PA Environment Digest

An Update On Environmental Issues In Pennsylvania
Edited By: David E. Hess
Former Secretary, PA Department of Environmental Protection

Issue #935 Harrisburg, PA June 20, 2022

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LATEST NewsClips

66 New Stories - REAL Environmental & Conservation Leadership In PA







Here are 66 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!

-- Bay Journal: EPA And Farm Bureau Find Common Ground In Pennsylvania - Urge State Lawmakers To Support Chesapeake Bay Cleanup Funding - By Karl Blankenship, Chesapeake Bay Journal

-- DCNR Conservation & Natural Resources Advisory Council Urges Lawmakers To Support Growing Greener III Funding [PaEN]

-- PennFuture Announces Winners Of Celebrating Women In Conservation Awards From Southeast PA [PaEN]

-- Post-Gazette: Can Music Heal Polluted Rivers? Brooke Smokelin Has Dedicated Her Life To Trying

-- DCNR Celebrates French Creek As The 2022 River Of The Year At Paddle Fest Celebration [PaEN]

-- WeConservePA: PA Land Trusts Preserved 208,026 Acres; 107,300 Pennsylvanians Contribute To Land Trusts [PaEN]

-- Dept. Of Agriculture Protects 2,264 Acres Of Farmland In 18 Counties; 613,884 Acres Protected [PaEN]

-- PA Farm Bureau, Sand County Foundation, Partners Now Accepting Nominations For PA Leopold Conservation Award [PaEN]

-- Preparations Underway For Penn State's 2022 Ag Progress Days August 9-11 [PaEN]

-- LancasterOnline: Lancaster County Commissioners Prioritize Environmental Cleanup, Other 'Long-term' Projects For American Rescue Plan Funding

-- American Water Charitable Foundation Accepting Applications For Water And The Environment Grants [PaEN]

-- Inquirer - Frank Kummer: The Schuylkill River Is Clean But Has A Public Relations Problem, Study Finds

-- Schuylkill Action Network Summer Newsletter: Perkiomen Floating Classroom, Farms For Clean Water, Delaware Urban Waters Partnership, Much More

-- Middle Susquehanna Riverkeeper: 8 Floating Classroom Programs Announced For Williamsport

-- TribLive: Westmoreland Land Trust Nature Backpacks Are Ready To Check Out At County Libraries

-- Huntingdon Daily News: Huntingdon Conservation District, County Library Team Up To Teach Youth About Importance Of Healthy Streams

-- Wilkes-Barre Times: Riverfest Offers Educational Fun Alongside Susquehanna River

-- Citizens Voice: People Enjoy Nature, Susquehanna River During 2nd Day Of Riverfest

-- TribLive: VP Harris Visits Pittsburgh, Touts Need For Lead Pipe Removal

-- Post-Gazette: VP Harris Touts White' House's Bipartisan Infrastructure Funding To Replace Lead Water Lines

-- EPA: New Drinking Water Health Advisories Set For 4 PFAS Chemicals; $1 Billion In Bipartisan Infrastructure Law Funding Available For Cleanup [PaEN]

-- DEP Hosts June 28 Hearing On Benner Twp. PFAS Hazardous Site Cleanup Investigation In Centre County [PaEN]

-- Oil & Natural Gas Facility Health Impacts Assessment Bill Introduced In The House [PaEN]

-- Penn State Beaver Seeking Volunteers For June 23 Focus Group On Energy Development, Groundwater Quality & Public Health In Western PA [PaEN]

-- EQB Adopts Part I Of Reg. Reducing Oil & Gas VOC/Methane Emissions; 80% Of Methane Emissions Come From Conventional Oil & Gas Facilities; IRRC Considers July 21 [PaEN]

-- IRRC To Consider EQB Regulation Reducing VOC/Methane Emissions From Unconventional Shale Natural Gas Facilities July 21

-- Post-Gazette - Laura Legere: DEP Splits Long-Stalled Oil & Gas Air Pollution Rule; Rule Loses Roughly 80% Of Reduction Benefit By Excluding Conventional Oil & Gas Sources

-- StateImpactPA: DEP Drops Major Source Of Methane From New Rule Limiting Oil & Gas Facility Emissions

-- PUC Distributes $234 Million In 2021 Revenue From Act 13 Drilling Impact Fee; Represents Lowest Effective Tax Rate On Natural Gas Companies On Record - IFO [PaEN]

-- Scranton Times Editorial: Process LNG Natural Gas Where It's Shipped Not Where It's Taken

Out Of The Ground

-- Appalachian Voices: Advocates Urge Biden To Fill Vacant Director Of Surface Mining Position

-- Inquirer Guest Essay: 4 Tips For Improving Recycling In Pennsylvania - PA Resources Council, PennEnvironment

-- Old Lycoming Township, DEP Highlight Local Recycling Efforts, Illegal Dumping Prevention [PaEN]

-- Williamsport Sun: Old Lycoming Twp Cracks Down On Illegal Dumping

-- PennLive: State Seeks Innovators To Solve Farm Problem - Waste Plastics

-- MCall: Lehigh Valley College Students Leave Piles Of Stuff Behind At End Of School Year; Schools Making Sure It Doesn't Go To Waste

-- DOE Partners With Carnegie Mellon University To Launch The 2022 Global Clean Energy Action Forum In Pittsburgh In September [PaEN]

-- PennDOT Invites Feedback On Components Of Proposed State Plan For National Electric Vehicle Infrastructure Formula Program [PaEN]

-- York Dispatch: Dover Solar Power Project Receives Township Approval, With Conditions

-- York Daily Record: Dover Solar Farm Project Approved After 7 Hearings

-- Scranton Times: Solar Group Looks to Build Solar Farms In Archbald, Scott Twps., Scranton

-- Utility Dive: PJM Proposes 'First-Ready, First-Served' Interconnection Review Process To Clear Renewable Backlog

-- WESA: PennDOT Wants To Install Electric Vehicle Charging Stations Every 50 Miles Along Interstates

-- Scranton Times: Electric Vehicles Long-Term Fuel Price Hedge

-- Rep. Bizzarro: End Gasoline Price Gouging Through New Stop Price Fixing Act Legislation

-- Centre Daily Times: From Climate To Transparency, What Penn State Forward's Board Of Trustees Win Means For Future

-- Post-Gazette - Anya Litvak: Hulking Coal-Fired Power Plants Coming Down In Western PA, Destined For New Life

-- Post-Gazette: Green Tech Company Working With Michael Keaton To Expand Presence In Pittsburgh Beyond Manufacturing

-- Erie Times: Allegheny College, East Stroudsburg University Lab Partner For Statewide Tick Mitigation Study

-- Bike The Brandywine Returns For Its 5th Year On Sept. 17 In Chester County [PaEN]

-- TribLive - Mary Ann Thomas: Trail Along Kiski And Allegheny Rivers To Receive $3.5 Million Boost

-- WHYY: Network Of Philly Walking Groups Prioritizing Self-Care And Community

-- Courier Times: College Settlement Camp In Horsham Celebrates 100 Years Of Giving Kids Outdoor Experiences

-- Appalachian Chapter Audubon Society Offering Full Scholarship To Hog Island Audubon Camp In Maine [PaEN]

-- Seven State Agencies Celebrate Pennsylvania's First Native Species Day [PaEN]

-- PA Master Naturalists: Celebrating PA Native Species Day June 17

-- PennLive - Marcus Schneck: PA Town Pushes Bee City USA To 300 Communities

-- FirstEnergy On Pace To Exceed Pollinator Habitat Development Goal [Including PA]

-- Post-Gazette: Turn Your Lights Out This Week To Help Save The Lightning Bugs

-- Scranton Times: Helping The State Insect - The Firefly

-- TribLive - Mary Ann Thomas: Hays Bald Eagle Juveniles Take Flight, Share The Skies With Young Hawk

-- Warren Times: Observe MAPS Bird Banding At Audubon Community Nature Center

-- Game Commission: Conservation Heritage Museum To Open June 25 At Middle Wildlife Management Area, Lebanon County [PaEN]

-- Four Revolutionary War Era Cannons Unearthed At Thomas P. Bentley Nature Preserve In Chester County [PaEN]

-- Friends Of Allegheny Wilderness Advocates Cancellation Of Tracy Ridge Burn Project To Protect Bat [PaEN]

-- Fast Company: Should We Protect Nature For Its Own Sake? For Its Economic Value? Because It Makes Us Happy? Yes - By Bradley J. Cardinale, Penn State Ecosystem Science & Management

Visit the PA Environment Digest website to learn more.

