volatility](#)

[Posted: October 28, 2022]

DCNR Leased 176 Acres Of Susquehanna River Submerged Land To SWN Natural Gas Production Company In Susquehanna County For \$704,000



The Department of Conservation and Natural Resources published [notice in the October 29 PA Bulletin](#) that it has leased 176 acres of Susquehanna River streambed to SWN

Natural Gas Production Company in Great Bend Township, Susquehanna County for \$704,000.

The lease allows for the development of oil and natural gas below and between the ordinary low water marks of the Susquehanna River solely by means of directional, including horizontal, drilling on a nondevelopment basis that will not disturb the river or its bed.

[Click Here for a copy of the lease amendment](#). Questions should be directed to the Department's Bureau of Forestry, Minerals Division, (717) 787-2703.

Visit [Explore PA Trails](#) and [Get Outdoors PA](#) for recreation areas near you.

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 This Week:

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 - DEP [Permit Notices -- Oil & Gas Industrial Facilities](#) [PaEN]
 - Senate, House Pass [Massive, 20-Year Taxpayer Subsidies For Natural Gas, Hydrogen And Petrochemical Industries In Hours With No Public Accountability Or Environmental Safeguards](#) [PaEN]
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- [Posted: October 28, 2022]

Pine Creek Headwaters Protection Group: Potential Impacts Of Shale Gas Development Forest Fragmentation On Tioga State Forest Birds

By Dr. Robert M. Ross

The [Pine Creek Headwaters Protection Group](#) is concerned about the ecological integrity of the [Tioga State Forest](#) (TSF), headwaters to much of Pine Creek and its many coldwater streams.

One of those streams with [a High Quality] Special Protection designation is [Baldwin Run](#) [in Tioga County], coursing from the top of

Oak Ridge on the eastern Asaph sector of the TSF in a northeasterly direction until it turns south to meet Marsh Creek near the [Pine Creek Rail Trail](#).

This stream contributes substantially to the coldwater fisheries status of lower Marsh Creek itself, along with Schoolhouse Hollow, Canada Run, Straight Run, and Asaph Run, all contributing to Pine Creek as well.

Last year (PCO, Fall 2021) we reported on avian surveys near extensive gas development areas on Oak Ridge close to Baldwin Run's origin.

Surveys showed a mixed avian community with both generalist and forest-interior species breeding there, a decade after disturbance to the area by gas-development industrialization.

Surveys continue this year in an effort to provide a long-term database to track disturbances to this forest. [[Read the survey.](#)]

Of particular relevance is the work done at Penn State (Barton et al 2016) and elsewhere (Farwell et al 2016) in Pennsylvania's forests addressing this issue.

They found that forest-interior species were greatly reduced in numbers within 250m [meters] of such facilities/ infrastructure/clearings, while generalist (synanthropic) species increased there.

Clearly habitat for our forest specialists is being lost on these fragmented landscapes, with huge acreages being affected in some of these forests.

One fifth of the entire North American breeding population of one of those species, the Scarlet Tanager (see photo of one of these songbirds taken at the site), breeds exclusively in Pennsylvania forests.

Another forest-interior songbird found in the upper Baldwin Run drainage and suffering habitat loss is the Yellow-rumped Warbler (see photo).

Two non-forest generalist species, now expanding in the industrialized forest zones and replacing forest-interior species, include Blue Jay and Barn Swallow (see photos).

These birds highlight ongoing changes to forest communities at the hands of energy development right here in the Pine Creek watershed.

Get into your forest and observe it yourself.



Dr. Robert M. Ross is a retired U.S. Geological Survey Ecologist and can be contacted by sending email to: rmross4@gmail.com.

(Photos: Scarlet Tanager, Yellow-rumped Warbler, Blue Jay, Barn Swallow.)

Literature Cited:

- [Single Point Seasonal Avian Survey For Baldwin Run Headwaters At Sawdust Trail, Tioga State Forest](#): Update 2022, Dr. Robert M. Ross, Retired USGS Ecologist
- Barton, E. P., S. E. Pabian, and M. C. Brittingham. 2016. Bird community response to Marcellus shale gas development. *J. Wildlife Mgmt.* 80(7):1301-1313.
- Farwell, L.S., P.B. Wood, J. Sheehan, and G.A. George. 2016. Shale gas development effects on the songbird community in a central Appalachian forest. *Biol. Conserv.* 201:78-91.

(Reprinted from Pine Creek Headwaters Protection Group Winter [2022-23 Pine Creek Observer](#) newsletter.)

Resource Links:

- DCNR [Shale Gas Monitoring Story Map](#)
- DCNR [Shale Gas Infrastructure Interactive Map](#)
- DCNR [Shale Gas Monitoring](#) webpage

Related Articles - Shale Gas Monitoring:

- [Gov. Wolf Unveils State Forest Action Plan To Address Next 10 Years Of Strategic Initiatives In PA Forests; Shale Gas Development Promotes Forest Fragmentation](#)
- [DCNR Completes Online StoryMap On Monitoring Gas Development Impacts In State Forests](#)
- [DCNR Releases 2nd Monitoring Report On State Forest Shale Gas Drilling](#)
- [DCNR Releases First Report On The Impacts Of Drilling In State Forest Lands](#)

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-- PUC [Approves 9% Increase In The Basic Monthly Bill For Typical PECO Natural Gas Division Customers; On Top Of An 103.2% Increase In Cost Of Natural Gas](#) [PaEN]

-- Ohio River Valley Institute Blog: [Natural Gas Costs Are Principal Driver Of Current Inflation; Increasing Gas Production For Export Also Increases Prices And Volatility](#)

[Posted: October 25, 2022]

Bill Goes To Governor Creating Well Plugging Grant Program; Senate, House Again Fail To Address Woefully Inadequate Conventional Well Plugging Bonding



On October 26, the Senate and House gave final approval to [House Bill 2528](#) (Struzzi-R- Indiana) that would set aside 20 percent of the new federal funding to plug conventional oil and gas wells for a new Orphan Well Plugging Grant Program.

The bill amends language allowed to become law in July in [House Bill 2644-- Act 96](#) to fix significant problems with the grant program that conflicted with the federal Bipartisan Infrastructure Law well plugging program making it totally unworkable.

The new changes also include provisions prohibiting grants going to conventional oil and gas companies that have any unresolved violations of environmental laws and regulations, something missing entirely from the July statute.

The Senate passed House Bill 2528 [by a vote of 47 to 2](#) and Senate changes were concurred in by the House 198-0.

The bill now goes to the Governor for his action.

Ban On Increasing Bond Amounts Remains

In spite of the fact House Bill 2528 amends the same section of law, no changes were made in the provisions of [Act 96 from July](#) that prohibits DEP from increasing well plugging bond amounts for conventional oil and gas operators for 10 years.

That law also makes clear only the General Assembly can increase that amount, not DEP by regulation.

The current \$2,500 per well or \$25,000 blanket bond for an unlimited number of

conventional oil and gas wells is nowhere near the up to \$70,000 or more it may cost taxpayers to plug wells. [Note: The \$70,000 figure comes from House Bill 2528.]

DEP records show the agency has [less than \\$15 per well available](#) to plug the over 100,500 active conventional oil and gas wells that now have permits because of woefully inadequate well plugging bonding requirements. [Read more here.](#)

Conventional oil and gas wells drilled before April 18, 1985, which is most of them, cannot be required to have any well plugging bond by law.

This is all especially troubling because oil and gas well abandonment is pervasive in the conventional oil and gas industry and accelerated during 2022. [Read more here.](#)

The bottomline is state taxpayers are on the hook to pay for over \$5.1 billion in well plugging and cleanup costs, but even that estimate is low.

Related Articles:

-- U.S. Dept. Of Interior [Notified DEP A Republican Bill Allowed To Become Law In July May Block Funding For New Federal Conventional Oil & Gas Well Plugging Program](#) [PaEN]

-- DEP Concerned [About Impact Of New Law Blocking Conventional Oil & Gas Well Bonding On New Federal Well Plugging Funds, Regulating Waste Injection Wells](#) [PaEN]

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

-- DEP [Issued NOV's To Conventional Oil & Gas Companies For Abandoning 55 Wells Without Plugging Them During September Alone, A Dramatic Increase In New Well Abandonments](#) [PaEN]

-- Only 15 Out Of 256 [Conventional Oil & Gas Operators Who Abandoned Wells Without Plugging Them Were Fined By DEP; Small Penalties No Deterrent To Future Abandonments](#) [PaEN]

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-- DEP: [PA General Energy Cited For More Water Pollution Violations, Blocking The Whole Width Of Loyalsock Creek At Gas Pipeline/Water Withdrawal Construction Site In Lycoming County](#) [PaEN]

-- DEP [Permit Notices -- Oil & Gas Industrial Facilities](#) [PaEN]

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 - Ohio River Valley Institute Blog: [Natural Gas Costs Are Principal Driver Of Current Inflation: Increasing Gas Production For Export Also Increases Prices And Volatility](#)
- [Posted: October 27, 2022]

DEP Permit Notices -- Oil & Gas Industrial Facilities



The following DEP notices were published in the [October 29 PA Bulletin](#) related to oil and gas industry facilities. Many of the notices offer the opportunity for public comments.

Land Recycling/Brownfield Cleanups

- **Range Resources Appalachia LLC:** Ogontz Fishing Club Well Site Final Report on remediation of soil contaminated with drilling wastewater in Cummings Twp., Lycoming County. ([PA Bulletin, page 6772](#))
- **Range Resources Appalachia LLC:** Porter Stephen Well Site Final report on remediation of soil contaminated with drilling wastewater in Cogan House Twp., Lycoming County. ([PA Bulletin, page 6772](#))
- **Olympus Energy:** Metis Well Pad Final Report on remediation of soil contaminated with aluminum, arsenic, barium, boron, chromium, copper, iron, lithium, lead, manganese, selenium, strontium, vanadium, zinc, and chloride in Penn Twp., Westmoreland County. ([PA Bulletin, page 6773](#))

Delaware River Port Facility

-- **Energy Transfer Marketing & Terminals:** DEP invites comments on a Air Quality Permit application for a port facility for petroleum product offloading to a pipeline in Tinicum Twp., Delaware County to change the classification of the facility from major stationary source to a minor source. ([PA Bulletin, page 6750](#))

Pipeline Compressor/Pumping Stations/Heaters

-- **Empire Pipeline, Inc.:** DEP proposes to issue an Air Quality Permit for the Jackson Compressor Station in Jackson Twp., Tioga County. ([PA Bulletin, page 6750](#))
-- **Equitrans, LP:** DEP issued conditional Air Quality Approval covering de minimis emissions for a natural gas dehydration unit in Jefferson Twp., Greene County. ([PA Bulletin, page 6777](#))

Waste Facility Permits

-- **Range Resources Appalachia LLC:** DEP accepting comments on Waste Permit Application for Water, Wastewater Storage Impoundment in Amwell Twp., Washington County. ([PA Bulletin, page 6747](#))
-- **CNX Gas Company LLC:** DEP accepting comments on Waste Permit Application for Water, Wastewater Storage Impoundment in South Franklin Twp., Washington County. ([PA Bulletin, page 6748](#))
-- **CNX Gas Company LLC:** DEP accepting comments on Waste Permit Application for Water, Wastewater Storage Impoundment in Findlay Twp., Allegheny County. ([PA Bulletin, page 6748](#))
-- **EPP Renewable Energy LLC:** DEP determination of applicability for WMGM055 General Permit for landfill gas generated by decomposition of waste in Hopewell Twp., Cumberland County. ([PA Bulletin, page 6748](#))

Chapter 105 Encroachment Permits

-- **Chesapeake Appalachia LLC:** DEP invites comments on an Environmental Assessment for the Arch Floodplain Restoration Project for the purpose of constructing a well pad in Sweden Twp., Potter County. ([PA Bulletin, page 6760](#))

Erosion & Sedimentation Permits

-- **Cottera Energy Inc.:** DEP issued Chapter 102 permit for a project impacting East Branch Field Brook and Field Brook in Lathrop Twp., Susquehanna County. ([PA Bulletin, page 6780](#))
-- **Appalachia Midstream Services, LLC:** DEP issued Chapter 102 permit for a project impacting Tuscarora Creek in Tuscarora Twp., Bradford County. ([PA Bulletin, page 6780](#))
-- **Seneca Resources Co. LLC:** DEP issued Chapter 102 permit for a project impacting Baldwin Run (High Quality), Marsh Creek in Delmar Twp., Tioga County. ([PA Bulletin, page 6781](#))
-- **Seneca Resources Co. LLC:** DEP issued Chapter 102 permit for a project impacting Right Straight Run (High Quality), Canada Run, Straight Run (High Quality), Marsh Creek in Chatham, Delmar and Shippen Townships, Tioga County. ([PA Bulletin, page 6781](#))

Oil & Gas Well Drilling Permits [10.21.22]*

-- **Last Week - Permits:** DEP issued 0 conventional and 10 unconventional
-- **Year To Date - Permits:** DEP issued 237 conventional and 612 unconventional
-- **Year To Date - Wells Drilled:** 186 conventional and 462 unconventional
-- **Year To Date - NOV's Issued:** 3,962 conventional and 939 unconventional

[*DEP's Weekly Oil & Gas Program Workload Report](#)

DEP Issued These New Oil & Gas Permits [10.17.22 to 10.23.22]*

- Beaver County, Independence Twp.: Range Resources Appalachia LLC (6) Unconventional
- Bradford County, Wilmot Twp.: Chesapeake Appalachia LLC: (1) Unconventional
- Clearfield County, Girard Twp.: PPG OPER LLC: (2) Unconventional
- Lycoming County, Gamble Twp.: Inflection Energy (PA) LLC: (1) Unconventional

[*Click Here to find oil and gas well permits recently issued near you](#)

Sign Up! DEP eNotice: The Only Way You'll Know When Applications Come In To DEP

Did you know DEP can send you email notices when permit applications are submitted to DEP in your community?

This is the only way you can get notified of when oil and gas-related permits are submitted to DEP.

You'll also get notice of new technical guidance documents and regulations.

[Click Here to sign up for DEP's eNOTICE today!](#)

Previous Articles - DEP Oil & Gas Industrial Facility Notices:

- [DEP Permit Notices - Oil & Gas Industrial Facilities](#) [10.28.22]
- [DEP/SRBC Permit Notices -- Oil & Gas Industrial Facilities](#) [10.21.22]
- [DEP Permit Notices -- Oil & Gas Industrial Facilities](#) [10.14.22]
- [DEP Permit Notices -- Oil & Gas Industrial Facilities](#) [10.7.22]
- [DEP/SRBC Permit Notices -- Oil & Gas Industrial Facilities](#) [9.30.22]
- [DEP Permit Notices -- Oil & Gas Industrial Facilities](#) [9.23.22]
- [DEP Permit Notices -- Oil & Gas Industrial Facilities](#) [9.16.22]
- [DEP Permit Notices -- Oil & Gas Industrial Facilities](#) [9.9.22]
- [DEP Permit Notices -- Oil & Gas Industrial Facilities](#) [9.3.22]

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[Posted: October 28, 2022]

A Study Finding Microplastics In 100% Of Exceptional Value, High Quality, Class A Trout Streams Sampled In PA Is Disturbing To Wildlife Advocates



On October 26, the PennEnvironment Research & Policy Center [released a study finding 100 percent](#) of the 50 water samples from Exceptional Value, High Quality, and Class A Cold Water Trout Fishing streams contained microplastics.

“Our society’s addiction to single-use plastic products is polluting our waterways and threatening our health,” said PennEnvironment Zero Waste Advocate Faran Savitz. “Pennsylvania communities should act quickly to stem the tide of plastic pollution by passing local

bans and other restrictions on bags, polystyrene foam, bottles, utensils and more.”

The project took samples from the identified waterways from winter 2021 through spring 2022 and tested them for four types of microplastic pollution:

- Fibers: primarily from clothing and textiles;
- Fragments: primarily from harder plastics or plastic feedstock;
- Film: primarily from bags and flexible plastic packaging;
- Beads: primarily from facial scrubs and other cosmetic products.

The results found were troubling:

- 100% of EV, HQ, and Class A Trout streams sampled had microfibers;
- 84% of sites sampled had microfragments;
- 84% of sites sampled had microfilm;
- Only 2% of sites had microbeads.

Activists who have worked hard for decades to improve local waterways, especially the Lackawanna River, expressed dismay at the findings.

“It seems like it never ends,” said Charlies Charlesworth, a member of the state Fish and Boat Commission and past president of the [Pennsylvania Council of Trout Unlimited](#) and quoted

by the Scranton Times. [Read more here.](#)

“We’re killing ourselves with this stuff,” added Bernie McGurl, founder and executive director of the [Lackawanna River Conservation Association](#), and quoted by the Scranton Times. [Read more here.](#)

The report said, “It’s clear that the scope of plastic pollution in Pennsylvania extends far beyond what was previously thought. These are the cleanest and best protected waterways in the Commonwealth.

“And while many of the waterways sampled had little to no visual litter at the point of access, our samples found that Pennsylvania’s most pristine waterways continue to be contaminated with plastic pollution.”

The report said in order to address the environmental crisis being caused by our overreliance on plastics, our leaders at the federal, state, and local levels should immediately implement the following policies:

1. Municipalities should pass local bans and other restrictions on hard to recycle single use plastics, such as bags, polystyrene, bottles, straws, and utensils.
2. Cities should develop green infrastructure and stormwater programs to help stem the tide of plastics and microplastics being washed into our waterways and surrounding environment.
3. State legislators should defend against any proposals meant to preempt or restrict the ability of the Commonwealth’s municipalities from implementing local plastic ordinances.
4. The Pennsylvania General Assembly and United States Congress should pass bottle deposit requirements and producer responsibility laws to shift the burden of waste onto those who create the pollution in the first place.
5. The General Assembly should modernize Pennsylvania’s cornerstone recycling law, Act 101, in order to bring the Commonwealth’s waste management into the 21st century.
6. State and local legislators should oppose any proposed subsidies or other incentives that will continue to promote society’s reliance on single use plastics and double down on the fossil fuel-to plastics pipeline.
7. State and federal officials should pass policies that prevent overstock clothing from being sent to landfills so that clothing manufacturers and retailers stop producing more clothing than we could ever need.

[Click Here for a copy of the report.](#)

NewsClips:

- Scranton Times: [Study Finds Microplastic Pollution In NE PA’s Cleanest Waterways](#)
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- [Posted: October 29, 2022]

Scranton Times/Republican Herald Editorial: Legislators Like Plastics, Expect More

This editorial first appeared in the [Republican Herald](#) and [Scranton Times](#) on October 29, 2022--



Few materials are as ubiquitous as plastics, in their many

forms, because the same traits that make them useful make them long-lasting and difficult to reprocess. So they accumulate in the environment, in many ways.

It's hardly surprising that the PennEnvironment Research & Policy Center [found an array of plastic pollutants in all 50 waterways](#) that it tested in Pennsylvania over the past year, including the Lackawanna and Lehigh rivers, Roaring Brook and Green Run.

Locally, all four waterways contained plastics in three of the four categories for which researchers tested: microfibers from textiles; microplastics from harder plastic goods and feedstocks; and microfilm from single-use bags and other packaging.

The researchers did not find microbeads from cosmetic products, which have emerged as a major pollutant around the world.

Although the proliferation of waste plastic is nothing new, the report was alarming because the researchers specifically targeted 50 streams that the state Department of Environmental Protection had categorized as the cleanest and best-maintained waterways across the state.

Activists who have worked hard for decades to improve local waterways, especially the Lackawanna River, expressed dismay at the findings.

"It seems like it never ends," said Charles Charlesworth, a member of the state Fish and Boat Commission and past president of the [Pennsylvania Council of Trout Unlimited](#).

"We're killing ourselves with this stuff," added Bernie McGurl, founder and executive director of the [Lackawanna River Conservation Association](#).

Advocates called for state policy changes to reduce plastic pollution, but it's a particularly heavy lift in Pennsylvania.

For years, the Legislature prevented local governments from banning plastic bags to protect a bag manufacturer in a key legislative district.

Fortunately, it allowed that prohibition to lapse this year and several cities have banned plastic bags or are in the process of doing so. And major retailers, including Wegmans, have eliminated plastic bags in favor of paper or reusable bags.

But the state government not only tolerates plastic pollution, it fosters it by subsidizing plastic manufacturing as a gift to the natural gas industry.

The Legislature has approved about \$1.7 billion in tax credits for a Shell petrochemical refinery in Beaver County that produces plastic pellets from ethane.

A fundamental law of economics is that the more the government subsidizes something, the more it is produced.

Pennsylvanians can expect ever more plastic pollution until the government puts a price on it rather than pays for its production.

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- [Posted: October 29, 2022]

Penn State Research: PFAS 'Forever Chemicals' Persist Through Wastewater Treatment, May Enter Crops

By [Penn State News](#)



PFAS (per-and polyfluoroalkyl substances), a group of more than 4,700 fully synthetic compounds that are widely used in industrial and manufacturing processes and found in many consumer products, persist through wastewater treatment at levels that may impact the long-term feasibility of "beneficial reuse of treated wastewater," according to a [study conducted by researchers at Penn State](#) and recently published in the *Agronomy Journal*.

PFAS, often referred to as "forever chemicals," are used to make fluoropolymer coatings and products that resist heat, oil, stains, grease and water, and are found in a variety of products from clothing and furniture to food packaging and non-stick cooking surfaces.

"PFAS are so pervasive and persistent that they have been found in the environment all over the world, even in remote locations," said [Heather Preisendanz](#), associate professor of agricultural and biological engineering at Penn State. "Unfortunately, these compounds have been shown to negatively impact ecological and human health, particularly because they can bioaccumulate up the food chain and affect development in children, increase risk of cancer, contribute to elevated cholesterol levels, interfere with women's fertility and weaken immune systems."

Because of their wide variety of uses, PFAS enter wastewater treatment plants from both household and industrial sources, said Preisendanz.

Beneficial reuse of treated wastewater is an increasingly common practice in which treated wastewater is used for irrigation and other non-potable purposes.

According to Preisendanz, this practice provides an opportunity for the soil to act as an additional filter for PFAS, reducing the immediate impact of direct discharge of PFAS to surface water, as would typically happen following traditional wastewater treatment.

However, given that the chemical structures of PFAS are difficult to degrade, the risks and potential tradeoffs of using treated wastewater for irrigation practices, especially in the long-term, are not well understood.

"PFAS have been shown to be taken up by crops and enter the food chain when the crops are consumed, so when treated wastewater is used for irrigation activities in agricultural fields, understanding these tradeoffs is of critical importance," she said.

Preisendanz and her colleagues analyzed PFAS concentrations in water that passed through a water reclamation facility.

They collected bi-monthly water samples from fall 2019 through winter 2021 prior to treatment and after treatment. Since the treated water from the wastewater treatment plant is used to irrigate nearby crops, the team also collected tissues from those crop plants, including corn silage and tall fescue, to assess for the presence of PFAS.

The team identified 10 types of PFAS across the site, with average total measured concentrations of 88 ng/L in the wastewater effluent and concentrations as high as 155 ng/L (nanograms per liter) in the downstream monitoring wells.

The conclusions suggest that occurrence of PFAS across the site is nearly ubiquitous, and

that levels increase with the direction of groundwater flow.

“The United States Environmental Protection Agency recently released updated health advisories for two of the most important PFAS — PFOA (Perfluorooctanoic acid) and PFOS (Perfluorooctanesulfonic acid) — such that ‘any detectable level is considered a risk to human health,’” said Preisendanz. “This presents potential challenges for beneficial reuse of wastewater.”

While the groundwater near the spray-irrigation site the team studied is not used for drinking, and not likely to pose a risk to human health in that regard, the team did find several PFAS compounds in crop tissue samples collected at both irrigated and non-irrigated portions of the site.

“This suggests that PFAS may enter the food chain when these crops are fed to livestock,” Preisendanz said, adding that future research is needed to determine potential risks to livestock health and the potential implications of PFAS presence in meat and dairy products, including milk. “Our study results have important implications to ensure that beneficial wastewater reuse activities achieve desired goals to reuse water and nutrients, while simultaneously ensuring PFAS levels are safe from a human health perspective.”

Other Penn State authors on the paper include **Olivia Mroczko**, graduate student in agricultural and biological engineering; **Christopher Wilson**, former graduate student in agricultural and biological engineering; **Michael L. Mashtare**, assistant professor of agricultural and biological engineering; **Herschel A. Elliott**, professor emeritus of agricultural and biological engineering; **Tamie L. Veith**, agricultural engineer, USDA-ARS pasture systems and watershed management research unit; **Kathy J. Soder**, animal scientist, USDA-ARS pasture systems and watershed management research unit; and **John E. Watson**, professor of soil science.

This research was funded, in part, by the Penn State Office of the Physical Plant, the USDA Agricultural Research Service, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, the USDA National Institute of Food and Agriculture and the Penn State Institutes of Energy and the Environment.

(Reprinted from [Penn State News](#).)

NewsClips:

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-- The Allegheny Front: [Group Finds PFAS ‘Forever Chemicals’ Used In Ohio, PA Oil & Gas Wells](#)

-- PA Capital-Star Guest Essay: [State Regulators Must Determine If PFAS ‘Forever Chemicals’ Were Used In Fracking Shale Gas Wells](#) - Clean Air Council

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PUC Approves 9% Increase In The Basic Monthly Bill For Typical PECO Natural Gas Division Customers; On Top Of An 103.2% Increase In Cost Of Natural Gas



On October 27, the Public Utility Commission [approved a rate settlement](#) that would increase the typical monthly charge for PECO Natural Gas Division customers by 9 percent-- from \$95.31 to \$103.88. The increase will show up on bills as an increase in gas delivery charges.

If PECO Gas customers also bought the natural gas they used from PECO, and did not shop for an competitive supplier, they have seen natural gas costs increase of 103.2 percent percent from September 1, 2021 (\$4.0245 Mcf) to [September 1, 2022](#) (\$8.1790 Mcf), according to the Public Utility Commission. [Read more here.](#)

This natural gas price spike is caused by the international energy markets that set natural gas prices, regardless of where it is produced. Those markets have been significantly impacted by the Russian war in Ukraine and the European natural gas crisis.

Visit the [PUC's PAGasSwitch](#) website to learn how you can shop for a competitive natural gas supplier.

Visit the PUC's [Utility Assistance Programs](#) for information on programs available to help customers manage paying utility bills.

The Department of Human Services will announce [PA Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program \(LIHEAP\)](#) applications for 2022-23 season will be accepted starting November 1 through April 28.

[Click Here for the complete PUC announcement on PECO Gas.](#)

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National Fuel Gas Requests PUC To Approve 9.2% Increase In Base Delivery Charge; Separate Cost Of Gas Up 127.8% Since May 2021



On October 28, Erie-based [National Fuel Gas](#) announced it has filed a request with the Public Utility Commission to increase its base delivery rate for natural gas for the average residential customer by 9.2 percent.

If approved by the PUC, this would be National Fuel's first base delivery rate increase in Pennsylvania since 2007.

Rising costs coupled with the need to continue investing in the modernization and safety of National Fuel's distribution system have reached a level where an increase in base delivery rates is now necessary.

"We are proud of our long-standing record as a low-cost service provider, delivering safe, reliable and critical energy to more than 214,000 Pennsylvania customers," said Company President Donna DeCarolus. "While additional investments are required to enhance our system and service, National Fuel customers will continue to benefit from having the lowest delivery rates and access to highly affordable natural gas supplies being produced across the Commonwealth."

The Company also noted the quarterly adjustment for the separate cost for natural gas used by customers, which is not regulated by the PUC, will be decreasing to \$8.7775 per Mcf starting November 1, saving the average customer about \$2.29 per month over the next quarter.

The Company's cost for natural gas, however, has increased dramatically over the last 18 months.

According to the PUC, on May 1, 2021, customers were paying \$3.8520 per Mcf which means the new November 1 rate represents an increase of 127.3 percent. [Read more here.](#)

[Click Here to read the complete National Fuel Gas announcement.](#)

Visit the [PUC's PAGasSwitch](#) website to learn how you can shop for a competitive natural gas supplier.

Visit the PUC's [Utility Assistance Programs](#) for information on programs available to help customers manage paying utility bills.

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 - Public Herald: [Public Records Show PA Has 10,543 Injection Wells Where Conventional Oil & Gas Drilling Wastewater Is Often Used For Enhanced Recovery Of Oil & Gas](#)
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 - A Study Finding [Microplastics In 100% Of Exceptional Value, High Quality, Class A Trout Streams Sampled In PA Is Disturbing To Wildlife Advocates](#) [PaEN]
- [Posted: October 28, 2022]

PA Audubon Council Recognizes DCNR Secretary Cindy Adams Dunn With First Walt Pomeroy Conservation Award

On October 26, the [Pennsylvania Audubon Council](#) presented its Walt Pomeroy Conservation Award to Cindy Adams Dunn, Secretary of the Pennsylvania Department of Conservation and Natural Resources.

The award, a framed limited edition print of a Ruffed Grouse by the acclaimed Pennsylvania artist, [Ned Smith](#), was given in a simple ceremony in the Rachel Carson Office Building.

A small group attended the ceremony including: Lin Pomeroy, Walt's widow, as well as individuals who worked with Walt and were friends of the family over the years.



Leigh Altadonna, President of the Pennsylvania Audubon Council, and Heidi Shiver, Secretary of the Council and President of [Pennsylvania Bird Town](#), presented the award.

This award is built on the tradition created by the Audubon Council of Pennsylvania, to honor individuals who had made important contributions to conservation in Pennsylvania.

Past recipients of the Conservation Award in the 1990s included: Governor Robert P. Casey; Sr., Congressmen Peter Kostmayer and Jim Greenwood; Secretary of the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Resources, Dr. Maurice K. Goddard; and others.

All of these past awards were earmarked by a simple ceremony, not associated with any fundraising event, and for the sole purpose to honor a deserving recipient. Historically the award was in the form of a framed piece of bird art with a simple engraved plaque.

In 2022, the Pennsylvania Audubon Council reestablished the “Walt Pomeroy Conservation Award.”

It is a fitting tribute to honor the memory and legacy of Walt Pomeroy. Walt was a great friend of Audubon here in Pennsylvania as well as throughout the former six-state Audubon MidAtlantic Region.

Walt served Audubon for seventeen years in the 1980s and 1990s. Walt was responsible for the establishment of many of our chapters here in Pennsylvania as well as Delaware, New Jersey, West Virginia, Virginia, Maryland, and Washington, D.C.

Walt provided immeasurable support to chapters and chapter leaders. Walt established Audubon Councils in each of these states. Regular Council meetings were used to help coordinate the chapter network.

Walt was integral to the formal incorporation of the Audubon Council of Pennsylvania and the reestablishment of the Pennsylvania Audubon Council.

Walt led the successful effort to establish the Pennsylvania Audubon state office with the appointment of Cindy Dunn as the first Executive Director of Audubon Pennsylvania.

After his departure from Audubon, Walt continued to serve on the Audubon Pennsylvania Advisory Board. He also served for many years with the various Boards that led to the establishment of the John James Audubon Center in Audubon, Pennsylvania.

Walt also served on the Board of the [Seabird Institute](#) and the [Friends of Hog Island](#), an invaluable Audubon asset.

Walt understood the importance of recognizing the efforts and leadership of individuals who sustained the conservation work critical to us all.

“It is fitting that Pennsylvania Secretary of the Department of Conservation and Natural Resources, Cindy Adams Dunn, is the first recipient of the Pennsylvania Audubon Council Walt Pomeroy Conservation Award,” Altadonna said. “Cindy’s long association with Walt Pomeroy, Appalachian Audubon, our chapters, the Council, and her sterling record of conservation achievement make her an outstanding honoree! She clearly represents the conservation legacy established by Walt Pomeroy that is commemorated in the Pennsylvania Audubon Council’s Walt Pomeroy Conservation Award.”

In an earlier tribute to Walt Pomeroy, Cindy noted that Walt Pomeroy was a friend and a mentor and was the first environmental professional with whom she worked in the beginning of her career in conservation.

Walt’s commitment to respect and engage the grassroots in Audubon made a deep impression with Cindy. He drove around the six-state Audubon Mid-Atlantic region to meet with Audubon chapters and their statewide councils and took time to reach out on the phone with

the volunteer leaders.

Cindy was struck by the way Walt led with his enthusiasm, energy, humorous and positive approach to everyone with whom he worked: “He garnered engagement and commitment from Audubon volunteers and later, watershed organizations.”

Cindy added that: “Over the years, I learned a lot from Walt, but the main thing is that environmental volunteerism is a choice people make and besides understanding the issues and choosing to get active, volunteers need to be engaged and also have some fun!!”