Going The RIGHT WAY:

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

Going The WRONG WAY:

-- This Week's Examples Of Going The WRONG WAY On Environmental, Energy Issues [Posted: June 19, 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--

-- Who's Protecting Taxpayers? House To Take Up Bill Exempting Conventional Oil & Gas Wells From Plugging Bonds Sticking Taxpayers With $5.1 Billion In Cleanup Liability [PaEN]

-- Post-Gazette Editorial: Republican Lawmakers Poised To Cost PA Billions In Highway Funding At Behest Of Oil & Gas Industry [PaEN]

-- Republican Rep. Metcalfe This Week Began Circulating A Resolution To Impeach DEP Secretary Patrick McDonnell

-- WESA: 1 In 3 PA Drinking Water Systems Exceed New EPA Limits For PFAS 'Forever Chemicals'

-- EQB Adopts Part I Of Reg. Reducing Oil & Gas VOC/Methane Emissions; 80% Of Methane Emissions Come From Conventional Oil & Gas Facilities; IRRC Considers July 21 [PaEN]

-- Post-Gazette - Laura Legere: DEP Splits Long-Stalled Oil & Gas Air Pollution Rule; Rule Loses Roughly 80% Of Reduction Benefit By Excluding Conventional Oil & Gas Sources

-- StateImpactPA: DEP Drops Major Source Of Methane From New Rule Limiting Oil & Gas Facility Emissions

-- Inquirer - Andrew Maykuth: PUC Fines Sunoco's Mariner East Pipeline $51,000 More For Violations In Delaware County

-- Post-Gazette - Anya Litvak: U.S./PA Natural Gas Exports Bind America To The World [And Spiking World Prices]

-- PUC Distributes $234 Million In 2021 Revenue From Act 13 Drilling Impact Fee; BUT - Represents Lowest Effective Tax Rate On Natural Gas Companies On Record - IFO [PaEN]

-- Post-Gazette: Allegheny County Executive Defends Record On Fracking Amid Calls For Drilling Ban In County Parks

-- Inquirer - Andrew Maykuth: A Proposed LNG Natural Gas Plan In Chester Would Be Gigantic And Hardly Anyone Knows About It

-- WHYY: Could Delaware County Get A Major LNG Natural Gas Plant, How Will It Clash With Environmental Justice Goals In Chester

-- Post-Gazette - Salena Zito: Half-Built PA Solar Farm In Cambria County Shows Renewables Aren't Ready For Prime Time

Want to have a positive impact on issues like this? Tell your Senate and House members

they need to act to protect and restore Pennsylvania's environment and support the tens of thousands of Pennsylvanians who do-- not slide backwards.

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

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

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

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

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

-- Oil & Natural Gas Facility Health Impacts Assessment Bill Introduced In The House [PaEN]
-- Who's Protecting Taxpayers? House To Take Up Bill Exempting Conventional Oil & Gas Wells From Plugging Bonds Sticking Taxpayers With $5.1 Billion In Cleanup Liability [PaEN]

-- Post-Gazette Editorial: Republican Lawmakers Poised To Cost PA Billions In Highway Funding At Behest Of Oil & Gas Industry [PaEN]
-- House Environmental Committee Meets June 22 On Bill To Protect Military Airspace From Windmills [PaEN]
-- Senate Environmental Committee Meets June 20 On Bill To Extend Underground Storage Tank Cleanup Programs [PaEN]
-- Republican Rep. Metcalfe This Week Began Circulating A Resolution To Impeach DEP Secretary Patrick McDonnell
-- Altoona Mirror: House Sends Series Of Flooding Bills To Senate [Temporary Solutions At Best]
-- Bay Journal: EPA And Farm Bureau Find Common Ground In Pennsylvania - Urge State Lawmakers To Support Chesapeake Bay Cleanup Funding - By Karl Blankenship, Chesapeake Bay Journal
-- DCNR Conservation & Natural Resources Advisory Council Urges Lawmakers To Support Growing Greener III Funding [PaEN]
-- StateCollege.com: Penns Valley Bridge Highlights Infrastructure Needs Of DCNR's State Parks, Forests
-- LancasterOnline: Sen. Martin Elected Chair Of Chesapeake Bay Commission's PA Delegation
-- Rep. Bizzarro: End Gasoline Price Gouging Through New Stop Price Fixing Act Legislation
-- **June 22--** House Democratic Policy Committee hearing on combating inflation with the Stop Gasoline Price Fixing Act. Room 523 Irvis Building. 9:00 a.m. Click Here to watch online.
-- The Center Square: With Food And Energy Prices High, Few Short-Term Solutions [PA House Hearing]
-- MCall - Ford Turner: PA Farmers Getting Crushed By Record Diesel Prices, Lawmakers Told

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 ----------

-- 66 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]

Take Action Now!
-- Tell Your Legislator NOW To Set Aside $500 Million From Federal American Rescue Funds To Support Local Environmental, State Park & Forest Projects

-- Bay Journal: EPA And Farm Bureau Find Common Ground In Pennsylvania - Urge State

Lawmakers To Support Chesapeake Bay Cleanup Funding - By Karl Blankenship, Chesapeake Bay Journal
-- DCNR Conservation & Natural Resources Advisory Council Urges Lawmakers To Support Growing Greener III Funding [PaEN]
-- StateCollege.com: Penns Valley Bridge Highlights Infrastructure Needs Of DCNR's State Parks, Forests

-- 20th Anniversary Of Quecreek Mine Rescue To Be Celebrated In July In Somerset County [PaEN]

Air
-- EQB Adopts Part I Of Reg. Reducing Oil & Gas VOC/Methane Emissions; 80% Of Methane Emissions Come From Conventional Oil & Gas Facilities; IRRC Considers July 21 [PaEN]
-- Post-Gazette - Laura Legere: DEP Splits Long-Stalled Oil & Gas Air Pollution Rule; Rule Loses Roughly 80% Of Reduction Benefit By Excluding Conventional Oil & Gas Sources
-- StateImpactPA: DEP Drops Major Source Of Methane From New Rule Limiting Oil & Gas Facility Emissions

Allegheny National Forest
-- Friends Of Allegheny Wilderness Advocates Cancellation Of Tracy Ridge Burn Project To Protect Bat [PaEN]
-- Warren Times: Allegheny National Forest Proposes Dewdrop Recreation Area Improvements

Allegheny River
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Alternative Fuel
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-- WESA: PennDOT Wants To Install Electric Vehicle Charging Stations Every 50 Miles Along Interstates
-- Scranton Times: Electric Vehicles Long-Term Fuel Price Hedge
-- EPA Announces Available Funding For Clean School Buses [PaEN]
-- Financial Times: Pentagon Bankrolls Rare Earths Plant As U.S. Plays Catch-Up To China

Awards & Recognition
-- PennFuture Announces Winners Of Celebrating Women In Conservation Awards From Southeast PA [PaEN]
-- DCNR Celebrates French Creek As The 2022 River Of The Year At Paddle Fest Celebration [PaEN]
-- WeConservePA: PA Land Trusts Preserved 208,026 Acres; 107,300 Pennsylvanians Contribute To Land Trusts [PaEN]
-- PA Farm Bureau, Sand County Foundation, Partners Now Accepting Nominations For PA Leopold Conservation Award [PaEN]

-- Courier Times: College Settlement Camp In Horsham Celebrates 100 Years Of Giving Kids Outdoor Experiences

Biodiversity/Invasive Species
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-- Bradford Era: Friends Of Allegheny Wilderness Advocates Cancellation Of Tracy Ridge Burn Project To Protect Bat
-- Seven State Agencies Celebrate Pennsylvania's First Native Species Day [PaEN]
-- PA Master Naturalists: Celebrating PA Native Species Day June 17
-- PennLive - Marcus Schneck: Impact Of Invasive Species Noted On First Pennsylvania Native Species Day
-- FirstEnergy On Pace To Exceed Pollinator Habitat Development Goal [Including PA]
-- PennLive - Marcus Schneck: PA Town Pushes Bee City USA To 300 Communities
-- TribLive: Goats Help Clear Out Noxious Plants Along Allegheny River In Oakmont
-- Bay Journal: 'It's Here To Stay': Lessons From The Frontlines Of The Spotted Lanternfly Battle [PaEN]
-- Post-Gazette: Turn Your Lights Out This Week To Help Save The Lightning Bugs
-- Scranton Times: Helping The State Insect - The Firefly