For more information on programs, initiatives, upcoming events and how you can get involved, visit the [Pennsylvania Audubon](#) website. Questions should be directed to Leigh Altadonna, President of the Pennsylvania Audubon Council at paauduboncouncil@gmail.com.
(*Photo: Lin Pomeroy, Ellen Zeph, Leigh Altadonna, Secretary Dunn, Sally Jeffords.*)

Related Article:

-- [In Memoriam: Walt Pomeroy, Environmental, Wildlife & Wilderness Advocate](#)

[Posted: October 26, 2022]

DEP Tours Kettle Creek Stream Restoration Project, Highlights Clinton County Clean Water Action Plan Progress

On October 25, representatives of the Department of Environmental Protection visited a stream restoration project at the Lucky 7 Hunting Club property on [Kettle Creek](#) to view the recently completed work and discuss how it will improve water quality in this Exceptional Value stream as part of [Clinton County's Countywide Action Plan](#) for the Chesapeake Bay.

The project was designed to reduce erosion that threatens property, decrease pollution, and improve aquatic and riparian habitats.

Project partners include the [Clinton County Conservation District](#), [Kettle Creek Watershed Association](#), [Native Creations](#), [Lucky 7 Hunting Club](#), and the [Kettle Creek/Tamarack Sportsmans Club](#).

“This project restored more than 400 feet of eroding streambank in the Kettle Creek Watershed,” said Toby Boyer, watershed specialist with the Clinton County Conservation District, who led the tour. “An estimated 17 tons of sediment per year will be reduced, and this section of stream will provide much needed habitat for trout and other aquatic species.”

The stream channel has been unstable for decades after it was partially relocated into an area lacking bedrock during utility construction in the 1950s.

An estimated 20-30 feet of streambank has been eroded in the past two decades, threatening the hunting club property. A 2017 bank pin study determined the streambank was being lost at a rate of approximately two feet per year.

“The design techniques utilized in this project have been incredibly successful at restoring eroding and degraded streams across our region over the past decade,” said DEP Acting Regional Director for the Northcentral Regional Office Jared Dressler. “DEP remains committed to helping our county and non-profit partners accelerate their efforts to tackle local stream issues and contribute toward the overall restoration of the Chesapeake Bay watershed.”



The project design used mudsill structures, root ball deflectors, bank regrading, and native plantings to stabilize the reconstructed channel, slow water velocity, and allow floodplain access.

Invasive shrubs were also removed and approximately 350 trees covering more than an acre were planted as part of the project.

“‘The Kettle’ has played a significant role in my life,” said Board Chairman of the Kettle Creek Watershed Association Jim Toth. “Following my return from Vietnam, this is the place I came to get away. This watershed has given my family and me so much, and projects like this are a way that the Kettle Creek Watershed Association can help to give back to this place and all of the people who come here to enjoy it.”

“This project is an example of how the power of partnerships and collaboration can benefit our natural resources,” said District Manager for the Clinton County Conservation District Wade Jodun. “The joint effort of various agencies, nonprofits, sportsman's clubs, and volunteers will now benefit the watershed for generations.”

In addition to the project partners listed above, funding was provided by the [Pennsylvania Coldwater Heritage Partnership](#), which is a collaborative effort between DEP, the Fish & Boat Commission, the [Pennsylvania Council of Trout Unlimited](#), and the [Foundation for Pennsylvania Watersheds](#); and by DCNR through the [Community Conservation Partnerships Program](#).

The Clinton County Conservation District, DEP, and PFBC also assisted in the planning and permitting phases of the project.

[Click Here to learn more about County Clean Water Action Plans.](#)

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. [Click Here to sign up](#) for regular updates on Pennsylvania’s progress.

How Clean Is Your Stream?

Check [DEP’s 2022 Water Quality Report](#) to find out how clean streams are near you.

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 Articles:

- Reminder: [Alliance For The Chesapeake Bay First-Ever 24-Hour Volunteer Tree Planting Relay In PA, MD, DC Oct. 28-29](#) [PaEN]
- Stroud Water Research Center: [Sharing Our Knowledge Of Watershed Restoration](#) [PaEN]
- Lebtown.com: [Two Lebanon County Borough Split \\$300,000 In Grants To Restore Stream Damage](#)
- Help Wanted: [Trout Unlimited - PA Abandoned Mine Drainage Project Manager](#)
[Posted: October 25, 2022]

Sen. Gordner Announces \$200,000 Grant For Shamokin Creek Restoration Project In Northumberland County



The [Shamokin Creek Restoration Alliance](#) has been awarded state funding for stream restoration work, according to [Senator John R. Gordner](#) (R-Columbia).

The grant, in the amount of \$200,000, will be used for the initial study and development of a restoration plan for Shamokin Creek. This includes comprehensive studies of flow rates, acid mine drainage and GIS mapping.

“I want to commend the Alliance for seeking to take another step in upgrading the water quality within Shamokin Creek,” said Senator Gordner. “I was pleased to assist them in obtaining these crucial state funds to start that extensive process.”

Shamokin Creek has been plagued by orange deposits of iron for many years. The Alliance seeks to eventually restore the creek to pristine condition.

[How Clean Is Your Stream?

[Check [DEP’s 2022 Water Quality Report](#) to find out how clean streams are near you.]

Related Article:

-- [Final State Budget Includes Nearly \\$700 Million In Funding To Support Local And State Environmental, Recreation Infrastructure Projects!](#)

Related Articles This Week:

-- Stroud Water Research Center: [Sharing Our Knowledge Of Watershed Restoration](#) [PaEN]

-- DEP [Tours Kettle Creek Stream Restoration Project, Highlights Clinton County Clean Water Action Plan Progress](#) [PaEN]

-- Reminder: [Alliance For The Chesapeake Bay First-Ever 24-Hour Volunteer Tree Planting Relay In PA, MD, DC Oct. 28-29](#) [PaEN]

-- PA Parks & Forests Foundation Blog: [What Is A Riparian Forest Buffer And Why Should You Care?](#) - By Teddi Stark, DCNR [Watershed Forestry Program](#) Manager [PaEN]

-- Clean Water [Is Up To You: The Family Forest Carbon Program](#) - By Carol Hillestad for [Brodhead Watershed Association](#), Monroe County [PaEN]

-- Lebtown.com: [Two Lebanon County Borough Split \\$300,000 In Grants To Restore Stream Damage](#)

-- PennLive - Marcus Schneck: [Stream Restoration Projects To Dig Into Potential Opportunities Stream Muck Offers](#)

-- Scranton Times: [Keystone 10 Million Trees Partnership Celebrates 5 Million Trees Planted](#) [Posted: October 27, 2022]

Stroud Water Research Center: Sharing Our Knowledge Of Watershed Restoration

The Chester County-based [Stroud Water Research Center](#) recently partnered with volunteers for two tree plantings, spread the word about agroforestry, and helped water professionals learn about soil health and water quality.

Overlook Park Showcases Sustainable Landscaping

Overlook Park in Lancaster, Pennsylvania, is getting an eco-makeover. Volunteers gathered there on October 18 to add native plants and shrubs to the public space that hosts hundreds of visitors each day.

In the park’s pollinator garden, the volunteers planted Joe Pye weed, boneset, and



Culver's root. They also planted native shrubs in the streamside forest, including buttonbush, winterberry, and possumhaw viburnum.

This is the fourth season volunteers have worked on the site as part of a multi-organization project. The goal is to create an eight-acre riparian forest and pollinator garden near the Little Conestoga Creek, which is part of the Chesapeake Bay watershed.

The forest, garden, and educational signage will show park visitors how proper care of diverse native trees, shrubs, and perennials can beautify open spaces, create wildlife habitat that supports local agriculture, and reduce water pollution in ways that grass lawns and exotic plant species cannot.

"It's a public space, but it's also an inspirational space. We hope that visitors will be inspired by what they see and apply what they learn in their own yards and gardens," says [Lamonte Garber](#), watershed restoration coordinator.

Stroud Water Research Center, Manheim Township, [Lancaster Clean Water Partners](#), and [Alliance for the Chesapeake Bay](#) are leading the project with support from many other organizations: [Chesapeake Bay Foundation](#), Department of Conservation and Natural Resources, [Penn State Agriculture and Environment Center](#), [Lancaster County Conservation District](#), [LandStudies, Inc.](#), and many others.

DCNR is funding the project. Edward Kilbourn is providing additional funding. [Watch Lamonte Garber speak](#) about the project in an ABC27 segment on the park's first volunteer planting in October 2021.

Church Hosts Creation Care Tree Planting

Volunteers planted 40 trees and shrubs on the hillside near [Muddy Run at Ridgeview Mennonite Church](#) in Gordonville, Pennsylvania, on October 12.

[Wills Curley](#), the Stroud Center's watershed restoration program coordinator, was on site to share guidance on proper tree planting and care.

Katie Ruth from [Interfaith Partners for the Chesapeake](#) worked with the Stroud Center and the church to plan the project.

The group focused on flowering and mast producing species like hazelnut, persimmon, and serviceberry.

Church member Heidi Lonkosky led the volunteer effort after creating a pollinator garden next to the hillside and plans to incorporate flowering forbs and understory plants like goldenrod into the recent planting.

The Stroud Center provided the trees and shrubs, which were sourced from Octoraro Native Plant Nursery.

Edible Forests Project Draws International Visitors to the Stroud Center

A group of foresters from 10 states and two continents visited Stroud Water Research Center to learn [about agroforestry](#).

A group of foresters from 10 states and two continents visited the Stroud Center September 24 to learn about research on how agroforestry might benefit the health of freshwater streams while also producing profitable crops.

Lamonte Garber spoke to the group from the Society of American Foresters about the importance of healthy streams and the impact farmers can have on them.

Audrey Epp Schmidt from Propagate Ventures discussed the agroforestry project, which has provided farmers with grants to plant a mix of native fruit and nut trees (as well as ornamentals) to generate income and at the same time enhance soil health and reduce stormwater

runoff to nearby waterways.

Water Pros Learn About Farming for Healthy Streams and Soils

Water professionals on the Christina Basin Task Force annual bus tour, held on September 16 and hosted by [Brandywine Red Clay Alliance](#), joined the Stroud Center's [John Jackson, Ph.D.](#), and [David Wise](#) on a Chester County farm to learn about efforts to improve soil health and water quality in the Red Clay Creek watershed. Restoration activities discussed included reforestation, tree care, cover cropping, and other practices that are part of Stroud Center research trials.

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](#).

How Clean Is Your Stream?

Check [DEP's 2022 Water Quality Report](#) to find out how clean streams are near you.
(*Photo: Sustainable landscaping at Overlook Park in Lancaster.*)

(Reprinted from the [latest UpStream newsletter](#) from Stroud Water Research Center: [Click Here to sign up](#) for your own copy.)

Related Articles:

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- DEP [Tours Kettle Creek Stream Restoration Project, Highlights Clinton County Clean Water Action Plan Progress](#) [PaEN]
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- Help Wanted: [Trout Unlimited - PA Abandoned Mine Drainage Project Manager](#)
[Posted: October 25, 2022]

State Conservation Commission Accepting REAP Farm Conservation Tax Credit Applications Until Nov. 18



On October 27, Agriculture Secretary Russell Redding reminded Pennsylvania farmers to apply for [Resource Enhancement and Protection farm conservation tax credits](#) by November 18 to help install measures improve soil and water quality.

Up to \$13 million in tax credits are available through Pennsylvania's innovative conservation financing program, Resource Enhancement and Protection (REAP).

"Farmers are the original stewards of land and water resources," said Secretary Redding. "REAP tax credits are just one of many ways Pennsylvania invests in our farmers' efforts to grow a sustainable farm economy to feed our future."

The department is accepting applications for REAP tax credits from agricultural producers who implement management practices or purchase equipment aimed at reducing nutrient and sediment runoff, enhancing soil and improving the quality of Pennsylvania's waterways.

This is the fourth year of increased funding and expanded eligibility for the program under the PA Farm Bill. Farmers may receive up to \$250,000 in any seven-year period, and spouses filing jointly can use REAP Tax Credits.

Examples of funded projects include no-till planting and precision ag equipment, waste storage facilities, conservation plans, Nutrient Management Plans. Measures that limit run-off from high animal-traffic areas like barnyards, as well as cover crops and riparian buffers that prevent erosion and keep nutrients out of streams are also common REAP-eligible management practices.

Farmers may receive REAP tax credits of 50 to 75% of the project's eligible out-of-pocket costs. Farmers whose operation is in a watershed with an EPA-mandated Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) can receive REAP tax credits of 90 percent of out-of-pocket costs for some projects.

Nearly 350 farms in 54 counties were approved for REAP tax credits in 2021-2022. These applicants used \$4.75 million in other state conservation funding, including the Environmental Quality Incentive Program, the Chesapeake Bay Program, and Conservation Excellence Grants to pay for conservation projects on their farms.

Since 2007, Pennsylvania has awarded nearly \$134 million in REAP tax credits to more than 10,000 projects.

Improvements from these projects have kept more than six million pounds of nitrogen, 275,000 pounds of phosphorus, and 275,000 tons of sediment out of Pennsylvania streams and rivers and the waterways they feed.

Private investors may also provide capital in exchange for REAP tax credits. Private sponsorship of REAP projects since 2007 has brought the total value to \$415 million.

For more information about REAP, including the 2022-23 application packet, program guidelines and sponsorship process, visit the [Resource Enhancement & Protection Tax Credit Program](#) webpage.

Related Articles This Week:

- Stroud Water Research Center: [Sharing Our Knowledge Of Watershed Restoration](#) [PaEN]
- DEP [Tours Kettle Creek Stream Restoration Project, Highlights Clinton County Clean Water Action Plan Progress](#) [PaEN]
- Sen. Gordner [Announces \\$200,000 Grant For Shamokin Creek Restoration Project In Northumberland County](#) [PaEN]
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- PennLive - Marcus Schneck: [Stream Restoration Projects To Dig Into Potential Opportunities](#)

[Stream Muck Offers](#)

-- Scranton Times: [Keystone 10 Million Trees Partnership Celebrates 5 Million Trees Planted](#)
[Posted: October 27, 2022]

DEP Invites Submission Of Water Quality Data For Stream Redesignation Evaluations In Columbia, Franklin, Fulton, Greene Counties

The Department of Environmental Protection published [notice in the October 29 PA Bulletin](#) inviting comments on stream redesignation evaluations for four streams in Columbia, Franklin, Fulton, Greene Counties.

The streams include--

- **Columbia County:** Lick Run tributary to Roaring Creek
- **Franklin County:** West Branch Conococheague Creek
- **Fulton County:** Big Cove Creek
- **Greene County:** North Fork Dunkard Fork Creek



The Department is seeking information concerning the water quality of these waters to supplement any evaluations that have been or are being performed for potential redesignation as High Quality or Exceptional Value Waters.

Interested persons may submit data using the Department's [online eComment tool](#). Data may also be submitted to ecomment@pa.gov or Mark Brickner, Water Quality Division, Bureau of Clean Water, P.O. Box 8774, Harrisburg, PA 17105-8774.

Data will be accepted through Monday, November 28, 2022. Questions concerning this evaluation can be directed to Mark Brickner at mbrickner@pa.gov or (717) 783-9719.

[Read the entire PA Bulletin notice for more information.](#)

Visit DEP's [Stream Redesignations](#) webpage to learn more about this program.

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: October 28, 2022]

Delaware River Basin Commission Holds Nov. 9 Hearing On Water Requests; Dec. 7 Quarterly Business Meeting



The [Delaware River Basin Commission](#) will hold a hearing on water requests on November 9 and its next quarterly business meeting December 7. Both will be held via Zoom. The November 9 hearing will begin at 1:30. ([formal notice](#)) Items to be heard include 19 draft dockets for withdrawals, discharges and other projects that could have a substantial effect on the Basin's water resources, all of which are listed

below.

The business meeting will begin at 10:30 a.m.

[Click Here for detailed agenda information and instructions](#) on how to join the hearing and meeting.

For more information on programs, initiatives and upcoming events, visit the [Delaware River Basin Commission](#) website. [Click Here](#) to sign up for regulator updates. [Follow DRBC on Twitter](#). [Visit them on YouTube](#).

[Posted: October 27, 2022]

DEP To Host Dec. 1 Public Meeting, Hearing On Proposed MAX Yukon Hazardous Waste Landfill No. 7 In Westmoreland County

On October 28, the Department of Environmental Protection announced it will host a December 1 public meeting and public hearing regarding [MAX Environmental Services, Inc.'s proposed hazardous waste landfill No. 7](#). ([Oct. 29 PA Bulletin, page 6784 formal notice](#))

The new hazardous waste landfill is proposed to be located at MAX's existing Yukon facility.

The meeting will take place from 6:00 to 9:00 p.m. at the Yukon Volunteer Fire Department hall, 124 Highway St, Yukon, Pa. 15698 and will be immediately followed by a public hearing.

DEP has determined the Phase I Exclusionary Siting Criteria application submitted by MAX to be administratively complete. The purpose of a Phase I application is solely to determine whether the proposed site complies with Pennsylvania's exclusionary siting criteria for hazardous waste disposal facilities.

DEP is now conducting a technical review of the application to determine whether the proposed site complies with the relevant regulations.

During the meeting, DEP will describe the application review process, siting criteria, and opportunities for public participation and DEP staff will answer questions from the public.

DEP will then conduct a hearing to receive public testimony for consideration during DEP's review.

Individuals who wish to provide testimony at the hearing are asked to register in advance by contacting RA-EPHWMAXYUKONLF7@pa.gov or 412-442-4203. Registration for the hearing will be taken through 4:00 p.m. the day prior.

Testimony will be limited to three minutes per person for DEP to receive as many comments as possible. All comments, whether provided orally at a hearing or in writing, carry equal weight and consideration before DEP.

DEP will accept written comments until January 20, 2023. Written comments may be submitted electronically to: RA-EPHWMAXYUKONLF7@pa.gov or by mail to: Hazardous Waste Facility Siting Team Leader, Pennsylvania DEP, Bureau of Waste Management, 400 Waterfront Drive, Pittsburgh, Pa. 15222.

If you are a person with a disability wishing to attend the public meeting and/or hearing and require an auxiliary aid, service or other accommodation to participate in the proceedings,



please contact Lauren Camarda at 412-442-4203 or at lcamarda@pa.gov to discuss how DEP may accommodate your needs.

If necessary, you may use the Pennsylvania Hamilton Relay Service by calling (800) 654-5984 (TDD Users) or (800) 654-5988 (Voice users) and request that your call be relayed to Lauren Camarda at 412-442-4203 or at lcamarda@pa.gov.

More information on this proposed project can be found on DEP's [MAX Environmental Services Proposed Hazardous Waste Landfill No. 7](#) 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](#).

[Posted: October 28, 2022]

Clean Air Council Appeals DEP Waste Permit Exemption For Plastics Processing Facility In Northumberland County

On October 25, the [Clean Air Council](#) appealed [a permit waiver for the Encina plastics](#) processing facility proposed for Point Township, Northumberland County to the Environmental Hearing Board.

The [Encina Point Township facility](#), planned to be sited next to the Susquehanna River, would be exempt from the requirement to apply for a waste processing facility permit under the state Solid Waste Management Act.

According to the company, the facility would [process up to 450,000 tons of waste a year](#). An average neighborhood garbage truck holds about 20 tons of waste.

Encina's plastics processing technology is relatively new and called "advanced recycling" by the company. It is actually closer to incineration, according to the Council.

While Encina is not disclosing the details of its process, emissions from plastics processing facilities like the one proposed for Northumberland County may be even more hazardous than those from conventional solid waste incinerators.

In addition to the emissions, the facilities typically generate hazardous ash, which is then shipped offsite for disposal.

Encina is proposing two phases of its Point Township project into a state permit exemption that is only allowed for the second phase: the "advanced recycling" phase.

This exemption could allow Encina to avoid the requirement for a solid waste permit that is intended to protect the community.

The Council said it is premature for the Department of Environmental Protection to grant any exemption for the facility as a whole.

An exemption for Phase 1, which only mechanically processes solid waste, would never be appropriate, according to the Council.

"Encina is trying to fool the public into believing that its unproven plastics processing technology is clean 'recycling'," said Joseph Otis Minott, Clean Air Council Executive Director and Chief Counsel. "DEP shouldn't be compounding the problem by letting the proposed waste processing plant avoid a waste processing permit. Bottom line, Encina is proposing a dirty petrochemical facility that is greenwashing itself as a sustainable business and skirting the permitting process."

"I am normally in favor of recycling as an environmentally sustainable practice but there are just too many unknowns about this unproven technology and the air and water pollution that will be associated with the project for me to support it," said Sandy Field, Lewisburg, PA resident. "Producing these toxic chemicals right next to the river that provides our drinking water just seems like a bad idea."

[Click Here for a copy of the notice of appeal.](#)

[Posted: October 25, 2022]

DEP Urges Residents To Recycle Household Goods, Clothing Which Make Up 10% Of Municipal Waste Stream; Launches Circular Merchant Platform App

On October 24, the Department of Environmental Protection and guests reminded Pennsylvania residents that recycling unwanted, gently used items commonly found in households, such as furniture and clothing, is an effective strategy to curb pollution.

The site of the announcement was in the Midtown neighborhood of Harrisburg at [NEON Vintage & Thrifts](#) located inside the Urban Snob building at 1006 N. Third Street, Harrisburg, Pa. 17102.



"Pennsylvanians have an opportunity around them to curb pollution, and they can start by looking in their closets and around their homes," said Acting DEP Secretary Ramez Ziadeh.

DEP estimates that approximately 10% of the municipal waste stream, or approximately 500,000 tons, is made up of textiles, furniture, and other household goods.

Circular Merchant Platform

"The potential for recovering much of this waste for recycling/reuse is great," said DEP Manager of Division of Waste Minimization and Planning Lawrence Holley.

A resource for Pennsylvanians looking for direction and insight on how to properly recycle their household items is the [Circular Merchant web platform](#) and mobile application developed by the [Pennsylvania Recycling Markets Center](#).

Circular Merchant is an online exchange platform where interested citizens, businesses, or public officials can post recycled items and materials for others who may be interested in acquiring these items.

Circular Merchant is equipped with smart device capabilities such that photos can be immediately uploaded; built-in mapping is available to locate the desired pick-up or send locations; and emails are automatically sent to notify interested parties of postings.

The mobile application is available in mobile app stores. With the intent of finding real-time solutions for recycled materials and items, the Pennsylvania Recycling Markets Center, with funding from DEP, launched the Circular Merchant platform.

"We are now able to benefit from use of Circular Merchant, especially at a time when our economy favors reuse and recycling of goods and materials," said PRMC President and CEO Robert Bylone, Jr.

Shopping At Secondhand Retailers

DEP is urging Pennsylvanians to be mindful of different ways they can reduce, reuse, and recycle household goods and clothing. One consideration could be shopping at secondhand retailers. Secondhand retailers sell previously used items.

In Harrisburg, secondhand retailers [NEON Vintage & Thrifts](#), [Stash Vintage](#), and [The Midtown Dandy](#) offer the following advice to Pennsylvanians who want to support secondhand retailing.

"My favorite part about being a secondhand curator is showing people how much can be found at the thrift store," said Alana Cornish, owner of NEON Vintage & Thrifts. "The thrift store, for some, can be overwhelming and intimidating to shop with aisles upon aisles of merchandise, but if you go in with a plan, it can cut down on much of the anxiety."

"A good starting place when buying secondhand clothing is, to begin with, the basics—having basics in your wardrobe maximizes flexibility when putting together an outfit. Plus, essential items such as jeans, blue or black trousers, and white button-down shirts may be of better quality depending on the date and era of the garment. Typically, the older the date, i.e., 'vintage,' are better quality than big box stores selling fast fashion. A good motto to remember is: 'if it's from the past, it will last,' which cuts down on clothing going to landfills," Cornish said.

"When purchasing secondhand items, concentrate on which type of retailer might be best equipped to help support you," said Anela Bence, owner of Stash Vintage. "If you're looking for something vintage (25 years or older), or from a specific decade with a distinct style, visit a local vintage shop or collaborative. You will save a lot of time going straight to a vendor who specializes in vintage. If you're looking for newer or modern pieces and have the time to do so, check local thrift stores or consignment shops. Apps, an online marketplace specializing in second-hand items, or popular sites like eBay are the way to go when looking for something very specific or items made by a particular designer. They can also be great for online 'window shopping.'"

"Secondhand/vintage shopping is a very environmentally-conscious way to make an impact with your dollars. First off, it keeps discarded clothing out of landfills," said Andrew Kintzi, owner of The Midtown Dandy. "By shopping secondhand, you keep these clothing items in the cycle."

"Mending/repairing is another way to keep your clothing around longer. Adding a patch or mending a torn seam or hole adds a 'battle scar' to your piece, carrying memories along with it. One thing to keep in mind regarding donation - if you donate damaged or stained clothing, the charities will likely just dispose of it. If you can mend/repair clothing, it has a better chance of lasting longer. Tailors/seamstresses are a very inexpensive way to keep your clothing looking great and lasting longer and can also be used as a way to keep your clothing longer if you grow out of them!" Kintzi said.

"Vintage clothing by and large is usually constructed better and tends to last longer. A piece that has been around since, say, the 1970s has obviously stood the test of time and will last for years to come, where as a modern, fast-fashion piece may last a couple wears before it begins to fall apart, resulting in its quick disposal," Kintzi said.

The Midtown Dandy and Stash Vintage are both located at 11 S. Third Street, Harrisburg, Pa., 17101.

Neon Vintage & Thrifts is located inside the Urban Snob building. Urban Snob, a fashion boutique, is owned by fashion maven Dimitra Diggs.

Visit DEP's [Recycling In Pennsylvania](#) webpage to learn more about waste reduction, recycling and reuse.

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: October 24, 2022]

Keep PA Beautiful Litter Hawk Youth Award Program Now Open! Fun, Prizes & Litter Awareness For Grades K To 6



On October 27, [Keep Pennsylvania Beautiful](#) announced it is accepting applications for the [Litter Hawk Youth Award Program](#), a recognition program for students in Kindergarten through 6th Grade, who complete a designated project specific to their grade level.

The deadline to participate is January 31. Winners will be announced in April in time for Earth Day celebrations.

Kids can participate individually or as part of a lesson initiated by schools, home-schools, scout troops, 4-H

clubs, environmental clubs or other organized groups.

The Litter Hawk Youth Award Program is a way for kids to share their hope, optimism and concerns about litter and inspire others to care for their communities through art, words or video.

In response to Pennsylvania's new anti-littering education campaign, [PA Fights Dirty: Every Litter Bit Matters](#), the theme is: Show Us How Every Litter Bit Matters to You.

Projects include:

- **Grades Kindergarten through 4** - Poster
- **Grades 5 and 6** – Essay or video

Two entries will be selected as winners in each grade level. First place will receive a \$50 gift card. First runner-up will receive \$25 gift card. All participants will be recognized with certificates.

The Wolf Administration released its [Litter Action Plan in 2021](#) in response to Keep Pennsylvania Beautiful's 2019 Litter Research Study which found Pennsylvania has more than 500 million pieces of litter on its roadways.

As part of the plan, the state launched a public awareness campaign, PA Fights Dirty: Every Litter Bit Matters, this summer. The campaign calls upon Pennsylvanians to ensure every piece of their trash, regardless of size, is disposed of properly.

"We wanted to help bring awareness to the state's new anti-littering campaign by incorporating it into this years' Litter Hawk theme and have students show us and tell us how every piece of trash matters when keeping our neighborhoods clean and beautiful! Keep Pennsylvania Beautiful believes that engaging youth in protecting the environment not only creates a direct impact on changing behaviors and attitudes, but also influences their friends and

families,” said Shannon Reiter, President of Keep Pennsylvania Beautiful. “We are all responsible for keeping our communities clean and beautiful. This program provides a fun and easy way for students to illustrate respect for the environment and their community.”

The Litter Hawk Youth Award program was created with funding provided by the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection.

For more information, downloadable promotional posters and an online entry form, visit the KPB [Litter Hawk Youth Award](#) webpage. Questions should be directed to Michelle Dunn at mdunn@keeppabeautiful.org or 877-772-3673 ext. 113.

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 until. 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.

(Photo: Poster by Paisun Wilt, Perry County, [2022 Grade 2 First Place Winner](#).)

NewsClips:

- Inquirer - Andrew Maykuth: [Inside A Chester County E-Waste Recycler Where Thousands Of Old Laptops Get Restored Or Destroyed Every Month](#)
- Scranton Times: [Study Finds Microplastic Pollution In NE PA’s Cleanest Waterways](#)
- Republican Herald: [Schuylkill County Participating In National Prescription Drug Take Back Day For 17th Time](#)
- PennLive: [Harrisburg, Dauphin County Fight Illegal Dumping: ‘We Will Find You, And You Will Be Stopped’](#)
- The Guardian: [Only 5% Of Plastic Waste Generated In U.S. Recycled, Report Says](#)

Related Articles:

- [Keep PA Beautiful Announces Winners Of Litter Hawk Youth Art Awards Program](#)
- [Still Time To Register For 2022 Statewide Litter Summit In Lancaster Nov. 1-2](#)

Related Articles This Week:

- DEP [Urges Residents To Recycle Household Goods, Clothing Which Make Up 10% Of Municipal Waste Stream; Launches Circular Merchant Platform App](#) [PaEN]
- Clean Air Council [Appeals DEP Waste Permit Exemption For Plastics Processing Facility In Northumberland County](#) [PaEN]

[Posted: October 27, 2022]

DEP Invites Comments On Substantial Changes To Radon Mitigation Standards Guidance

The Department of Environmental Protection published [notice in the October 29 PA Bulletin](#) of substantial revisions to the [Pennsylvania Radon Mitigation Standards Technical Guidance](#)



[Document](#) outlining how radon mitigators can install mitigation systems.

These standards have not been updated since 1997. Since the PA RMS was published, additional field experience was gained and additional National radon mitigation standards have been published.

This prompted a revision of the PA RMS with changes such as configurations to avoid condensation around the fans; suggested sealants and materials that are not permitted as sealants; active sub-slab depressurization systems can be exhausted at ground level instead of the current roofline level; new electrical information was obtained for low voltage and direct current fan use; recommended materials for exterior pipe vents; and the recommendation to consider use of an active radon warning device on the active sub-slab depressurization piping in addition to the U-tube manometer.

[Click Here for a copy of the proposed revised technical guidance](#) (DEP: 294-2309-002).

Public comments are due November 28. Questions should be directed to Robert Lewis at rolewis@pa.gov or (717) 783-9485.

[Read the entire PA Bulletin notice for more information.](#)

Visit DEP's [Radon Division webpage](#) to learn more about the Radon Program in Pennsylvania.

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: October 28, 2022]

CEOs For Sustainability Nov. 2 C-Suite Summit In Pittsburgh To Highlight Business Action Around Climate Change, Share New Insights On Regional Decarbonization Strategy



On November 2, Pittsburgh-based [CEOs For Sustainability](#) will hold their [annual C-Suite Summit](#) where leaders will highlight their businesses' actions to transition to a clean energy economy and highlight new insights on a framework for multi-sector regional decarbonization.

The in-person event at [Mill 19 at Hazelwood Green](#) (4501 Lytle Street, Pittsburgh, PA 15207) runs from 9:00 a.m. to noon with networking and registration beginning at 8:00 a.m.

This Summit will explore business opportunities in the transition to a clean energy economy, featuring CEOs who have made bold commitments to reduce carbon emissions.

The CEOs for Sustainability network exemplifies business action toward reaching the goals set forth in the 2015 Paris Agreement, which aim to limit global warming to 1.5 degrees Celsius compared to pre-industrial levels.

“Whether it’s to reduce costs and business risks, strengthen relationships with suppliers and other key stakeholders, or drive innovation, businesses increasingly understand the case for carbon-emissions reduction,” said Charles Toran, CEOs for Sustainability co-chair and President of Sci-Tek Consultants. “This year’s C-Suite Summit is an opportunity for executives to hear from their peers who are achieving ambitious goals and gain perspective on what it will take to

decarbonize our region across sectors.”

In recent months, CEOs for Sustainability and Sustainable Pittsburgh solicited input and convened conversations among regional stakeholders on comprehensive, equity-driven, multi-sector decarbonization, including during a session at the Global Clean Energy Action Forum in September.

Emerging from these perspectives comes an effective strategy to build on, guided by three critical lines of effort, in every sector: policies and implementations that achieve scale, meaningful community engagement, and measurement and accountability.

The Summit will explore these and other insights, reveal practical next steps, and provide examples of regional success.

“As the CEO of a mid-size manufacturing company, I understand the challenges our peers face in taking urgent action around climate change,” said Raymond W. Yeager, CEOs for Sustainability co-chair and President and CEO of DMI Companies. “One of the values this summit offers is the ability to hear firsthand from experts who are already doing these things – and the solutions they are implementing to overcome roadblocks.”

The summit also features “sustainability in practice,” a panel discussion where business leaders will share how they are implementing real strategies for achieving their carbon reduction goals.

Following the panel discussion, Summit attendees have the opportunity to see innovation in action through tours of the Carnegie Mellon University-affiliated [ARM \(Advanced Robotics for Manufacturing\) Institute](#) and the [Mill 19 rooftop solar array](#).