American Rescue Plan Funding
-- LancasterOnline: Lancaster County Commissioners Prioritize Environmental Cleanup, Other 'Long-term' Projects For American Rescue Plan Funding
-- LancasterOnline: Spreadsheets Gives New Details On Where Lancaster County's American Rescue Plan Money Could Wind Up
-- Wilkes-Barre Times: Municipalities Seek Luzerne County Federal American Rescue Plan Funding For Recreation, Other Projects

Bipartisan Federal Infrastructure Law
-- TribLive: VP Harris Visits Pittsburgh, Touts Need For Lead Pipe Removal
-- Post-Gazette: VP Harris Touts White' House's Bipartisan Infrastructure Funding To Replace Lead Water Lines

Budget
-- Bay Journal: EPA And Farm Bureau Find Common Ground In Pennsylvania - Urge State Lawmakers To Support Chesapeake Bay Cleanup Funding - By Karl Blankenship, Chesapeake Bay Journal
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-- TribLive: Western PA Counties, Municipalities See Bump In Money From Natural Gas Drilling Fees

-- Williamsport Sun: Local Municipalities Receive Over $10 Million In Drilling Impact Fees
-- Bradford Era: McKean County, Municipalities To Receive $1.12 Million From Shale Drilling Impact Fees

Chesapeake Bay
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-- Energy News Network: FERC Proposes Rules Tackling Interconnection Backlog
-- Financial Times: Pentagon Bankrolls Rare Earths Plant As U.S. Plays Catch-Up To China
-- Bloomberg: Texas Power Use Tops All-Time Record As Heat Bakes State
-- CNN: Wind And Solar Power Are 'Bailing Out' Texas Amid Record Heat, Energy Demand
-- Bloomberg Green: Investors Putting Billions Into Climate Tech, Renewables Don't Plan To Stop Now
-- NYT: Republican Drive To Tilt Courts Against Climate Action Reaches A Crucial Moment
-- WPost: String Of Climate Disasters Strike Before Summer Even Starts
-- Bloomberg: Wildfires In U.S. West Match Climate Projections 'Eerily' Well
-- The Guardian: Why Are The World's Heatwaves Getting More Intense?
-- Financial Times: Extreme Weather Wave Heats Northern Hemisphere And Freezes The South
-- Reuters: Biden To Lead Major Economies In Push For More Urgent Action On Climate
-- Bloomberg Green: Tense Mid-Year Climate Talks Raise Concerns Of COP27 Flop
-- The Guardian: Fossil Fuel Firms 'Have Humanity By The Throat,' Says UN Head In Blistering Attack
-- Reuters: UN Chief Says The Dash For New Fossil Fuels Is 'Delusional'
-- WSJ: Energy Price Surge Threatens UN Climate Pledge, Prompting More Investment In Fossil Fuels

Coal Mining
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Compliance Action
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-- Pittsburgh Business Times: Why Greylock Energy Natural Gas Found Opportunity Out West [AG Shapiro Just Charged Greylock With Environmental Crimes]
-- DEP Took Action On 776 Permits, 94% Within Permit Decision Guarantee Deadlines: Conducted 1,458 Inspections Last Week

Conservation Districts
-- Huntingdon Daily News: Huntingdon Conservation District, County Library Team Up To Teach Youth About Importance Of Healthy Streams

-- Help Wanted: Berks Conservation District Urban Resource Conservationist [PaEN]

DCNR
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-- DCNR Names Justin Waid Sinnemahoning State Park Manager
-- June 17 Take Five Fridays With Pam From PA Parks & Forests Foundation [PaEN]
-- DCNR Blog: Be Prepared Outdoors - What To Do When… Nature Calls, Lightning Strikes, Encountering A Rattlesnake, How To Protect Food From Animals
-- Post-Gazette Guest Essay: Swimming Upriver - A Father's Day Story
-- AP: Sanctions Sought Against FBI Over Videos Of Civil War Gold Dig On DCNR State Forest Land

DEP
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-- MCall - Ford Turner: PA Having 'Rolling Outages' Of Diesel Fuel, Makes Move To Allow Sales Of Out-Of-State Fuel
-- DEP Citizens Advisory Council To Hear Update June 21 On Oil & Gas Advisory Board Activities; Discuss Legacy Issues Report; Transition Paper [PaEN]
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-- Old Lycoming Township, DEP Highlight Local Recycling Efforts, Illegal Dumping Prevention [PaEN]
-- Williamsport Sun: Old Lycoming Twp Cracks Down On Illegal Dumping
-- DEP Invites Comments On Proposed Advance Restoration Plan For Trout Run Watershed, Erie County [PaEN]

-- Republican Rep. Metcalfe This Week Began Circulating A Resolution To Impeach DEP Secretary Patrick McDonnell
-- DEP Publishes Revised Residual Waste General Permit WMGR096 - Beneficial Use Of Regulated Fill In June 18 PA Bulletin
-- DEP Posted 99 Pages Of Permit-Related Notices In June 18 PA Bulletin [PaEN]
-- DEP Took Action On 776 Permits, 94% Within Permit Decision Guarantee Deadlines: Conducted 1,458 Inspections Last Week

Delaware River
-- Delaware Currents: PA Portion Of Upper Delaware Blessed With Pristine Streams, But They Draw Little Notice From State Officials
-- Schuylkill Action Network Summer Newsletter: Perkiomen Floating Classroom, Farms For Clean Water, Delaware Urban Waters Partnership, Much More
-- Delaware RiverKeeper June 17 RiverWatch Video Report

Drinking Water
-- WESA: 1 In 3 PA Drinking Water Systems Exceed New EPA Limits For PFAS 'Forever Chemicals'
-- EPA: New Drinking Water Health Advisories Set For 4 PFAS Chemicals; $1 Billion In Bipartisan Infrastructure Law Funding Available For Cleanup [PaEN]
-- Courier Times: EPA Finds No Safe Level For 2 Toxic PFAS Chemicals Found In Many U.S. Water Systems
-- DEP Hosts June 28 Hearing On Benner Twp. PFAS Hazardous Site Cleanup Investigation In Centre County [PaEN]
-- TribLive: VP Harris Visits Pittsburgh, Touts Need For Lead Pipe Removal
-- Post-Gazette: VP Harris Touts White' House's Bipartisan Infrastructure Funding To Replace Lead Water Lines
-- American Water Charitable Foundation Accepting Applications For Water And The Environment Grants [PaEN]
-- Inquirer - Andrew Maykuth: PA American Water Seeks A 25% Increase In Water, Sewer Bills
-- WPSU: State College Borough Water Authority Might End Fluoridation
-- EPA Announces $6.5 Billion In New Funding Available Under Water Infrastructure Loan Program

Economic Development
-- Post-Gazette - Anya Litvak: Hulking Coal-Fired Power Plants Coming Down In Western PA, Destined For New Life
-- Post-Gazette: Green Tech Company Working With Michael Keaton To Expand Presence In Pittsburgh Beyond Manufacturing
-- Bloomberg Green: Investors Putting Billions Into Climate Tech, Renewables Don't Plan To Stop Now

Education
-- WGGT: Planet Philadelphia - Generations Of Inspirational Faith-Based Environmental Activism - June 17 4:00-5:00