Following is a list of speakers and agenda, for planning purposes:

CEOs for Sustainability leadership, including:

- **Co-Chair Charles Toran**, President of Sci-Tek Consultants
- **Co-Chair Ray Yeager**, President and CEO of DMI Companies
- **Joylette Portlock, Ph.D.**, Executive Director, Sustainable Pittsburgh

Panel Discussion: CEOs Leading Forward on Decarbonization

- **Steven Guy**, President & CEO, Oxford Development
- **Antonis Papadourakis, Ph.D.**, President & CEO, LANXESS
- **Raymond Yeager, President & CEO**, DMI Companies

Panel Discussion: Sustainability in Practice

- **Debbie DeLong, Ph.D.**, Marketing Professor, Chatham University
- **Jana Lake, President**, 3R Sustainability
- **Rebecca Lucore**, Director of Sustainability, Corporate Social Responsibility, and Outreach and Engagement, Covestro LLC
- **Julia Saintz**, Sustainability Manager, Evoqua Water Technologies
- **Craig Stevenson**, President, AUROS Group

Advance registration is required to attend the C-Suite Summit and tours; all registrants will be required to complete a Covid 19 attestation form, confirming that they are either vaccinated or that they will test negative 72 hours prior to the event.

More information is available at the [2022 CEOs For Sustainability C-Suite Summit](#) webpage. Deadline to register is noon on October 31.

Related Articles:

- Southwestern PA Energy Efficiency [Roundtable Nov. 15 Webinar: Unraveling The Ins And Outs Of Retro-Commissioning And Saving Energy](#). 11:00 a.m. to Noon.

- PennTAP: [Get A Free Pollution Prevention & Energy Efficiency Assessment For Your PA Manufacturing Business](#) [PaEN]
- PA Solar Center [Nov. 18 Webinar: PA Solar Guidebooks: Helping Landowners and Municipalities Navigate Solar Growth](#) [PaEN]
- Penn State [EarthTalk Oct. 31 On Engineering Enhanced Thin-Film Solar Cells](#), 4:00 p.m.
[Posted: October 27, 2022]

PennTAP: Get A Free Pollution Prevention & Energy Efficiency Assessment For Your PA Manufacturing Business

The Penn State [PA Technical Assistance Program](#) has a limited number of vouchers for free Pollution Prevention & Energy Efficiency Assessments for manufacturers in Pennsylvania.

[A P2/E2 assessment](#) consists of a few hours of conversation/tour on-site, and shortly thereafter we will provide you with a technical report summarizing conservation opportunities, estimated project costs, available funding sources, and the corresponding payback periods.

Reach out to your [regional PennTAP advisor](#) to learn more about our services and get your assessment scheduled today.

[Click Here for more information on this program.](#)

Visit the Penn State [PA Technical Assistance Program](#) website for more information on environmental and energy assistance available to your business.
[Posted: October 27, 2022]



Nominations Now Being Accepted For 2023 Pennsylvania River Of The Year



Pennsylvania organizations are invited to nominate waterways for the [2023 Pennsylvania River of the Year](#).

The nomination period is open through November 18. Selected nominations will be voted on by the public beginning in late November.

“For more than two years we have seen an increasing number of people seeking outdoor recreation opportunities and those new users continue to express a desire to spend more time immersed in nature,” Department of Conservation and Natural Resources Secretary Cindy Adams Dunn said.

“With so many additional people enjoying the outdoors and connecting to the commonwealth’s waterways in droves, recognition of River of the Year continues to grow in value and prestige each year. I look forward to this year’s competition and seeing public support of our beautiful water trails as the people select the Pennsylvania 2023 River of the Year.”

“POWR is excited to announce the opening of the nomination period for the 2023 River of the Year program. The River of the Year program is one way to highlight the opportunities and

challenges facing the Commonwealth's waterways," said POWR representative, Janet Sweeney. "It gives all Pennsylvanians a chance to support their favorite waterway in friendly competition with others across the Commonwealth."

After a waterway is chosen, local groups implement a year-round slate of activities and events to celebrate the river, including a River of the Year Sojourn.

The nominating organization of the winning river will receive a \$10,000 leadership grant to help fund their River of the Year activities.

[Click Here to submit a nomination](#). [Click Here for more information on the program and past winners](#).

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:

-- [DCNR, Partners Celebrate Loyalsock Creek's River Of The Year Honor, PA Rivers Month](#) [PaEN]

-- Exceptional Value Water Quality [Designation, State Forest Land, River Honors Were Not Enough To Protect Loyalsock Creek From Natural Gas Drilling & Pipelines In Lycoming County](#) [PaEN]

-- NO SPECIAL PROTECTION: [The Exceptional Value Loyalsock Creek In Lycoming County Is Dammed And Damned - Video Dispatch From The Loyalsock](#) [PaEN]
[Posted: October 27, 2022]

DCNR Celebrates Induction Of Hemlocks Natural Area, Perry County, Into The Old-Growth Forest Network

On October 25, Department of Conservation and Natural Resources Secretary Cindy Adams Dunn visited [Hemlocks Natural Area](#) in [Tuscarora State Forest](#) to celebrate its induction into the [Old-Growth Forest Network](#).

"I am always in awe when walking among the ancient, old-growth trees across our beautiful state," Dunn said. "I thank the Old-Growth Forest Network for its work to identify and support forests in Pennsylvania and across the U.S. This designation reminds all Pennsylvanians of the forest heritage of Penn's Woods and spotlights the unique and exciting opportunities that are offered for outdoor recreation and experiencing nature in their state parks and forests."

[Hemlocks Natural Area](#) encompasses 120 acres of virgin hemlock forest in a narrow ravine about one-half mile long within the 96,000-acre Tuscarora State Forest in Perry County.

The natural area is located on the lands of the Susquehannock peoples, who inhabited this region near the Susquehanna River for several centuries before European settlement

Many of the hemlocks located in the natural area are believed to be over 225 years old with the largest reaching over 120 feet tall and 50 inches in diameter. Numerous trees are over 24 inches in diameter.



Photo courtesy of Jen Hirt

The forest is comprised of a variety of tree species including hemlock, yellow birch, black birch, red oak, red maple, and chestnut oak.

The Old-Growth Forest Network is a national organization working to preserve ancient forests for the enjoyment of present and future generations.

In counties capable of supporting forest growth, the network identifies at least one forest that will be protected from logging and open to the public.

Founded in 2012 by Dr. Joan Maloof, the network currently has 177 forests in the Network across 32 states. Hemlocks Natural Area joins [25 other Pennsylvania forests](#) already in the network.

“Pennsylvania is leading the nation in the quantity of old-growth forests dedicated to the Network,” Mid-Atlantic Director of the Old-Growth Forest Network Brian Kane said. “With 26 forests now in the national old-growth network, Pennsylvania shows its commitment to the preservation of old-growth forest within its boundaries. The DCNR has shown remarkable support for the protection of these valuable national resources. We could not grow the old-growth network without our volunteer county coordinators, who help us with forest identification and observations. I am extremely grateful for our county coordinator Jen Hirt, who assisted with the Hemlocks nomination in addition to assisting with the [Boyd Big Tree](#) area in Dauphin County this past April.”

John McCaskey and his wife Clara were instrumental in the establishment of the Hemlocks Natural Area. Often leading tours of the area, they played a leading role in the designation of the eastern hemlock as the Pennsylvania State Tree.

They are buried atop the nearby Conococheague Mountain. The National Park Service designated Hemlocks Natural Area as a National Natural Landmark in 1973.

Find out more about [Hemlocks Natural Area](#) on DCNR’s website. [Click Here for information](#) on the other Old-Growth Forest Network sites in Pennsylvania.

Visit [Explore PA Trails](#) and [Get Outdoors PA](#) for recreation areas near you.

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 Article:

-- Pine Creek Headwaters Protection Group: [Potential Impacts Of Shale Gas Development Forest Fragmentation On Tioga State Forest Birds](#) - By Dr. Robert M. Ross [PaEN]

[Posted: October 25, 2022]

Westmoreland Land Trust, WeConservePA Host Site Visit To Ongoing Conservation Of Schwarz Farm

The [Westmoreland Land Trust](#) and [WeConservePA’s](#) Brad Barkdoll partnered to host a site visit of the ongoing [Carl A. Schwarz Memorial Park](#) farm conservation project outside of Greensburg, PA.

At this visit, they were joined by Rep. Eric Nelson, Hempfield Township Board of Supervisors members, Murrysburg Council and Environmental Advisory Council members, County Commissioner staff, as well as staff and



affiliates from WLT.

On March 11, 2021, the WLT acquired the 96-acre Schwarz farm on Beech Hills Road in Hempfield Township with the help of funding from Colcom Foundation and Allegheny Foundation, and other supporters.

The farm is located three miles (6 minutes by car) from downtown Greensburg. It will be conserved as a nature and art park, with meadows to provide habitat for pollinator and upland meadow bird species.

The WLT has engaged LaQuatra Bonci to conduct preliminary planning for the future park. This effort will include gathering input from residents of nearby communities and others interested in the project.

For some time the property will only be open to the public during Visitors Days announced on the WLT's website and Facebook page.

For more information on this unique (and ongoing) conservation project, visit the WLT [Conservation of Schwarz Farm](#) webpage.

Visit the [Westmoreland Land Trust](#) website for more information on land conservation in Westmoreland County.

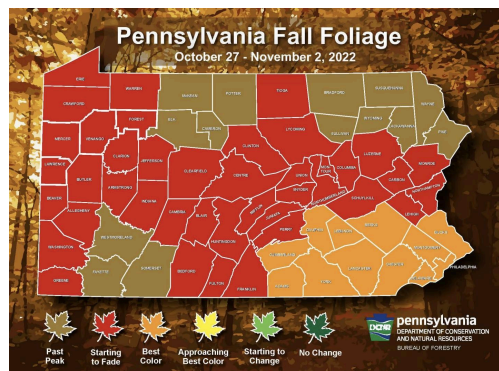
For more information on programs, initiatives and upcoming events, visit the [WeConservePA](#) website, [Click Here](#) to sign up for regular updates from WeConservePA, [Like them on Facebook](#), and [Follow them on Twitter](#). [Click Here](#) to support their work.

The 2023 [PA Land Conservation Conference](#) will be held April 26-28 in Reading. More than [107,000 Pennsylvanians contribute](#) to local land trusts.

(Reprinted from the [WeConservePA website](#).)

[Posted: October 24, 2022]

DCNR Issues 5th Weekly Fall Foliage Report - Sightseers Should Target SE PA For Best Color



On October 27, the Department of Conservation and Natural Resources issued its [fifth Weekly Fall Foliage Report](#) showing the best fall colors are in Southeastern Pennsylvania.

Fall foliage season is winding down but there are still plenty of opportunities to view some beautiful fall shades in the Commonwealth.

Recently warmer weather suspended the leaf color transition in many areas, and oaks have just begun their colorful displays on the ridgetops.

Sightseers should target the southeastern quarter of PA

for best color this week.

[Click Here to read the October 27 to November 2 report](#).

For more information, visit DCNR's [Fall Foliage Report](#) webpage.

[Click Here for prime locations](#) for viewing fall foliage in PA. To make travel arrangements, check out the [VisitPA website](#).

Visit [Explore PA Trails](#) and [Get Outdoors PA](#) for recreation areas near you.

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:

- PA Audubon Council [Recognizes DCNR Secretary Cindy Adams Dunn With First Walt Pomeroy Conservation Award](#) [PaEN]
 - Nominations [Now Being Accepted For 2023 Pennsylvania River Of The Year](#) [PaEN]
 - DCNR: [State, Local Officials Join In Dedication Of Enola Low Grade Rail Trail Bridge In Lancaster County](#)
 - DCNR: [Benjamin Rush State Park To Host Mentored Deer Hunt Oct. 28-29 In Philadelphia](#)
 - WeConservePA: [DCNR Bureau Of Forestry Forest Fridays: How Do Animals Know When To Go? When To Stock Up For The Winter?](#)
 - Republican Herald: [DCNR Shares Info About Catawissa Motorized Recreation Area Plans At Meeting In East Union](#)
- [Posted: October 27, 2022]

Oct. 28 Take Five Fridays With Pam From PA Parks & Forests Foundation



The [October 28 Take Five Fridays With Pam](#) is now available from the PA Parks & Forests Foundation-- First Look At Michaux State Forest Accessible Bird Blinds.

Enjoy the [latest Fall Foliage Report](#) - Fall Colors All Across PA.

Lots of events on the [Foundation's Events](#) webpage and [DCNR's Calendar of Events](#) for activities happening near you.

[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 48 chapters mobilize 65,000 volunteers annually to steward YOUR state parks and forests.

(Photo: View from PA's Highest Point-- Mount Davis in [Forbes State Forest](#), Westmoreland County, by Mike Mann.)

NewsClips:

- Scranton Times: [Keystone 10 Million Trees Partnership Celebrates 5 Million Trees Planted](#)
- LebTown.com: [Swatara State Park To Expand By 136 Acres Thanks To Gift Of Land By Ward Burton Wildlife Foundation](#)
- TribLive - Mary Ann Thomas: [Butler-Freeport 'The Little Trail That Could' Celebrates 30th Anniversary Saturday](#)
- Republican Herald: [DCNR Shares Info About Catawissa Motorized Recreation Area Plans At Meeting In East Union](#)
- Penn State Researchers: [Prescribed Fire Could Reduce Tick Populations, Pathogen](#)

Transmission

-- Chesapeake Bay Journal - Karl Blankenship: [Civilian Conservation Corps: Tough Times Led To Lasting Legacies At Chesapeake Bay Region's Parks](#)

Related Articles:

-- PA Audubon Council [Recognizes DCNR Secretary Cindy Adams Dunn With First Walt Pomeroy Conservation Award](#) [PaEN]

-- Nominations [Now Being Accepted For 2023 Pennsylvania River Of The Year](#) [PaEN]

-- DCNR Leased [176 Acres Of Susquehanna River Submerged Land To SWN Natural Gas Production Company In Susquehanna County For \\$704,000](#) [PaEN]

-- Pine Creek Headwaters Protection Group: [Potential Impacts Of Shale Gas Development Forest Fragmentation On Tioga State Forest Birds](#) - By Dr. Robert M. Ross [PaEN]

-- DCNR: [State, Local Officials Join In Dedication Of Enola Low Grade Rail Trail Bridge In Lancaster County](#)

-- DCNR [Issues 5th Weekly Fall Foliage Report - Sightseers Should Target SE PA For Best Color](#) [PaEN]

-- DCNR: [Benjamin Rush State Park To Host Mentored Deer Hunt Oct. 28-29 In Philadelphia](#)

-- DCNR [Notice Of Revised State Forest Schedule Of Fees](#)

-- Reminder: [Alliance For The Chesapeake Bay First-Ever 24-Hour Volunteer Tree Planting Relay In PA, MD, DC Oct. 28-29](#) [PaEN]

-- WeConservePA: [DCNR Bureau Of Forestry Forest Fridays: How Do Animals Know When To Go? When To Stock Up For The Winter?](#)

-- Oct. 28 [Take Five Fridays With Pam From PA Parks & Forests Foundation](#) [PaEN]

[Posted: October 28, 2022]

Environment & Energy Educational Opportunities For Students & Adults

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

-- DCNR [State Parks Fall Edition Of Their Environmental Education Newsletter Now Available](#) [PaEN]

-- Warren Times: [Residents With Private Water Wells Encouraged To Attend Penn State Extension Program, Have Water Tested](#)

-- Warren Times Editorial: [Take Advantage Of Water Well Clinic, Test Your Water](#)

-- TribLive: [4 Western PA Mayors Sign Monarch Pledge, Volunteers Sought To Help Save Butterflies, Other Pollinators](#)

-- DEP Environmental Justice Newsletter: [Grants Available, Cooking In A Healthy Kitchen, EV Grants Webinar, Help Wanted](#)

-- NextPittsburgh: [Forest Bathing Brings Japanese Wellness Trend To The Pittsburgh Woodlands](#)

-- US [Geological Survey Pennsylvania Waters Fall 2022 Newsletter Now Available](#) [PaEN]

-- Erie Times: [Spooky Species: Don't Let These Real PA Creatures Cross Into The Cryptid Class](#)

-- Keep PA Beautiful [Litter Hawk Youth Award Program Now Open! Fun, Prizes & Litter Awareness For Grades K To 6](#) [PaEN]

-- CEOs For Sustainability [Nov. 2 C-Suite Summit In Pittsburgh To Highlight Business Action Around Climate Change, Share New Insights On Regional Decarbonization Strategy](#) [PaEN]