-- Courier Times: College Settlement Camp In Horsham Celebrates 100 Years Of Giving Kids Outdoor Experiences
-- DCNR Blog: Be Prepared Outdoors - What To Do When… Nature Calls, Lightning Strikes, Encountering A Rattlesnake, How To Protect Food From Animals
-- TribLive: HazMat Safety Train Gives Western PA First Responders Training On Dealing With Dangerous Derailments
-- Post-Gazette: First Responders Attend Hands-On Train And Truck Safety Event After Train Derailment In Pittsburgh Last Month
-- Wilkes-Barre Times: Riverfest Offers Educational Fun Alongside Susquehanna River
-- Citizens Voice: People Enjoy Nature, Susquehanna River During 2nd Day Of Riverfest
-- Middle Susquehanna Riverkeeper: 8 Floating Classroom Programs Announced For Williamsport
-- Schuylkill Action Network Summer Newsletter: Perkiomen Floating Classroom, Farms For Clean Water, Delaware Urban Waters Partnership, Much More
-- TribLive: Westmoreland Land Trust Nature Backpacks Are Ready To Check Out At County Libraries
-- Post-Gazette: Can Music Heal Polluted Rivers? Brooke Smokelin Has Dedicated Her Life To Trying
-- Huntingdon Daily News: Huntingdon Conservation District, County Library Team Up To Teach Youth About Importance Of Healthy Streams
-- Preparations Underway For Penn State's 2022 Ag Progress Days August 9-11 [PaEN]
-- Penn State Extension Survey: Suggest Ways To Improve Pond Management Education
-- Seven State Agencies Celebrate Pennsylvania's First Native Species Day [PaEN]
-- PA Master Naturalists: Celebrating PA Native Species Day June 17
-- PennLive - Marcus Schneck: Impact Of Invasive Species Noted On First Pennsylvania Native Species Day
-- PennLive - Marcus Schneck: PA Town Pushes Bee City USA To 300 Communities
-- Centre Daily Times: From Climate To Transparency, What Penn State Forward's Board Of Trustees Win Means For Future
-- American Water Charitable Foundation Accepting Applications For Water And The Environment Grants [PaEN]
-- Susquehanna River Basin Commission Podcast: Groundwater Level Monitoring Grants
-- Appalachian Chapter Audubon Society Offering Full Scholarship To Hog Island Audubon Camp In Maine [PaEN]
-- Fast Company: Should We Protect Nature For Its Own Sake? For Its Economic Value? Because It Makes Us Happy? Yes - By Bradley J. Cardinale, Penn State Ecosystem Science & Management
-- Help Wanted: Landforce Empowerment, Training Program Staff In Western PA
-- WHYY: Why Visiting A Museum Is Good For Your Health
-- Game Commission: Conservation Heritage Museum To Open June 25 At Middle Wildlife Management Area, Lebanon County [PaEN]
-- MCall: Lehigh Valley College Students Leave Piles Of Stuff Behind At End Of School Year; Schools Making Sure It Doesn't Go To Waste
-- Bike The Brandywine Returns For Its 5th Year On Sept. 17 In Chester County [PaEN]
-- Bay Journal: 'It's Here To Stay': Lessons From The Frontlines Of The Spotted Lanternfly

Battle [PaEN]
-- Erie Times: Allegheny College, East Stroudsburg University Lab Partner For Statewide Tick Mitigation Study
-- PennLive - Marcus Schneck: Stargazing In PA: Here Are The Top Night Sky Spots
-- TribLive - Mary Ann Thomas: Hays Bald Eagle Juveniles Take Flight, Share The Skies With Young Hawk
-- Warren Times: Observe MAPS Bird Banding At Audubon Community Nature Center
-- Post-Gazette: Turn Your Lights Out This Week To Help Save The Lightning Bugs
-- Scranton Times: Helping The State Insect - The Firefly

Emergency Response
-- Courier Times: Forecasters: Bucks Should Prepare For Another Summer Of Tornadoes, Storms & Flash Floods
-- TribLive: HazMat Safety Train Gives Western PA First Responders Training On Dealing With Dangerous Derailments
-- Post-Gazette: First Responders Attend Hands-On Train And Truck Safety Event After Train Derailment In Pittsburgh Last Month

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]

-- PA Dept. Of Agriculture Temporarily Suspends Requirement For 2% Biodiesel For Out-Of-State Fuel Sold In PA In Response To Rolling Outages Of Diesel Fuel [PaEN]
-- MCall - Ford Turner: PA Having 'Rolling Outages' Of Diesel Fuel, Makes Move To Allow Sales Of Out-Of-State Fuel
-- TribLive: More People Choosing Mass Transit As Gasoline Prices Remain High
-- The Center Square: With Food And Energy Prices High, Few Short-Term Solutions [PA House Hearing]
-- MCall - Ford Turner: PA Farmers Getting Crushed By Record Diesel Prices, Lawmakers Told
-- WLVR: Trucking Industry Sounds Alarm On Rising Diesel Prices: 'Shortages On Everything Will Be Exacerbated'
-- TribLive Editorial: What Is The Fix For Gasoline Price Increases?
-- Rep. Bizzarro: End Gasoline Price Gouging Through New Stop Price Fixing Act Legislation
-- **June 22--** House Democratic Policy Committee hearing on combating inflation with the Stop Gasoline Price Fixing Act. Room 523 Irvis Building. 9:00 a.m. Click Here to watch online.
-- Scranton Times: Sen. Flynn To Introduce Bill To Temporarily Suspend State Gasoline Tax
-- Pittsburgh Business Times: Natural Gas Industry Sees Challenges For Marcellus In Boosting LNG Production
-- Baker Hughes Rig Count - No Increase In Drilling Rigs In PA 2nd Week In A Row
-- Inquirer - Andrew Maykuth: A Proposed LNG Natural Gas Plan In Chester Would Be Gigantic And Hardly Anyone Knows About It
-- WHYY: Could Delaware County Get A Major LNG Natural Gas Plant, How Will It Clash With Environmental Justice Goals In Chester
-- Post-Gazette - Anya Litvak: U.S./PA Natural Gas Exports Bind America To The World [And Spiking World Prices]

-- WSJ: High U.S. Gasoline, Diesel, Natural Gas Exports Contributing To Spike In U.S. Prices

"A rapid rise in American fuel exports this year has helped push gasoline prices to a record $5 a gallon and is pressuring U.S. prices of natural gas, which hit the highest levels in over a decade earlier this month."

-- Scranton Times Editorial: Process LNG Natural Gas Where It's Shipped Not Where It's Taken Out Of The Ground

-- TribLive Guest Essay: PA Natural Gas Will Save Our European Allies - Fmr Republican State Sen. Earl Baker

National/International

-- US EIA Expects Significant Increases In Wholesale Electricity Prices Due To Natural Gas Price Spikes

-- WSJ: U.S. Natural Gas Prices Plunge After Extended Outage At Texas LNG Facility [LNG Exports Drive High U.S. Natural Gas Prices; High Natural Gas Prices Drive Inflation And Electricity Cost Spikes - Connect The Dots]

"Natural gas has been a big driver of inflation this year, with the highest prices in years adding to the cost of heating, cooling and powering homes and businesses as well as manufacturing steel, cement, glass, plastics and fertilizer. Prices had hit $9.60 just before the fire at the LNG plant on Wednesday, which was about triple what gas cost a year earlier. Since the fire, prices have dropped 25% from that intraday high."

-- Reuters: Texas LNG Extends Outage After Explosion, Targets Year End For Full Operations

"Natural gas prices slumped in the United States and soared in Europe on news of an extended shutdown. The facility accounts for about 20% of U.S. LNG exports and has been a major supplier to European buyers seeking alternatives to Russian gas since its invasion of Ukraine."

-- Bloomberg: U.S. Natural Gas Slumps As LNG Plant Shutdown Strands Supplies

-- US EIA: New Natural Gas Production Per Drilling Rig Dropped Over Last Year In Appalachia Fields

-- Natural Gas Intelligence: U.S. Natural Gas Prices Jump Back Up After Decline Related To Texas LNG Plant Explosion

-- Bloomberg: European Natural Gas Prices Surge 60% This Week

-- Bloomberg: Russia Cuts Natural Gas Deliveries, Forces Europe To Use Gas It Was Saving For Winter

-- Bloomberg: Global Energy Shortage Is Making Natural Gas Too Pricey For Asian Buyers

-- Reuters: Biden Demands Oil Companies Explain Lack Of Gasoline As Prices Rise

-- AP: Biden Tells Oil Refiners: Produce More Gasoline, As Americans Struggle With Record High Prices At Pump

-- Reuters: U.S. Oil Lobby Pushes Biden To Roll Back Fossil Fuel Curbs

-- Financial Times: U.S. EIA: Oil Supply to Struggle To Keep Pace With Demand In 2023

-- Bloomberg: How The 'Energy Shock' Has Upended The Global Economy

-- Financial Times: Record Cost Of Diesel Fuel Courses Through U.S. Economy

-- The Guardian: Fossil Fuel Firms 'Have Humanity By The Throat,' Says UN Head In Blistering Attack

-- Reuters: UN Chief Says The Dash For New Fossil Fuels Is 'Delusional'

-- Bloomberg: 10 EU Nations Warn Against Diluting Green Plan Before Key Vote

-- Bloomberg: Key EU Parliament Groups Reject Green Label For Natural Gas, Nuclear

Energy
-- PA Dept. Of Agriculture Temporarily Suspends Requirement For 2% Biodiesel For Out-Of-State Fuel Sold In PA In Response To Rolling Outages Of Diesel Fuel [PaEN]
-- MCall - Ford Turner: PA Having 'Rolling Outages' Of Diesel Fuel, Makes Move To Allow Sales Of Out-Of-State Fuel
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-- Post-Gazette: Allegheny County Executive Defends Record On Fracking Amid Calls For Drilling Ban In County Parks
-- TribLive Guest Essay: PA Natural Gas Will Save Our European Allies - Fmr Republican State Sen. Earl Baker
-- DOE Partners With Carnegie Mellon University To Launch The 2022 Global Clean Energy Action Forum In Pittsburgh In September [PaEN]
-- 13th Global Clean Energy Ministerial Meeting In Pittsburgh Sept. 21-23
-- Pittsburgh Business Times: Global Clean Energy Forum To Be Held In Pittsburgh Sept. 21-23
-- Scranton Times: Electric Vehicles Long-Term Fuel Price Hedge
-- York Dispatch: Dover Solar Power Project Receives Township Approval, With Conditions
-- York Daily Record: Dover Solar Farm Project Approved After 7 Hearings
-- Scranton Times: Solar Group Looks to Build Solar Farms In Archbald, Scott Twps., Scranton
-- Post-Gazette - Salena Zito: Half-Built PA Solar Farm In Cambria County Shows Renewables Aren't Ready For Prime Time
-- House Environmental Committee Meets June 22 On Bill To Protect Military Airspace From Windmills [PaEN]
-- Scranton Times: Law Firms Seek Coworkers Of 2 Who Died Of Mesothelioma After Working At Luzerne County Nuclear Power Plant
-- PUC Seeks Comments On Proposed Settlement With Columbia Gas Concerning Washington County House Explosion In 2019; $990,000 Penalty Included
-- PUC Approves Plans By 5 Electric, Natural Gas Utilities To Return $64 Million In Federal Tax Savings To Customers
-- PUC Issues Management Audit Of Met-Ed, Penn Power, West Penn Power, Penelec With Estimated $39 Million In Cost Savings
-- MCall: Thousands Of PPL Customers Mailed Bills In Error, PUC Investigating
-- MCall Guest Essay: Facing Facts On Energy Use, Cost And The Environment
-- ABC27: Natural Gas Stoves May Soon Be A Thing Of The Past, Is It Time To Upgrade?
-- FirstEnergy On Pace To Exceed Pollinator Habitat Development Goal [Including PA]

-- Utility Dive: PJM Proposes 'First-Ready, First-Served' Interconnection Review Process To Clear Renewable Backlog
-- Energy News Network: FERC Proposes Rules Tackling Interconnection Backlog
-- TribLive: Gasoline Demand Remains Strong Despite Record-High Prices, Analysts Say
-- Financial Times: Pentagon Bankrolls Rare Earths Plant As U.S. Plays Catch-Up To China
-- Reuters: Hydrogen Will Give U.S. Natural Gas Pipelines New Life In Carbon-Free World
-- Bloomberg: Texas Power Use Tops All-Time Record As Heat Bakes State
-- CNN: Wind And Solar Power Are 'Bailing Out' Texas Amid Record Heat, Energy Demand
-- The Guardian: Fossil Fuel Firms 'Have Humanity By The Throat,' Says UN Head In Blistering Attack
-- Reuters: UN Chief Says The Dash For New Fossil Fuels Is 'Delusional'

Energy Conservation
-- U.S. DOE: Proposes New Cost-Saving Energy Efficiency Standards For Home Furnaces
-- Utility Dive: Proposed Gas Furnace Efficiency Rule Expected To Move 9% Of Customers To Electric Heat: DOE
-- ABC27: Natural Gas Stoves May Soon Be A Thing Of The Past, Is It Time To Upgrade?

Environmental Health
-- Oil & Natural Gas Facility Health Impacts Assessment Bill Introduced In The House [PaEN]
-- Penn State Beaver Seeking Volunteers For June 23 Focus Group On Energy Development, Groundwater Quality & Public Health In Western PA [PaEN]
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-- Courier Times: EPA Finds No Safe Level For 2 Toxic PFAS Chemicals Found In Many U.S. Water Systems
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-- Post-Gazette: VP Harris Touts White' House's Bipartisan Infrastructure Funding To Replace Lead Water Lines
-- Scranton Times: Law Firms Seek Coworkers Of 2 Who Died Of Mesothelioma After Working At Luzerne County Nuclear Power Plant

Environmental Heritage
-- Wilkes-Barre Times: Agnes At 50: Officials Reflect On Public Safety, Preparedness Since 1972 Flood
-- PennLive: 50 Years Later, Central PA Residents Remember Tropical Storm Agnes
-- Scranton Times: Agnes Flood Survivors Share Memories 50 Years Later
-- PennLive: Tropical Storm Agnes At 50: 'So Many People Lost So Much'
-- PennLive: 1972 Tropical Storm Agnes Smashed Records As It Saturated Central PA
-- PennLive: 1972 Tropical Storm Agnes: An Interactive Timeline
-- York Daily Record: Tropical Storm Agnes: A Look Back At The Devastating Storm By The

Numbers
-- Williamsport Sun: Agnes: Memories And A Levee That Spared A City
-- Game Commission: Conservation Heritage Museum To Open June 25 At Middle Wildlife Management Area, Lebanon County [PaEN]
-- Four Revolutionary War Era Cannons Unearthed At Thomas P. Bentley Nature Preserve In Chester County [PaEN]

EPA
-- Bay Journal: EPA And Farm Bureau Find Common Ground In Pennsylvania - Urge State Lawmakers To Support Chesapeake Bay Cleanup Funding - By Karl Blankenship, Chesapeake Bay Journal [PaEN]
-- EPA Announces $6.5 Billion In New Funding Available Under Water Infrastructure Loan Program
-- EPA: New Drinking Water Health Advisories Set For 4 PFAS Chemicals; $1 Billion In Bipartisan Infrastructure Law Funding Available For Cleanup [PaEN]
-- Courier Times: EPA Finds No Safe Level For 2 Toxic PFAS Chemicals Found In Many U.S. Water Systems

Farming
-- Bay Journal: EPA And Farm Bureau Find Common Ground In Pennsylvania - Urge State Lawmakers To Support Chesapeake Bay Cleanup Funding - By Karl Blankenship, Chesapeake Bay Journal [PaEN]
-- PA Farm Bureau, Sand County Foundation, Partners Now Accepting Nominations For PA Leopold Conservation Award [PaEN]
-- NRCS-PA Now Accepting Applications For Farmland Preservation Grants In Chesapeake Bay Watershed [PaEN]
-- Preparations Underway For Penn State's 2022 Ag Progress Days August 9-11 [PaEN]
-- Dept. Of Agriculture Protects 2,264 Acres Of Farmland In 18 Counties; 613,884 Acres Protected [PaEN]
-- LancasterOnline: Sen. Martin Elected Chair Of Chesapeake Bay Commission's PA Delegation
-- Bay Journal: 'It's Here To Stay': Lessons From The Frontlines Of The Spotted Lanternfly Battle [PaEN]
-- PennLive: State Seeks Innovators To Solve Farm Problem - Waste Plastics
-- Penn State Extension Survey: Suggest Ways To Improve Pond Management Education
-- WITF: PA lost 4.2 Million Chickens As Bird Flu Outbreak Wanes, But Threat Lingers

Flooding
-- Altoona Mirror: House Sends Series Of Flooding Bills To Senate [Temporary Solutions At Best]
-- Courier Times: Forecasters: Bucks Should Prepare For Another Summer Of Tornadoes, Storms & Flash Floods
-- Wilkes-Barre Times: Agnes At 50: Officials Reflect On Public Safety, Preparedness Since 1972 Flood
-- PennLive: 50 Years Later, Central PA Residents Remember Tropical Storm Agnes
-- Scranton Times: Agnes Flood Survivors Share Memories 50 Years Later

-- PennLive: Tropical Storm Agnes At 50: 'So Many People Lost So Much'
-- Wilkes-Barre Times: Could We See Another Hurricane Agnes? [Spoiler - Yes]
-- PennLive: 1972 Tropical Storm Agnes Smashed Records As It Saturated Central PA
-- PennLive: 1972 Tropical Storm Agnes: An Interactive Timeline
-- York Daily Record: Tropical Storm Agnes: A Look Back At The Devastating Storm By The Numbers
-- Williamsport Sun: Agnes: Memories And A Levee That Spared A City