- PennTAP: [Get A Free Pollution Prevention & Energy Efficiency Assessment For Your PA Manufacturing Business](#) [PaEN]
- South Mountain Partnership [Nov. 4 Conewago Creek Walk & Talk Event, Adams County](#). 3:00 to 4:30 p.m.
- PUC [Holding 'Be Utility Wise' Events Oct. 27 In Berks County, Nov. 9 In Cambria County](#)
- Penn State [EarthTalk Oct. 31 On Engineering Enhanced Thin-Film Solar Cells](#), 4:00 p.m.
- Still Time To Register! [Bucknell University River Symposium. Nov. 4-5 In Lewisburg](#)
- Hawk Mountain Sanctuary [Nov. 5 Eagle Day: A Golden Opportunity To See North America's Largest Bird Of Prey](#)
- Warren Times: [Audubon Nature Center First Sunday Storytime Nov. 6 Is Free](#)
- TribLive: [Fundraiser To Help Vets, First Responders Through Outdoor Learning, Hunting Scheduled In Ross On Nov. 10](#)
- Penn State Institutes Of Energy & The Environment/ PA GreenGov Council Nov. 10 [Webinar: Household Carbon Reduction - Building Sciences Connection](#). 1:00 to 2:00 p.m.
- Phipps Conservatory [Native Plant And Sustainability Conference Nov. 12 In Pittsburgh](#). 9:45 a.m to 3:40 p.m.
- TribLive: [Penn Hills Shade Tree Commission Needs Volunteers For Planting In Allegheny County Nov. 12](#)
- South Mountain Partnership [Nov. 13 Tending Change In Michaux State Forest Walk & Talk Event, Franklin County LTBA](#). Noon to 1:30 p.m.
- Penn State [GIS Day Celebrating A World Of Possibilities Nov. 14-15](#)
- Southwestern PA Energy Efficiency [Roundtable Nov. 15 Webinar: Unraveling The Ins And Outs Of Retro-Commissioning And Saving Energy](#). 11:00 a.m. to Noon.
- PA Municipal League/Sustainable PA [Nov. 15 In-Person/Virtual Fall Sustainability Conference](#), The Inn at Villanova University, Radnor, Delaware County. 8:30 to 4:00 p.m.
- University of Pittsburgh [Prof. Shanti Gamper-Rabindram On America's Energy Future Nov. 15 At Riverstone Books In Pittsburgh](#), 6:00 p.m.
- PA Solar Center [Nov. 18 Webinar: PA Solar Guidebooks: Helping Landowners and Municipalities Navigate Solar Growth](#) [PaEN]
- DCNR [Issues 5th Weekly Fall Foliage Report - Sightseers Should Target SE PA For Best Color](#) [PaEN]
- Penn State Researchers: [Prescribed Fire Could Reduce Tick Populations, Pathogen Transmission](#)
- LancasterOnline: [Millersville University Acknowledges Native Americans' Stewardship Of Local Land](#)
- PA Parks & Forests Foundation Blog: [What Is A Riparian Forest Buffer And Why Should You Care?](#) - By Teddi Stark, DCNR [Watershed Forestry Program](#) Manager [PaEN]
- Hawk Mountain [Sanctuary Announces New Senior Education Internship](#) [PaEN]
- PennLive - Marcus Schneck: [Wildlife Winter Forecast - Squirrels Seem Confused, But Woolly Bears See Mild Season On The Way](#)
- WeConservePA: [DCNR Bureau Of Forestry Forest Fridays: How Do Animals Know When To Go? When To Stock Up For The Winter?](#)
- Williamsport Sun: [Seven Mountains Audubon - A Look At The Many Songs Of The Year-Round Birds In PA](#)
- Nature At Risk: [The American Bald Eagle Flies High Once More](#) - By Carol Hillestad for

[Brodhead Watershed Association](#), Monroe County

- Penn State's Shaver's Creek [Environmental Center Breaks New Ground With Training Venomous Snakes](#)
- Delaware RiverKeeper: [Help Save The Delaware River Atlantic Sturgeon](#)
- York Daily Record: Brian Whipkey: [Bigfoot, Mountain Lions, Other Mythical Creatures: PA Officials Discuss What They Know](#)
- AP: [Poll: Most In U.S. Want More Action On Climate Change](#)
- AP: [UN Report: Climate Pollution Reductions 'Highly Inadequate'](#)
- The Guardian: [UN Finds 'No Credible Pathway To 1.5C In Place'](#)
- Financial Times: [World On Track For Up To 2.6C Temperature Rise By 2100, Reports UN](#)
- AP: [Climate Questions: What's Going On With Climate Change?](#)
- AP: [Climate Questions: How Much Has The Climate Changed Already?](#)
- AP: [Climate Questions: Who Is Most Vulnerable To Climate Change?](#)
- AP: [Climate Questions: Why Do Small Degrees Of Warming Matter?](#)
- AP: [Climate Questions: How Does Carbon Dioxide Trap Heat?](#)
- AP: [Climate Questions: How Do We Know Humans Triggered Warming?](#)
- AP: [Climate Questions: Who Are The Big Emitters Of Greenhouse Gases?](#)

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: October 30, 2022] [PA Environment Digest](#)

DCNR State Parks Fall Edition Of Their Environmental Education Newsletter Now Available

DCNR's Bureau of State Parks distributed the [Fall edition of their Environmental Education newsletter](#) featuring articles on--

- Halloween, Autumn & Geology Teaching Ideas
- Green Jobs Guide For Teachers
- In-Person Professional Development Workshops
- Grants For Educators & Radon Poster Contest
- NEW! State Parks & Explore the Outdoors!
- Diversity, Equity & Inclusion
- PA State Park Updates

[Click Here to read the entire newsletter.](#) [Click Here to sign up](#) for your own copy.

Visit DCNR's [Conservation Education Opportunities](#) webpage for more on programs and opportunities for people of all ages in all regions.

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.

Visit [Explore PA Trails](#) and [Get Outdoors PA](#) for recreation areas near you.

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:

- PA Audubon Council [Recognizes DCNR Secretary Cindy Adams Dunn With First Walt Pomeroy Conservation Award](#) [PaEN]
 - Nominations [Now Being Accepted For 2023 Pennsylvania River Of The Year](#) [PaEN]
 - DCNR Leased [176 Acres Of Susquehanna River Submerged Land To SWN Natural Gas Production Company In Susquehanna County For \\$704,000](#) [PaEN]
 - Pine Creek Headwaters Protection Group: [Potential Impacts Of Shale Gas Development Forest Fragmentation On Tioga State Forest Birds](#) - By Dr. Robert M. Ross [PaEN]
 - PA Parks & Forests Foundation Blog: [What Is A Riparian Forest Buffer And Why Should You Care?](#) - By Teddi Stark, DCNR [Watershed Forestry Program](#) Manager [PaEN]
 - DCNR: [State, Local Officials Join In Dedication Of Enola Low Grade Rail Trail Bridge In Lancaster County](#)
 - DCNR [Issues 5th Weekly Fall Foliage Report - Sightseers Should Target SE PA For Best Color](#) [PaEN]
 - DCNR: [Benjamin Rush State Park To Host Mentored Deer Hunt Oct. 28-29 In Philadelphia](#)
 - DCNR [Notice Of Revised State Forest Schedule Of Fees](#)
 - Reminder: [Alliance For The Chesapeake Bay First-Ever 24-Hour Volunteer Tree Planting Relay In PA, MD, DC Oct. 28-29](#) [PaEN]
 - WeConservePA: [DCNR Bureau Of Forestry Forest Fridays: How Do Animals Know When To Go? When To Stock Up For The Winter?](#)
 - Oct. 28 [Take Five Fridays With Pam From PA Parks & Forests Foundation](#) [PaEN]
- [Posted: October 28, 2022]

PA Parks & Forests Foundation Blog: What Is A Riparian Forest Buffer And Why Should You Care?

By Teddi Stark, DCNR [Watershed Forestry Program](#) Manager

This article first appeared on the [PA Parks & Forests Foundation Blog](#) October 26, 2022--



In Pennsylvania, the Department of Conservation and Natural Resources, along with many watershed groups, non-profit conservation organizations, and other state and local entities are working hard and partnering together to plant more riparian forest buffers.

But what is a riparian forest buffer, and why are we working so hard to get more of them on the landscape

in PA?

Breaking down the term “riparian forest buffer” into the three words that comprise the phrase makes it very simple to understand.

The term Riparian, according to Merriam-Webster, means relating to, living, or located on the bank of a natural watercourse, such as a river. Riparian comes from the Latin riparius, which is the same root word that gives us the term River.

Forest, of course, is a much more familiar word to us all. But to be consistent, it is defined as a dense growth of trees and underbrush covering a large tract.

Putting riparian and forest together, we get trees densely planted over a large tract next to a watercourse. We’re starting to see the picture come into focus.

And finally, we have the term Buffer. While this word has several meanings, we utilize it here in the sense of something that serves as a protective barrier.

To pull it all together, we have trees densely planted over a large tract next to a watercourse that serves as a protective barrier. And that’s it! That’s a riparian forest buffer.

Of course, as with many things, the answer to the question “what is a riparian forest buffer?” can often bring about more questions.

People often wonder why a stream needs to be buffered or protected. What are we protecting it from?

The easy answer is “pollution”, but specifically, in Pennsylvania, we are concerned with protecting our streams and rivers from excess nitrogen, phosphorus, and sediment pollution.

Nitrogen and phosphorus are chemical elements used as fertilizers. These elements are necessary for plant growth and survival. Sediment comes from the erosion of soil- it is dirt displaced.

Nitrogen, phosphorus, and sediment all exist naturally within streams and rivers. However, in excess, they become pollutants, wreaking havoc on the natural balance of these systems.

When streams and rivers have an excess of nitrogen, phosphorus, and sediment, the water becomes dangerous for human consumption, and unsafe for recreational uses as well. It is expensive to treat contaminated drinking water in order to make it safe again.

Excess nitrogen, phosphorus, and sediment are generated through human uses of our lands in developed areas (towns and cities), and on farms, which are all parts of a watershed.

A watershed is an area of land that drains to a specific point. Mountaintops and ridges typically form boundary lines between watersheds. As the water falls on one side of a mountain, that water will all run downhill in one direction. The stormwater that falls on the other side of the mountain will flow in a different direction. Each side of the mountain is part of a different watershed.

At higher elevations, small creeks and streams begin to form as stormwater runs over the land, finds a common low point, and begins flowing together. These small creeks and streams are often referred to as “headwaters”, because they are the “head”, or the top, of a watershed.

Small, headwater creeks and streams continue to flow towards each other, joining together at even lower points on the landscape, forming larger streams. Larger streams flow together, creating bigger rivers. And so and so forth until a river reaches a bay, a gulf, an ocean, or other similar outlets.

The area from the tip of the mountain where the rainwater first fell, to the point where all of the resulting streams and rivers are joined together at the outlet, is referred to as one

“watershed”.

However, our watersheds are not only made up of the network of streams and rivers that branch across our landscapes. Rain and stormwater also must flow over land to get into our waterways. On the land in between streams and rivers are our cities and towns, our homes and roads, and our farm fields and businesses.

These areas of land that drain to our waterways literally shed the stormwater that falls onto the land, downhill, into specific streams and rivers. When we think of it this way, it is clear that the land is an inseparable part of the watershed. The land itself is what is shedding the water into the streams and rivers. Together, these connected areas of land and water make up individual watersheds.

Each river or stream has its own area of land that makes up its watershed. Smaller streams flow into larger rivers, connecting and creating larger watersheds. The larger watersheds are made up of many small watersheds, all linked together.

When our land is shedding water into streams and rivers, the water that is being shed readily picks up excess nitrogen, phosphorous, sediment, and other pollutants from farm fields, cities, and towns.

The stormwater carries that pollution into our waterways, where it becomes concentrated, and begins to cause problems.

All Pennsylvanians need places to live, conduct business, and grow our food. We should utilize best practices to reduce the amount of pollution we create while going about our lives. However, we cannot reasonably expect to entirely eliminate the human-caused excess of nitrogen, phosphorus, and sediment that is ultimately picked up by stormwater runoff.

But we can do our best to protect our streams and rivers from that pollution. Planting riparian forest buffers is a great way to do just that!

Riparian forest buffers intercept water flowing over the land, slowing it down, and soaking up some of the stormwater before it reaches a stream or river.

Tree roots help to trap the sediment in the stormwater, keeping it on the land where it belongs. Trees and shrubs take up and make use of the nitrogen and phosphorus in the stormwater, using those nutrients to grow, and preventing the excess of these elements from reaching the streams and rivers, where they can become problematic pollutants.

Beyond helping humans by reducing water pollution and flooding impacts, riparian forest buffers also keep streams and rivers healthy for their own sake.

Streams and rivers are not just networks of natural channels for water, directing it all to the ocean. Rather, our streams and rivers are ecosystems, teeming with life.

In Penn's Woods, unsurprisingly, our stream ecosystems evolved surrounded by forests. In fact, the basis for the aquatic food web in our streams and rivers is highly dependent on fallen tree leaves.

In a natural system, where a stream is surrounded by a forest, tree leaves fall into the stream in the autumn. The tree leaves, and the algae that grow on the leaves in the water, feed stream bugs. These stream bugs in turn feed fish, amphibians, and reptiles.

Many terrestrial critters then depend upon fish and other stream creatures for food, while also depending on the stream for a source of drinking water. The streams support the forest ecosystem, while forests also support the stream.

Forests are critical to wildlife, and healthy watersheds, healthy streams, and healthy forests are undeniably interconnected. Planting and maintaining riparian forest buffers creates

forested habitats in the most critical places.

Riparian forest buffers serve as natural migration corridors for birds, mammals, reptiles, and amphibians.

For generations, we simply weren't aware of the importance of keeping our streambanks buffered with forests. Many riparian forests were cleared for farming, development, and other human uses of the land.

Now that we have come to know how critical riparian forest buffers are to our own health, and to the health of the wildlife and our environment in general, it is important that we protect existing riparian forest buffers, and plant new riparian forest buffers around streams whenever and wherever possible.

A riparian forest buffer needs to be at least 35 feet wide to help stop pollution. A 50-foot-wide buffer does an even better job of improving water quality and protecting the stream. Wider, 100+ foot buffers next to streams provide the greatest benefits.

We're working to shift the paradigm in Pennsylvania so that future generations expect to see forests around streams, and immediately recognize the important role trees play in clean water. We hope to create a more forested future for everyone.

Do you want to know more about how riparian forest buffers impact our economy and are essential in the creation of the beverages we love?

Watch [Forests, Clean Water, and Craft Beverages](#) on PPFF's Youtube page!

[Visit DCNR's [Forested Buffers Along Waterways](#) webpage to learn more about buffers.]

Teddi Stark is the Watershed Forestry Program Manager with the DCNR Bureau of Forestry and the Western Pennsylvania Conservancy. Teddi has an MS in Park and Resource Management, and 13+ years of experience working on watershed restoration efforts in Pennsylvania. Teddi lives in Harrisburg with her husband and two dogs, with whom she enjoys hiking and traveling.

(Reprinted from the [PA Parks & Forests Foundation Blog](#).)

Related Articles:

- Stroud Water Research Center: [Sharing Our Knowledge Of Watershed Restoration](#) [PaEN]
 - DEP [Tours Kettle Creek Stream Restoration Project, Highlights Clinton County Clean Water Action Plan Progress](#) [PaEN]
 - Reminder: [Alliance For The Chesapeake Bay First-Ever 24-Hour Volunteer Tree Planting Relay In PA, MD, DC Oct. 28-29](#) [PaEN]
 - Scranton Times: [Keystone 10 Million Trees Partnership Celebrates 5 Million Trees Planted](#)
 - Lebtown.com: [Two Lebanon County Borough Split \\$300,000 In Grants To Restore Stream Damage](#)
 - PennLive - Marcus Schneck: [Stream Restoration Projects To Dig Into Potential Opportunities Stream Muck Offers](#)
 - Nominations [Now Being Accepted For 2023 Pennsylvania River Of The Year](#) [PaEN]
 - Oct. 28 [Take Five Fridays With Pam From PA Parks & Forests Foundation](#) [PaEN]
- [Posted: October 27, 2022]

PA Solar Center Nov. 18 Webinar: PA Solar Guidebooks: Helping Landowners and Municipalities Navigate Solar Growth



The [PA Solar Center](#) will host a November 18 webinar on [PA Solar Guidebooks: Helping Landowners and Municipalities Navigate Solar Growth](#) from Noon to 1:15 p.m.

As solar projects continue to multiply across the country, many Pennsylvanians are looking for easy-to-access, practical knowledge on what the solar development process looks like in our state.