Forests
-- DCNR Celebrates French Creek As The 2022 River Of The Year At Paddle Fest Celebration [PaEN]
-- DCNR Conservation & Natural Resources Advisory Council Urges Lawmakers To Support Growing Greener III Funding [PaEN]
-- DCNR Blog: Be Prepared Outdoors - What To Do When… Nature Calls, Lightning Strikes, Encountering A Rattlesnake, How To Protect Food From Animals
-- June 17 Take Five Fridays With Pam From PA Parks & Forests Foundation [PaEN]
-- Erie Times: Allegheny College, East Stroudsburg University Lab Partner For Statewide Tick Mitigation Study
-- Bay Journal: 'It's Here To Stay': Lessons From The Frontlines Of The Spotted Lanternfly Battle [PaEN]
-- AP: Sanctions Sought Against FBI Over Videos Of Civil War Gold Dig On DCNR State Forest Land

Forests - Wildfires
-- NPR: Federal Forest Service Firefighters Waiting For Pay Raises They Hope Will Help Fill Their Ranks
-- The Guardian: Arizona Wildfires: Intense Conditions Send Smoke Plumes Billowing Into Sky
-- Bloomberg: Wildfires In U.S. West Match Climate Projections 'Eerily' Well

Grants/Funding
-- American Water Charitable Foundation Accepting Applications For Water And The Environment Grants [PaEN]
-- NRCS-PA Now Accepting Applications For Farmland Preservation Grants In Chesapeake Bay Watershed [PaEN]
-- EPA Announces Available Funding For Clean School Buses [PaEN]
-- PennLive: State Seeks Innovators To Solve Farm Problem - Waste Plastics
-- Susquehanna River Basin Commission Podcast: Groundwater Level Monitoring Grants
-- TribLive - Mary Ann Thomas: Trail Along Kiski And Allegheny Rivers To Receive $3.5 Million Boost
-- EPA Announces $6.5 Billion In New Funding Available Under Water Infrastructure Loan Program

Green Infrastructure
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-- Help Wanted: Landforce Empowerment, Training Program Staff In Western PA
-- Help Wanted: Brandywine Conservancy - Easement Steward [PaEN]

Hazardous Substances
-- Oil & Natural Gas Facility Health Impacts Assessment Bill Introduced In The House [PaEN]
-- Penn State Beaver Seeking Volunteers For June 23 Focus Group On Energy Development, Groundwater Quality & Public Health In Western PA [PaEN]
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Land Conservation
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-- Dept. Of Agriculture Protects 2,264 Acres Of Farmland In 18 Counties; 613,884 Acres Protected [PaEN]
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Land Recycling
-- WHYY: South Philly Refinery Redevelopment Features Trucking, Despite Calls For Carbon-Free Development
-- Evergreen Resources Management Submitted Report To DEP Documenting Cleanup Of Philadelphia Refinery Site To Site-Specific Standards for Lead, VOCs, SVOCs In Soil, Groundwater (PA Bulletin, page 3499)

Littering/Illegal Dumping
-- Old Lycoming Township, DEP Highlight Local Recycling Efforts, Illegal Dumping Prevention [PaEN]
-- Williamsport Sun: Old Lycoming Twp Cracks Down On Illegal Dumping
-- TribLive: Volunteers Sought For 32nd Annual Kiski River Cleanup This Weekend
-- Inquirer Guest Essay: Philly Budget Commits Millions To Combat Illegal Dumping, Tow Abandoned Vehicles, Fix Streetlights, But It's Not Enough

Mine Reclamation
-- Appalachian Voices: Advocates Urge Biden To Fill Vacant Director Of Surface Mining Position
-- E&E News: Mine Cleanup Program Still Lacks Biden Director

Oil & Gas
-- Who's Protecting Taxpayers? House To Take Up Bill Exempting Conventional Oil & Gas Wells From Plugging Bonds Sticking Taxpayers With $5.1 Billion In Cleanup Liability [PaEN]
-- Oil & Natural Gas Facility Health Impacts Assessment Bill Introduced In The House [PaEN]
-- Penn State Beaver Seeking Volunteers For June 23 Focus Group On Energy Development, Groundwater Quality & Public Health In Western PA [PaEN]
-- PUC Distributes $234 Million In 2021 Revenue From Act 13 Drilling Impact Fee; Represents Lowest Effective Tax Rate On Natural Gas Companies On Record - IFO [PaEN]
-- TribLive: Western PA Counties, Municipalities See Bump In Money From Natural Gas Drilling Fees

-- Williamsport Sun: Local Municipalities Receive Over $10 Million In Drilling Impact Fees
-- Bradford Era: McKean County, Municipalities To Receive $1.12 Million From Shale Drilling Impact Fees
-- DEP Citizens Advisory Council To Hear Update June 21 On Oil & Gas Advisory Board Activities; Discuss Legacy Issues Report; Transition Paper [PaEN]
-- EQB Adopts Part I Of Reg. Reducing Oil & Gas VOC/Methane Emissions; 80% Of Methane Emissions Come From Conventional Oil & Gas Facilities; IRRC Considers July 21 [PaEN]
-- Post-Gazette - Laura Legere: DEP Splits Long-Stalled Oil & Gas Air Pollution Rule; Rule Loses Roughly 80% Of Reduction Benefit By Excluding Conventional Oil & Gas Sources
-- StateImpactPA: DEP Drops Major Source Of Methane From New Rule Limiting Oil & Gas Facility Emissions
-- Post-Gazette Editorial: Republican Lawmakers Poised To Cost PA Billions In Highway Funding At Behest Of Oil & Gas Industry [PaEN]
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-- Pittsburgh Business Times: Why Greylock Energy Natural Gas Found Opportunity Out West [AG Shapiro Just Charged Greylock With Environmental Crimes]
-- Beaver County Times: Big Sewickley Creek Plan Pits Drilling Company Against Watershed Defenders
-- PennLive: Natural Gas Royalty Payments On The Rise In Shale Gas Regions Of PA
-- PUC Seeks Comments On Proposed Settlement With Columbia Gas Concerning Washington County House Explosion In 2019; $990,000 Penalty Included
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-- Bloomberg: U.S. Natural Gas Slumps As LNG Plant Shutdown Strands Supplies
-- US EIA: New Natural Gas Production Per Drilling Rig Dropped Over Last Year In Appalachia Fields
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-- The Guardian: Fossil Fuel Firms 'Have Humanity By The Throat,' Says UN Head In Blistering Attack
-- Reuters: UN Chief Says The Dash For New Fossil Fuels Is 'Delusional'

Pipelines

-- Inquirer - Andrew Maykuth: PUC Fines Sunoco's Mariner East Pipeline $51,000 More For Violations In Delaware County

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-- DEP Publishes Revised Residual Waste General Permit WMGR096 - Beneficial Use Of Regulated Fill In June 18 PA Bulletin

-- MCall: Grand Central Landfill In Northampton County Is Again Looking To Expand
-- DEP Took Action On 776 Permits, 94% Within Permit Decision Guarantee Deadlines: Conducted 1,458 Inspections Last Week
-- DEP Posted 99 Pages Of Permit-Related Notices In June 18 PA Bulletin [PaEN]

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-- PUC Seeks Comments On Proposed Settlement With Columbia Gas Concerning Washington County House Explosion In 2019; $990,000 Penalty Included
-- DEP Posted 99 Pages Of Permit-Related Notices In June 18 PA Bulletin [PaEN]

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-- PUC Distributes $234 Million In 2021 Revenue From Act 13 Drilling Impact Fee; Represents Lowest Effective Tax Rate On Natural Gas Companies On Record - IFO [PaEN]
-- TribLive: Western PA Counties, Municipalities See Bump In Money From Natural Gas Drilling Fees
-- Williamsport Sun: Local Municipalities Receive Over $10 Million In Drilling Impact Fees
-- Bradford Era: McKean County, Municipalities To Receive $1.12 Million From Shale Drilling Impact Fees
-- PUC Seeks Comments On Proposed Settlement With Columbia Gas Concerning Washington County House Explosion In 2019; $990,000 Penalty Included
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-- PUC Issues Management Audit Of Met-Ed, Penn Power, West Penn Power, Penelec With Estimated $39 Million In Cost Savings
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-- Scranton Times: Law Firms Seek Coworkers Of 2 Who Died Of Mesothelioma After Working At Luzerne County Nuclear Power Plant

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-- DCNR Conservation & Natural Resources Advisory Council Urges Lawmakers To Support Growing Greener III Funding [PaEN]
-- StateCollege.com: Penns Valley Bridge Highlights Infrastructure Needs Of DCNR's State Parks, Forests