That's why the Pennsylvania Solar Center and [Fair Shake Environmental Legal Services](#) have teamed up to develop two Guidebooks for two very important stakeholder groups -- Landowners and Municipal Leaders.

Join us for an early preview of our Solar Guidebooks for Pennsylvania Landowners and Municipal Leaders.

Our Landowner Guidebook and Municipal Guidebook are designed to provide useful information on some of the most important aspects of the solar development process, such as helpful information on the different stages of a solar lease agreement and the required regulatory processes for solar development in Pennsylvania, as well as other important legal, technical, and practical considerations to ensure all stakeholders can share in solar's benefits.

We're going to dig into the details of these Guidebooks with members of the Fair Shake Environmental Legal Services' team, including **Michael Parker**, Executive Director and Managing Attorney, as well as **Jennifer Clark**, PA Staff Attorney.

Michael and Jen have dedicated their time and expertise to research the relevant local, state, and federal requirements as well as conduct a collaborative interview process to ensure each guidebook integrates the perspectives of stakeholders across the solar value chain.

[Click Here to register or for more information.](#)

The [Pennsylvania Solar Center](#) is a nonpartisan, nonprofit effort to raise the awareness of the benefits of solar energy in Pennsylvania. [Click Here to sign up](#) for regular updates.

(Photo: New Bucknell University solar energy facility, [The Daily Item](#).)

Related Article:

-- Penn State [EarthTalk Oct. 31 On Engineering Enhanced Thin-Film Solar Cells](#), 4:00 p.m.

[Posted: October 27, 2022]

Clean Water Is Up To You: The Family Forest Carbon Program

By Carol Hillestad for [Brodhead Watershed Association](#), Monroe County

Helen Keller was a writer, speaker, and advocate for the rights of disabled people. She lost her sight and hearing before she was two years old. She said this about the importance of individual action:

"I am only one, but still I am one. I cannot do everything, but still I can do something...I will not refuse to do the something that I can do."

She wasn't speaking about climate change. But as a general principle, her advice is still sound.

And there are plenty of ways we, regular people, can help in the fight against climate change.

Some things we can do are easy and save money as well; like turning down the



thermostat a few degrees at night, combining errands and visits to friends to save on gas, and sealing cracks and air leaks around windows and doors.

Others take more effort and cash upfront to get bigger, long-term savings, like swapping out your creaky old furnace for a heat pump, or finding out if your place is a good candidate for solar panels.

And if you have 30 acres of forest or more, you have a special way to help.

Forests cover a quarter-billion acres of land in the U.S. A lot of that is state and national forests and parks — huge swathes of woodlands, but family-owned forests account for 39 percent of our country's forested land.

That offers big potential to take advantage of “carbon markets” — if you know how.

Starting from square one is technically challenging, and very time-consuming. You can skip the learning curve, with the [Family Forest Carbon Program](#)-- a complete resource for landowners.

The program provides all the advice and tools you need. Developed by the [American Forest Foundation](#) and [The Nature Conservancy](#), the Family Forest Carbon Program enables you to access carbon markets, putting your forest to work to help slow climate change, while earning income from your land.

Naysayers will tell you it's not a lot of money - and that's true! Nobody is getting rich off the Family Forest Carbon Program, but every family that takes part is helping slow climate change and protecting their kids' future.

If nothing else, you'll be tending your land in a way that protects drinking water!

It can't hurt to find out more.

Start here:

-- [Family Forest Carbon Program](#)

-- Union Of Concerned Scientists: [Climate Disinformation](#)

Visit the [Clean Water Is Up To You](#) webpage for more articles in this series.

Nature At Risk Series

-- Nature At Risk: [The American Bald Eagle Flies High Once More](#) - By Carol Hillestad for [Brodhead Watershed Association](#), Monroe County

Visit the [Nature At Risk](#) webpage for more articles in this series.

For more information on programs, initiatives and other upcoming events, visit the [Brodhead Watershed Association](#) website or [Follow them on Facebook](#). [Click Here](#) to sign up for regular updates from the Association. [Click Here](#) to become a member.

How Clean Is Your Stream?

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

(Photo: Laura & Mike Jackson enrolled 113 acres in the program, [Chesapeake Bay Journal](#).)

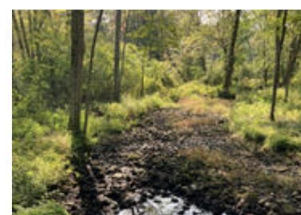
Related Articles:

-- [Family Forest Carbon Program Now Open Across Pennsylvania Provides New Revenue Opportunities For Forest Landowners; 60 Enrolled So Far Covering 10,000 Acres](#) [PaEN]

-- Bay Journal: [Money Grows On Trees For Owners Who Manage Small Forests To Capture Carbon, Fight Climate Change](#) [PaEN]

[Posted: October 27, 2022]

US Geological Survey Pennsylvania Waters Fall 2022 Newsletter Now Available



The [USGS Pennsylvania Water Science Center](#) Fall [2022 Pennsylvania Waters](#) newsletter featuring these articles--

- [Drought Watch Remains For 20 Counties In PA, Lifted For 16](#)
 - USGS [Pennsylvania Groundwater Watch](#) [Adams, Chester, Montgomery, Philadelphia, Pike Counties]
 - USGS [Works With Partners In 15 Cities To Improve Urban Waterways](#) [Philadelphia]
 - Long-Term [Impacts Of Impervious Surface Change, Roadway Deicing Agent Application On Chloride Concentrations In SE PA Suburban Watersheds](#)
 - Flights [Above Mid-Atlantic States Map Geology](#)
 - Hydrogeologic [Study Valmont TCE Superfunding Site, Luzerne County](#)
 - Groundwater [Quality In Selected Stream Valley Aquifers, Eastern U.S.](#)
 - USGS [Education Tool Better Illustrates Role Humans Play In Water Availability](#)
- [Click Here to read the entire newsletter.](#)

Visit the [Pennsylvania Waters Newsletter](#) webpage for past issues and to sign up for your own copy.

For more information on USGS water research in Pennsylvania, visit the [USGS Pennsylvania Water Science Center](#) webpage.

[Posted: October 24, 2022]

Hawk Mountain Sanctuary Announces New Senior Education Internship

On October 27, [Hawk Mountain Sanctuary](#) in Berks County announced it is accepting applicants for a new, fully immersive, residential and nine-month-long [Senior Education Internship](#).

This experience, which includes a monthly stipend, will provide a broad range of competency and skill development in the field of raptor conservation and environmental education.

This longer-term experience will offer unparalleled learning and skill acquisition opportunities in every season, along with shoulder-to-shoulder training with the award-winning staff and exceptional partners associated with the Sanctuary.

“Any graduate of this program will instantly be set apart as a leader in the field of environmental education,” says Sanctuary President Sean Grace.

“Senior Education Interns will not only have a wide range of opportunities to participate in on-site field courses, professional development, networking opportunities, and weekly college-level seminars in spring and autumn, but they will also have a variety of fun outings and adventures,” he adds.

The ideal candidate will hold a degree in environmental science, education, biology, or related field; possess teaching skills; and have experience working with live ambassador animals, preferably raptors.

The position requires an understanding of Hawk Mountain’s raptor conservation science and education activities, as well as enthusiasm for connecting diverse audiences of all ages with Hawk Mountain’s mission.

Excellent communication skills and a passion for nature and environmental education is a must. All candidates must have the ability to hike at least two miles over steep, rocky terrain, to



lift 50 pounds, and have a valid driver's license.

While Hawk Mountain's acclaimed international Conservation Science Training Program has successfully produced the next and the best generation of raptor scientists, the education team believed the program lacked a hands-on and rigorous focus on environmental education and public outreach.

The Senior Education Internship is designed to meet this need.

"The Leadership Team developed this pilot position based on direct experience and careful review. We recognized that education interns require more time to master their training," explains Director of Education Jamie Dawson.

"For instance, education interns often require continuous staff mentoring. It's only as they near the end of their internship that they are fully orientated and able to work independently and with confidence," she says.

The solution is to provide a nine-month-long residential experience for fully vetted individuals with an environmental education background and raptor handling experience.

Joining the staff in March allows for a longer orientation during a slow time of the year, followed by the chance to work with professional educators throughout the spring season.

Summer brings the opportunity to teach daily with two different age groups over the course of eight weeks during the Summer Nature Day Camp, and by this point, interns are more than comfortable working independently and making a major difference with school groups, off-site programs, and wildlife interpretation for the general public during the busy autumn season.

This approach allows the Senior Education Intern to serve as a mentor to the incoming fall class of science trainees before departure, and to assist in all aspects of Sanctuary operations for several months.

The residential experience further allows them to participate in endless learning opportunities afforded by visiting professionals, ongoing field work, and special programs, such as the Raptor Field Techniques course and a wide variety of professional workshops.

Most importantly, the internship will allow the proper amount of time to first learn and implement educational skills, and then to master them with confidence.

To apply or learn more about the internship opportunity, visit the [Hawk Mountain Sanctuary Internship](#) webpage or email Jamie Dawson at dawson@hawkmountain.org.

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.

[Posted: October 27, 2022]

News From PA House & Senate

The Senate and House took their last scheduled actions on legislation for the 2021-22 legislative session.

Although the House comes back to session on November 14 and the Senate on November 15, no further votes are expected in this "lame duck" session after the November 8 election.

The formal end of the session is November 30 when all bills and resolutions die and have to be reintroduced and start over in the new session starting January 1, 2023.

The information you need to follow legislation in the House and Senate- starting with articles and NewsClips from last week--

Environment & Energy NewsClips--

- Senate, House Pass [Massive, 20-Year Taxpayer Subsidies For Natural Gas, Hydrogen And Petrochemical Industries In Hours With No Public Accountability Or Environmental Safeguards](#) [PaEN]
- StateImpactPA: [PA's Natural Gas Industry Set To Benefit From Billions In State Tax Credits](#)
- AP: [PA Lawmakers Send Gov. Wolf Large Package Of Energy Tax Credits](#)
- TribLive Editorial: [State Fines Should Be Higher Than Tax Cuts To Penalize Environmental Leaks](#) [PaEN]
- Republican Herald Editorial: [State Lawmakers Should Adopt Rules That Preclude State Taxpayers From Subsidizing Pollution From Oil & Gas Industry](#) [PaEN]
- Citizens Voice Editorial: [State Insists On Paying Polluters](#) [PaEN]
- PennLive Guest Essay: [Tax Credit Bill Gifts Natural Gas, Dirty Hydrogen With \\$4 Billion In Taxpayer Subsidies](#) - By Patrick McDonnell, PennFuture
- Spotlight PA - Stephen Caruso: [Wolf, PA Lawmakers Look To Push Through Massive Tax Incentives For Hydrogen Production, Natural Gas](#)
- Bill Goes [To Governor Creating Well Plugging Grant Program; Senate, House Again Fail To Address Woefully Inadequate Conventional Well Plugging Bonding](#) [PaEN]
- Senate Committee [OK'd Bills Rebranding Fossil Fuels As 'Low Emission,' Eliminating Incentives For EVs; Fails To End Ban On Raising Conventional Oil & Gas Well Bonding; Reports Out EHB Nominee Sarah Clark](#) [PaEN]
- Senator Yaw: [LNG Exports Critical In Preventing Emissions Backslide](#) [Real Story Is LNG Exports Keep PA Natural Gas Prices High, Which Is Where Industry Wants Them [As Business Media Keeps Reporting](#)]
- DelcoTimes Letter: [Many Questions About Proposed LNG Export Terminal In Chester, Delaware County](#) - PA League Of Women Voters
- TribLive: [Homeowners Brace For Winter As Prices To Heat Homes Skyrocket, Biggest Spike Is For Natural Gas - More Than 34% Increase](#)
- Erie Times: [Fetterman, Dr. Oz Have At Least One Thing In Common To Critics: They've Waffled On Fracking](#)
- Sen. DiSanto [Wants Commonwealth Agencies To Pay Their Fair Share Of Local Stormwater Fees](#)
- Inside Climate News: [PA's Dairy Farmers Clamor For Candidates Who Will Cut Environmental Regulations](#)

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--

Massive Taxpayer Subsidies For Natural Gas, Hydrogen Industries: [House Bill 1059](#) (Hickernell-R-Lancaster) providing \$106.6 million in annual taxpayer subsidies to manufacturing and other businesses that use natural gas and hydrogen in their operations for at least 20 years.

The bill also more than doubles the tax credit for using natural gas to make petrochemicals or fertilizer from natural gas.

Over the next 20 years, taxpayer subsidies for these industries will cost over \$2.1 billion and that's on top of the \$1.5 billion taxpayer subsidies the General Assembly previously adopted for just one plant-- the Shell Ethane Refinery in Beaver County.

[Senate Fiscal Note & Summary.](#) [Read more here.](#)

Well Plugging Bill Grants To Conventional Industry: [House Bill 2528](#) (Struzzi-R-Indiana) would mandate DEP award conventional oil and gas well plugging contracts to Pennsylvania contractors was amended to fix significant problems with the language in the former [House Bill 2644-- Act 96](#)-- to meet the requirements of the new federal conventional oil and gas well plugging program [[Senate Fiscal Note & Summary](#)]. The Committee again failed to address the biggest problem in Act 96, which is to ban DEP from increasing the conventional oil and gas plugging bonding amounts for 10 years. [Read more here.](#)

Philadelphia LNG Study Task Force: [House Bill 2458](#) (White-R-Philadelphia) create a taskforce to study the exportation of liquefied natural gas (LNG) to supply the energy needs of allies around the world and what obstacles are currently preventing Philadelphia from becoming a leader in exporting LNG [[Senate Fiscal Note & Summary](#)]. [Read more here.](#)

Oil & Gas Royalties: [Senate Bill 806](#) (Yaw-R-Lycoming) further providing for disclosures on statements to oil and gas royalty interest owners [[House Fiscal Note & Summary](#)].

Blood Lead Testing For Children: [Senate Bill 522](#) (Baker-R-Luzerne) requiring blood lead level testing in children [[House Fiscal Note & Summary](#)]. [Note: This legislation was first proposed in May 2019. [Read more here.](#)]

Increasing Maximum Weight For Electric Trucks: [Senate Bill 153](#) (Langerholc-R-Bedford) increasing the maximum weight for electric trucks [[House Fiscal Note & Summary](#)].

Adding Coal Refuse Member To MRAB: [House Bill 668](#) (James-R-Butler) adding a member of the coal refuse reclamation industry to DEP's Mining and Reclamation Advisory Board [[Senate Fiscal Note & Summary](#)].

Uniform Construction Code Changes Related To HFCs: [House Bill 2079](#) (Delozier-R-Cumberland) amending the state Uniform Construction Code to allow the use of EPA-approved

refrigerants in place of hydrofluorocarbons (HFCs) [[Senate Fiscal Note & Summary](#)].

Senate, House Bills Moving Last Week

The following environmental and energy bills saw movement last week--

House

Oil & Gas Royalties: [Senate Bill 806](#) (Yaw-R-Lycoming) further providing for disclosures on statements to oil and gas royalty interest owners was amended and reported out of the House Environmental Resources and Energy Committee, referred into and out of the House Appropriations Committee [[House Fiscal Note & Summary](#)] and passed by the House. The Senate concurred in House changes and sent the bill to the Governor for his action.

Increasing Maximum Weight For Electric Trucks: [Senate Bill 153](#) (Langerholc-R-Bedford) increasing the maximum weight for electric trucks was reported out of the House Appropriations Committee [[House Fiscal Note & Summary](#)] and passed by the House without change. The bill now goes to the Governor for his action.

Blood Lead Testing For Children: [Senate Bill 522](#) (Baker-R-Luzerne) requiring blood lead level testing in children was amended and reported from the House Children and Youth Committee, referred into and out of the House Appropriations Committee [[House Fiscal Note & Summary](#)] and passed by the House. The Senate concurred in House changes and sent the bill to the Governor for his action. [Note: This legislation was first proposed in May 2019. [Read more here.](#)]

Diesel Mining Equipment: [Senate Bill 1255](#) (Pittman-R-Indiana) revising the regulation to require oil and oil filters in diesel-powered equipment in underground coal mines was reported out of the House Environmental Resources and Energy Committee and referred to the House Appropriations Committee.

California Car Regulation Repeal: [House Bill 2890](#) (Heffley-R-Carbon) repeal PA California low emission vehicle regulation reported out of the House Environmental Resources and Energy Committee and is now on the House Calendar for action.

Senate

Nominations: The Governor's nomination of Sarah Clark to the [Environmental Hearing Board](#) was reported out of the Senate Environmental Resources and Energy Committee with a favorable recommendation and confirmed by the Senate.