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-- DCNR Blog: Be Prepared Outdoors - What To Do When… Nature Calls, Lightning Strikes, Encountering A Rattlesnake, How To Protect Food From Animals
-- Post-Gazette: Allegheny County Executive Defends Record On Fracking Amid Calls For Drilling Ban In County Parks
-- Republican Herald: Launch Party Kicks Off Annual Schuylkill River Sojourn In Schuylkill Haven
-- Republican Herald: Tuscarora State Park Beach Reopens For Swimming
-- DCNR Names Justin Waid Sinnemahoning State Park Manager
-- June 17 Take Five Fridays With Pam From PA Parks & Forests Foundation [PaEN]
-- TribLive - Mary Ann Thomas: Trail Along Kiski And Allegheny Rivers To Receive $3.5 Million Boost
-- Warren Times: Allegheny National Forest Proposes Dewdrop Recreation Area Improvements
-- York Dispatch: Wildlife Along York County Heritage Rail Trail NE Extension [Photos]
-- NextPittsburgh: New Scenic Overlook Opening In Pittsburgh With Stunning Views
-- WHYY: After Intense Lifeguard Recruitment Efforts, Philly To Open 80% Of Public Pools
-- TribLive: Westmoreland Volunteers Assemble Bicycles For Kids In Need
-- WHYY: Network Of Philly Walking Groups Prioritizing Self-Care And Community
-- Post-Gazette Guest Essay: Swimming Upriver - A Father's Day Story
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-- Erie Times: Allegheny College, East Stroudsburg University Lab Partner For Statewide Tick Mitigation Study
-- PennLive - Marcus Schneck: Stargazing In PA: Here Are The Top Night Sky Spots

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-- Williamsport Sun: Old Lycoming Twp Cracks Down On Illegal Dumping
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-- MCall: Lehigh Valley College Students Leave Piles Of Stuff Behind At End Of School Year; Schools Making Sure It Doesn't Go To Waste
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Windmills [PaEN]
-- York Dispatch: Dover Solar Power Project Receives Township Approval, With Conditions
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-- Post-Gazette - Salena Zito: Half-Built PA Solar Farm In Cambria County Shows Renewables Aren't Ready For Prime Time
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-- CNN: Wind And Solar Power Are 'Bailing Out' Texas Amid Record Heat, Energy Demand
-- Financial Times: Pentagon Bankrolls Rare Earths Plant As U.S. Plays Catch-Up To China
-- Bloomberg: 10 EU Nations Warn Against Diluting Green Plan Before Key Vote
-- Bloomberg: Key EU Parliament Groups Reject Green Label For Natural Gas, Nuclear
-- The Guardian: Fossil Fuel Firms 'Have Humanity By The Throat,' Says UN Head In Blistering Attack
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-- Republican Herald: Launch Party Kicks Off Annual Schuylkill River Sojourn In Schuylkill Haven
-- Schuylkill Action Network Summer Newsletter: Perkiomen Floating Classroom, Farms For Clean Water, Delaware Urban Waters Partnership, Much More

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-- Senate Environmental Committee Meets June 20 On Bill To Extend Underground Storage Tank Cleanup Programs [PaEN]

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-- Wilkes-Barre Times: RiverFest - 'The River Is A Friendly Place, A Good Place'
-- Wilkes-Barre Times: Riverfest Offers Educational Fun Alongside Susquehanna River
-- Citizens Voice: People Enjoy Nature, Susquehanna River During 2nd Day Of Riverfest
-- Middle Susquehanna Riverkeeper: 8 Floating Classroom Programs Announced For Williamsport
-- Susquehanna River Basin Commission Podcast: Groundwater Level Monitoring Grants

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-- Courier Times: How Will Lower Makefield Twp. Spend Its Sewer System Sale Funds?
-- Inquirer - Andrew Maykuth: PA American Water Seeks A 25% Increase In Water, Sewer Bills
-- EPA Announces $6.5 Billion In New Funding Available Under Water Infrastructure Loan Program

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-- Bay Journal: EPA And Farm Bureau Find Common Ground In Pennsylvania - Urge State Lawmakers To Support Chesapeake Bay Cleanup Funding - By Karl Blankenship, Chesapeake Bay Journal [PaEN]
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-- Appalachian Voices: Advocates Urge Biden To Fill Vacant Director Of Surface Mining Position
-- American Water Charitable Foundation Accepting Applications For Water And The Environment Grants [PaEN]
-- Post-Gazette: Can Music Heal Polluted Rivers? Brooke Smokelin Has Dedicated Her Life To Trying
-- Huntingdon Daily News: Huntingdon Conservation District, County Library Team Up To Teach Youth About Importance Of Healthy Streams
-- DEP Invites Comments On Proposed Advance Restoration Plan For Trout Run Watershed, Erie County [PaEN]
-- Inquirer - Frank Kummer: The Schuylkill River Is Clean But Has A Public Relations Problem, Study Finds
-- Delaware Currents: PA Portion Of Upper Delaware Blessed With Pristine Streams, But They Draw Little Notice From State Officials
-- Schuylkill Action Network Summer Newsletter: Perkiomen Floating Classroom, Farms For Clean Water, Delaware Urban Waters Partnership, Much More
-- Delaware RiverKeeper June 17 RiverWatch Video Report
-- Wilkes-Barre Times: RiverFest - 'The River Is A Friendly Place, A Good Place'
-- Middle Susquehanna Riverkeeper: 8 Floating Classroom Programs Announced For Williamsport
-- TribLive: Volunteers Sought For 32nd Annual Kiski River Cleanup This Weekend
-- LancasterOnline: Sen. Martin Elected Chair Of Chesapeake Bay Commission's PA Delegation
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Wildlife
-- Game Commission: Conservation Heritage Museum To Open June 25 At Middle Wildlife Management Area, Lebanon County [PaEN]
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-- Warren Times: Testing Shows No New Chronic Wasting Disease Cases In Warren County
-- Friends Of Allegheny Wilderness Advocates Cancellation Of Tracy Ridge Burn Project To

Protect Bat [PaEN]
-- Bradford Era: Friends Of Allegheny Wilderness Advocates Cancellation Of Tracy Ridge Burn Project To Protect Bat
-- PennLive - Marcus Schneck: Erie National Wildlife Refuge On List For Expansion Of Hunting, Fishing
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-- York Dispatch: Wildlife Along York County Heritage Rail Trail NE Extension [Photos]
-- Appalachian Chapter Audubon Society Offering Full Scholarship To Hog Island Audubon Camp In Maine [PaEN]
- Republican Herald: Berks Sinfonietta Brings Fantasy World To Life At Hawk Mountain
-- Scranton Times: Helping The State Insect - The Firefly
-- WHYY: U.S. House Passes Major Wildlife Conservation Funding Bill

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-- Erie Times: Allegheny College, East Stroudsburg University Lab Partner For Statewide Tick Mitigation Study
-- Inquirer: West Nile Virus Found In Philadelphia Mosquitoes For First Time This Summer

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-- DCNR Names Justin Waid Sinnemahoning State Park Manager

CLICK HERE to View or Print the June 20 PA Environment Digest.
[Posted: June 19, 2022]

Bay Journal: EPA And Farm Bureau Find Common Ground In Pennsylvania - Urge State Lawmakers To Support Chesapeake Bay Cleanup Funding

By Karl Blankenship, Chesapeake Bay Journal



A decade ago, the Pennsylvania Farm Bureau and U.S. Environmental Protection Agency were squaring off on opposite sides of courtrooms

The farm organization was challenging the agency's authority to establish new cleanup goals for the Chesapeake Bay, a case it ultimately lost after years in court.

On Thursday, their leaders stood side by side, urging Pennsylvania lawmakers to support efforts that would help farmers meet the state's nutrient reduction goals, which are far off track.

"You know, 10 years ago, if you mentioned EPA to a farmer or to the organization, we

would have probably ran in a different direction," said Farm Bureau president Rich Ebert. "But we felt we needed to develop a relationship."

Standing next to Ebert at the bureau's office near Harrisburg was Adam Ortiz, administrator of the EPA's Mid-Atlantic Region, which contains most of the Bay watershed.

The EPA in April said the state's Bay cleanup plan failed to show that it would meet nutrient reduction goals set in the Chesapeake Bay total maximum daily load in 2010 — the plan that the Farm Bureau originally sued over.

In Pennsylvania, most water-fouling nutrients come from the more than 30,000 farms in the state's portion of the Bay watershed.

"My very first in-person meeting in this job was here in this building, meeting with the leadership of the Farm Bureau," said Ortiz, who was named to his position last October. "If we're going to solve our challenges, we have to come up with solutions together. That means sitting at the table. That means listening to different points of view. That means working together to figure things out, because we do share one region."