Massive Taxpayer Subsidies For Natural Gas, Hydrogen Industries: [House Bill 1059](#) (Hickernell-R-Lancaster) providing \$106.6 million in annual taxpayer subsidies to manufacturing and other businesses that use natural gas and hydrogen in their operations for at least 20 years. The bill also more than doubles the tax credit for using natural gas to make

petrochemicals or fertilizer from natural gas. The bill now goes to the Governor for his action. [Read more here.](#)

Well Plugging Bill Grants To Conventional Industry: [House Bill 2528](#) (Struzzi-R-Indiana) would mandate DEP award conventional oil and gas well plugging contracts to Pennsylvania contractors was amended to fix significant problems with the language in the former [House Bill 2644-- Act 96](#)-- to meet the requirements of the new federal conventional oil and gas well plugging program.

The Committee again failed to address the biggest problem in Act 96, which is to ban DEP from increasing the conventional oil and gas plugging bonding amounts for 10 years. [Read more here.](#)

The bill was held in Committee after it was amended and then reported out at a second meeting later in the day.

The bill was amended again on the Floor of the Senate and passed [by a vote of 47 to 2](#) and concurred in by the House 198-0. The bill now goes to the Governor for his action. [Read more here.](#)

Philadelphia LNG Study Task Force: [House Bill 2458](#) (White-R-Philadelphia) create a taskforce to study the exportation of liquefied natural gas (LNG) to supply the energy needs of allies around the world and what obstacles are currently preventing Philadelphia from becoming a leader in exporting LNG was reported out of the Senate Appropriations Committee [[Senate Fiscal Note & Summary](#)] and passed by the Senate without changes. It now goes to the Governor for his action. [Read more here.](#)

Adding Coal Refuse Member To MRAB: [House Bill 668](#) (James-R-Butler) adding a member of the coal refuse reclamation industry to DEP's Mining and Reclamation Advisory Board was reported out of the Senate Appropriations Committee [[Senate Fiscal Note & Summary](#)] and passed by the Senate without changes. The bill now goes to the Governor for his action.

Rebranding Fossil Fuels: [Senate Bill 1338](#) (Yaw-R-Lycoming) and [Senate Bill 1339](#) (Yaw-R-Lycoming) which try to rebrand fossil fuels like natural gas, propane into "low emission transportation fuels" and eliminate rebates and incentives for hybrid and electric vehicles were reported out of the Senate Environmental Resources and Energy Committee and are now on the Senate Calendar for action.. [Read more here.](#)

Pollinator Habitat Program: [Senate Bill 1249](#) (Comitta-D-Chester) establishing a Pollinator Habitat Program Fund and Program in PennDOT was Tabled by the Senate.

Bill Calendars

House (November 14): [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 (November 15): [Senate Bill 1331](#) (Yaw-R-Lycoming) would deny counties revenue from the Act 13 drilling impact fee if they ban fracking on county-owned lands. [Read more here](#); [Senate Bill 1338](#) (Yaw-R-Lycoming) and [Senate Bill 1339](#) (Yaw-R-Lycoming) which try to rebrand fossil fuels like natural gas, propane into “low emission transportation fuels” and eliminate rebates and incentives for hybrid and electric vehicles [Read more here](#); [House Bill 2367](#) (Mako-R -Northampton) would limit the issuance of permits for construction of wind turbines that could negatively affect military air space; [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 [Read more here](#); [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 [Read more here](#); <> [Click Here](#) for full Senate Bill Calendar.

Committee Meetings

House

<> [Click Here](#) for full House Committee Schedule.

Senate

<> [Click Here](#) for full Senate Committee Schedule.

Bills Introduced

Require State To Pay Stormwater Fees: [Senate Bill 1360](#) (DiSanto-R-Cumberland) requiring state government to pay municipal stormwater fees ([sponsor summary](#)).

Greenhouse Gas Emission Fee: [House Bill 2907](#) (Rabb-D-Philadelphia) establishing a greenhouse gas emission fee on manufacturers to provide funding to the Whole-Hone Repairs Program.

Benefits Of Nuclear Power: [House Resolution 238](#) (Mehaffie-R-Dauphin) directing the Joint State Government Committee to conduct a ‘holistic study on the benefits of nuclear energy and small modular reactors.

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

November 15 [All Bills Die]

House

November 14, 15, 16 [All Bills Die]

[Posted: October 30, 2022]

Senate Committee OK'd Bills Rebranding Fossil Fuels As 'Low Emission,' Eliminating Incentives For EVs; Fails To End Ban On Raising Conventional Oil & Gas Well Bonding; Reports Out EHB Nominee Sarah Clark

On October 25, the [Senate Environmental Resources and Energy Committee](#) reported out legislation to rebrand fossil fuels as “low emission” vehicle fuels and end state incentives for hybrid and electric vehicles and failed to end the ban on raising conventional oil and gas well plugging bonding for ten years.

The Committee also unanimously voted to report out the Governor’s nomination of Sarah Clark to the [Environmental Hearing Board](#) to the full Senate with a favorable recommendation. The Senate later confirmed her nomination.

The bills include--

-- **Rebranding Fossil Fuels:** [Senate Bill 1338](#) (Yaw-R-Lycoming) and [Senate Bill 1339](#) (Yaw-R-Lycoming) which try to rebrand fossil fuels like natural gas, propane into “low emission transportation fuels” and eliminate rebates and incentives for hybrid and electric vehicles. [Read more here](#).

Sen. Carolyn Comitta (D-Chester), Minority Chair of the Committee, opposed the bills saying the departments of Agriculture and DEP said there are fundamental questions about how the new programs will operate and they would eliminate hybrid and electric vehicle incentives.

The bills were reported out by a vote of 8 to 3 with Republicans and Sen. Boscola (D-Lehigh) supporting.

-- **Conventional Well Plugging Bill:** [House Bill 2528](#) (Struzzi-R-Indiana) would mandate DEP award conventional oil and gas well plugging contracts to Pennsylvania contractors was amended to fix significant problems with the language in the former [House Bill 2644-- Act 96](#)-- to meet the requirements of the new federal conventional oil and gas well plugging program.

The Committee again failed to address the biggest problem in Act 96, which is to ban DEP from increasing the conventional oil and gas plugging bonding amounts for 10 years. [Read more here](#).

The bill was held in Committee after it was amended and then reported out at a second meeting later in the day, passed by the Senate and is now on the Governor’s desk for action.

Info Meeting

Immediately after the Committee business meeting, an information meeting was held on [Senate Bill 1125](#) (Pittman-R-Indiana) creating a Legionnaires’ Disease Drinking Water Risk

Management Program.

[Click Here for videos and more information on the meetings.](#)

[Sen. Gene Yaw](#) (R-Lycoming) serves as Majority Chair of the [Senate Environmental Committee](#) and can be contacted by calling 717-787-3280 or sending email to:

gyaw@pasen.gov. [Sen. Carolyn Comitta](#) (D-Chester) serves as Minority Chair and can be contacted by calling 717-787-5709 or sending email to: senatorcomitta@pasenate.com.

Related Articles This Week:

- DEP: [PA General Energy Cited For More Water Pollution Violations, Blocking The Whole Width Of Loyalsock Creek At Gas Pipeline/Water Withdrawal Construction Site In Lycoming County](#) [PaEN]
 - DEP [Permit Notices -- Oil & Gas Industrial Facilities](#) [PaEN]
 - Senate, House Pass [Massive, 20-Year Taxpayer Subsidies For Natural Gas, Hydrogen And Petrochemical Industries In Hours With No Public Accountability Or Environmental Safeguards](#) [PaEN]
 - Citizens Voice Editorial: [State Insists On Paying Polluters](#) [PaEN]
 - Scranton Times/Republican Herald Editorial: [Legislators Like Plastics, Expect More](#) [PaEN]
 - Bill Goes [To Governor Creating Well Plugging Grant Program; Senate, House Again Fail To Address Woefully Inadequate Conventional Well Plugging Bonding](#) [PaEN]
 - Pine Creek Headwaters Protection Group: [Potential Impacts Of Shale Gas Development Forest Fragmentation On Tioga State Forest Birds](#) - By Dr. Robert M. Ross [PaEN]
 - DCNR Leased [176 Acres Of Susquehanna River Submerged Land To SWN Natural Gas Production Company In Susquehanna County For \\$704,000](#) [PaEN]
 - Public Herald: [Public Records Show PA Has 10,543 Injection Wells Where Conventional Oil & Gas Drilling Wastewater Is Often Used For Enhanced Recovery Of Oil & Gas](#)
 - Penn State Research: [PFAS 'Forever Chemicals' Persist Through Wastewater Treatment, May Enter Crops](#) - By [Penn State News](#) [PaEN]
 - A Study Finding [Microplastics In 100% Of Exceptional Value, High Quality, Class A Trout Streams Sampled In PA Is Disturbing To Wildlife Advocates](#) [PaEN]
 - TribLive: [Homeowners Brace For Winter As Prices To Heat Homes Skyrocket, Biggest Spike Is For Natural Gas - More Than 34% Increase](#)
 - National Fuel Gas [Requests PUC To Approve 9.2% Increase In Base Delivery Charge; Separate Cost Of Gas Up 127.8% Since May 2021](#) [PaEN]
 - PUC [Approves 9% Increase In The Basic Monthly Bill For Typical PECO Natural Gas Division Customers; On Top Of An 103.2% Increase In Cost Of Natural Gas](#) [PaEN]
 - Ohio River Valley Institute Blog: [Natural Gas Costs Are Principal Driver Of Current Inflation; Increasing Gas Production For Export Also Increases Prices And Volatility](#)
- [Posted: October 25, 2022]

The Feds

Articles and NewsClips about federal actions impacting Pennsylvania--

- EPA [Awards \\$34.6 Million In Clean School Bus Grants To PA School Districts](#) [PaEN]
- TribLive: [2 Washington County School Districts Benefiting From EPA Clean Bus Grants](#)
- Help Wanted: US Dept. Of Agriculture [Temporary County Program Technician Located In](#)

Schuylkill County

[Posted: October 30, 2022]

EPA Awards \$34.6 Million In Clean School Bus Grants To PA School Districts

On October 26, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency [Clean School Bus Program](#) rebate competition [awarded nearly \\$34,610,000](#) from the federal Bipartisan Infrastructure Law to 11 school districts in Pennsylvania.



The Pennsylvania school districts include--

- **Bradford County:** Troy Area School District, Rohrer Enterprises Inc., \$2.76 million for seven buses
- **Dauphin County:** Halifax Area School District, Rohrer Enterprises Inc., \$1.97 million for five buses
- **Dauphin County:** Harrisburg City School District, Wolfington Body Company Inc. \$3.95 million for 10 buses
- **Dauphin County:** Steelton-Highspire School District, \$2.58 million for seven buses
- **Lackawanna County:** Scranton School District, Rohrer Enterprises Inc., \$9.87 million for 25 buses
- **Luzerne County:** Greater Nanticoke Area School District, Rohrer Enterprises Inc., \$5.9 million for 15 buses
- **Mifflin County:** Mifflin County School District, Wolfington Body Company Inc., \$790,000 for two buses
- **Potter County:** Northern Potter School District, Rohrer Enterprises Inc., \$790,000 for two buses
- **Tioga/Lycoming Counties:** Southern Tioga School District, Brightbill, M A Body Works Inc., \$30,000 for one bus
- **Washington County:** Washington School District, Navistar Inc., \$3.16 million for eight buses
- **Washington County:** Avella Area School District, Navistar Inc., \$2.76 million for seven buses

Of the 89 school buses that will be purchased in Pennsylvania, nearly all of them will be electric, with 1 new propane bus being added to the fleet. The announcement includes funding for buses and infrastructure for districts in cities like Nanticoke, Pennsylvania.

[Click Here for more information on the grant awards.](#)

“President Biden’s historic Bipartisan Infrastructure Law is accelerating our nation’s transition to electric and low-emission school buses while ensuring a brighter, healthier future for our children,” said EPA Administrator Michael S. Regan. “As many as 25 million children rely on the bus to get to school each day. Thanks to the Biden-Harris Administration, we are making an unprecedented investment in our children’s health, especially those in communities overburdened by air pollution. This is just the beginning of our work to build a healthier future, reduce climate pollution, and ensure the clean, breathable air that all our children deserve.”

“This is an especially important announcement with October being Children’s Health Month,” said EPA Mid-Atlantic Regional Administrator Adam Ortiz. “These rebates will ultimately help protect children’s health by replacing older school buses with newer, cleaner ones, and transitioning to a clean transportation future means cleaner air and less pollution for all of our communities.”

[Click Here to read the complete announcement.](#)

Visit EPA’s [Clean School Bus Program](#) webpage for more information on the program.

NewsClip:

-- Gov. Wolf [Thanks President Biden For Clean School Bus Grant Awards](#)

[Posted: October 26, 2022]

Public Participation Opportunities/Calendar Of Events

[Click Here for a list of public participation opportunities and a calendar of events.](#)

-- DEP [Permit Notices -- Oil & Gas Industrial Facilities](#) [PaEN]

-- DEP To Host [Dec. 1 Public Meeting, Hearing On Proposed MAX Yukon Hazardous Waste Landfill No. 7 In Westmoreland County](#) [PaEN]

-- Delaware River Basin Commission [Holds Nov. 9 Hearing On Water Requests; Dec. 7 Quarterly Business Meeting](#) [PaEN]

-- DEP Invites [Comments On Substantial Changes To Radon Mitigation Standards Guidance](#) [PaEN]

-- DEP Invites [Submission Of Water Quality Data For Stream Redesignation Evaluations In Columbia, Franklin, Fulton, Greene Counties](#) [PaEN]

-- Republican Herald: [DCNR Shares Info About Catawissa Motorized Recreation Area Plans At Meeting In East Union](#)

-- PUC [Notice Extending Comment Period On Use Of Fully Projected Future Test Year Proposed Rulemaking](#)

-- PUC [Seeks Comments On Proposed Settlement With National Gas & Electric LLC Over Sales And Marketing Practices](#)

-- PUC [Notice Seeks Members For PA One Call Damage Prevention Committee](#)

Grants & Awards

[Click Here for grants, awards, recognition programs and contest deadlines.](#)

-- State Conservation Commission [Accepting REAP Farm Conservation Tax Credit Applications Until Nov. 18](#) [PaEN]

-- Nominations [Now Being Accepted For 2023 Pennsylvania River Of The Year](#) [PaEN]

PA Bulletin Public Notices

Highlights of the environmental and energy notices in the [October 29 PA Bulletin](#)--

-- DEP [Permit Notices -- Oil & Gas Industrial Facilities](#) [PaEN]

-- The Environmental Quality Board published [notice in the October 29 PA Bulletin](#) of Final Regulations establishing the Municipal Waste Rural Transfer Facility Permit-By-Rule.

-- The Department of Environmental Protection published [notice in the October 29 PA Bulletin](#) of substantial revisions to the [Pennsylvania Radon Mitigation Standards Technical Guidance Document](#) outlining how radon mitigators can install mitigation systems and inviting comments. [Read more here](#).

-- The Department of Environmental Protection published [notice in the October 29 PA Bulletin](#) inviting comments on stream redesignation evaluations for four streams in Columbia, Franklin, Fulton, Greene Counties. [Read more here](#).

-- The Department of Environmental Protection published [notice in the October 29 PA Bulletin](#) of a December 14 meeting of the [Statewide Water Resources Committee](#) for the purpose of voting on the State Water Plan Update Report.

-- The Department of Conservation and Natural Resources published [notice in the October 29 PA Bulletin](#) that it has leased 176 acres of Susquehanna River submerged lands to SWN Natural Gas Production Company in Great Bend Township, Susquehanna County for \$704,000. [Read more here](#).

-- The Department of Conservation and Natural Resources published [notice in the October 29 PA Bulletin](#) of changes to fees for State Forest camping permits effective November 3, 2022.

-- The Public Utility Commission published [notice in the October 29 PA Bulletin](#) it is extending the comment period on the Use Of Fully Projected Future Test Year Proposed Rulemaking.

-- The Public Utility Commission published [notice in the October 29 PA Bulletin](#) it is seeking members for the PA One Call Damage Prevention Committee.

[PA Bulletin - October 29, 2022](#)

Note: The Department of Environmental Protection published 58 pages of public notices related to proposed and final permit and approval/ disapproval actions in the October 29 PA Bulletin - [pages 6728 to 6786](#).

Sign Up For DEP's eNotice: Did you know DEP can send you email notices of permit applications submitted in your community? **This is the only way you can get notified of when oil and gas-related permits are submitted to DEP.** 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.

NEW! [Allegheny County Health Department Public Comment Notices](#)

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

[Posted: October 28, 2022]

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](#).

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