Speaking at a news conference, Ortiz and Ebert urged Pennsylvania lawmakers to pass bills that would boost state funding to support conservation practices on farms. The General Assembly is supposed to wrap up work on the state budget by the end of June.

"We need more assistance to achieve our common water quality goals," Ebert said. "We believe that EPA understands this. And we welcome their support of our efforts to obtain the funding that will allow our members to do even more for local water quality."

The General Assembly is considering legislation that would use federal COVID relief funding to provide $250 million for a Clean Streams Fund. The money would be available for a variety of water quality improvements statewide. Read more here.

Half of the money would go toward a new Agricultural Conservation Assistance Program that would support farmers through county conservation districts. Read more here.

In its review of Pennsylvania's latest Bay cleanup plan, the EPA said the state lacks adequate programs and policies to keep manure from farmlands out of streams and, ultimately, the Bay.

Unlike most other states in the Bay watershed, the EPA also noted, Pennsylvania lacks dedicated programs to help farmers fund and install conservation practices — such as streamside buffers, fall cover crops and manure storage facilities — that can help reduce nutrient-laden runoff.

"We see this as a state of Pennsylvania issue, we don't see this as a farmer issue," Ortiz said, "because we think the state should step up more, like other states have, to help."

Because of the state's shortfalls, the EPA said it was ramping up inspections of facilities that impact waterways across the state, not just in the portion that drains into the Chesapeake.

Ortiz said about 10 on-the-ground inspections were taking place at various types of water dischargers across the state this month, from wastewater treatment plants and industrial sites to large animal feeding operations.

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

[How Clean Is Your Stream?

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

*(**Photo: Rich Ebert**, president of the Pennsylvania Farm Bureau, and **Adam Ortiz**, administrator of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's Mid-Atlantic Region.)*

(Reprinted from Chesapeake Bay Journal.)
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-- DCNR Conservation & Natural Resources Advisory Council Urges Lawmakers To Support Growing Greener III Funding [PaEN]
-- StateCollege.com: Penns Valley Bridge Highlights Infrastructure Needs Of DCNR's State Parks, Forests
[Posted: June 13, 2022]

DCNR Conservation & Natural Resources Advisory Council Urges Lawmakers To Support Growing Greener III Funding



DCNR's Conservation and Natural Resources Advisory Council recently sent a letter to the General Assembly encouraging the allocation of a portion of the remaining American Rescue Plan Act funding for Growing Greener III.
This investment will provide an investment in capital projects that are ready to be implemented and will deliver significant returns for many years.
CNRAC also encouraged our legislators to pass the current proposed budget which will allow DCNR to support existing operations and initiatives and manage Commonwealth natural, cultural, and historical resources per its mission.

The text of the letter follows--
The Conservation & Natural Resources Advisory Council (CNRAC), a legislatively mandated Pennsylvania advisory Board, is writing to request your support in two areas that will directly invest in the statutory mission of the Department of Conservation and Natural Resources (DCNR).

First, we request that you allocate a portion of the Commonwealth's remaining American Rescue Plan Act Federal funds to support DCNR initiatives through the Growing Greener III proposal.

Second, we request your support for the allocation of General Fund monies to DCNR in the 2022-2023 State Budget. Such funding is critical for Pennsylvania to maintain the infrastructure and programs that are vital to our natural resources at a time when they are most needed by our citizens and businesses.

Growing Greener III

The one-time allocation of remaining American Rescue Plan funds for Growing Greener III will address a list of capital projects that are ready to be implemented and will also provide a

significant return on investment for many years. Senate Bill 525 and House Bill 2020 are two such proposals that would accomplish these objectives. [Read more here.]

Allocating these Federal dollars in this manner will ensure that they have a lasting impact while enabling this initiative to be funded without adding to the Commonwealth's debt.

Applying American Rescue Plan funding to state parks and forest infrastructure and local community recreation and conservation projects would:

-- Support small businesses.
-- Create well-paying jobs.
-- Stimulate economic activity related to outdoor recreation and tourism, particularly in small and rural communities.
-- Reduce safety concerns related to failing infrastructure such as 148 bridges rated "poor" and water/sewer systems needing replacement or upgrading.
-- Avoid costs related to public health and flooding.
-- Support local municipalities' economic initiatives and job growth through matching grants for capital projects; these projects span numerous legislative districts and counties.

All of these opportunities can make a significant difference in the lives of Pennsylvanians.

By directing the Federal recovery dollars to Growing Greener III, you will be supporting an established outdoor economy that adds $12 billion annually to Pennsylvania's GDP, representing 1.5% of Pennsylvania's total economy, and is responsible for the equivalent of 150,000 full-time, year-round jobs.

When outdoor recreation industry inputs and the buying power of the wages earned by outdoor recreation employees are included, the economic impact of outdoor recreation more than doubles.

2022-2023 State Budget

For the 2022-2023 fiscal year, DCNR has identified a need for an increase in funding of approximately $29 million from the General Fund.

This funding will allow DCNR to support existing operations and initiatives and manage Commonwealth natural, cultural, and historical resources per its mission.

Some of the ways the increased funding will be used include:

-- Public Safety: Add rangers that will work on a landscape scale rather than on an individual park and forest approach.
-- Motorized Recreation: Build the needed staff capacity and equipment to develop and maintain new and existing ATV trails and recreational areas.
-- Pennsylvania Outdoor Corps: Increase support for the youth jobs program that is training a new generation of conservation stewards and leaders.
-- Carbon Capture and Storage: Expand scientific expertise to help the Commonwealth leverage Federal funding opportunities for carbon capture and storage.
-- Engineering and Infrastructure Maintenance: Hire staff in electrical, civil and stormwater engineering to ensure adequate capacity to address needs driven by increased use and demand on natural resources.

During the pandemic, we saw Pennsylvania citizens confirm the essential nature of our parks and forests, as these resources provided the needed space for maintaining physical and mental health.

Visitation rates at Pennsylvania state parks and forests skyrocketed, with more than a

million additional visitors per month. DCNR staff worked tirelessly to provide a quality experience to first-time and long-time visitors within a limited budget and with infrastructure needs across state parks and forests exceeding $1.4 billion.

The increased interest in outdoor recreation continues, along with the dedication of DCNR staff to provide services and education.

We hope you will join us in our continuing work to make Pennsylvania a leader in safe outdoor recreation with a growing economy supporting a vibrant workforce.

Sincerely,

Geralyn Umstead-Singer, CNRAC Chair

Click Here for a copy of the letter.

For more information on the Council, visit DCNR's Conservation and Natural Resources Advisory Council webpage.

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.

Take Action Now!

-- Tell Your Legislator NOW To Set Aside $500 Million From Federal American Rescue Funds To Support Local Environmental, State Park & Forest Projects

Related Articles:

-- StateCollege.com: Penns Valley Bridge Highlights Infrastructure Needs Of DCNR's State Parks, Forests

-- Bay Journal: EPA And Farm Bureau Find Common Ground In Pennsylvania - Urge State Lawmakers To Support Chesapeake Bay Cleanup Funding - By Karl Blankenship, Chesapeake Bay Journal

[Posted: June 17, 2022]

PennFuture Announces Winners Of Celebrating Women In Conservation Awards From Southeast PA



On June 14, PennFuture announced it will honor 11 women from Southeastern Pennsylvania at this year's Celebrating Women In Conservation Awards.

Each year these awards honor the accomplishments of outstanding women conservationists in Pennsylvania who are deeply committed to working to protect the Commonwealth's environment.

PennFuture will be holding an awards celebration in March 2023 to recognize these winners--

-- Young Woman of Conservation Leadership: Sabirah Mahmud, Philadelphia County - Sabirah is a 19-year-old Sophomore at the University of Pennsylvania studying International Relations. Currently she is working as a part-time Strategy Organizer at Philly Thrive.

She has been organizing in climate work since 2019 when she founded the Philadelphia Youth Climate Movement at the age of 16. She has been driven because of the effects of climate

change in her family home of Bangladesh which has been greatly affected by climate change. Recently she appeared on Nickelodeon's Earth Day special.

-- Woman of the Watershed: Julie Slavet, Philadelphia County - Julie has 40 years of experience in building organizations and serving communities.

She came to Tookany/Tacony-Frankford Watershed Partnership in 2011, after serving as the senior district staff member for Congresswoman Allyson Schwartz. A founder of Indivisible PHL, she has served as leadership for the Jenkintown Community Alliance, Montgomery County Democratic Women's Leadership Initiative, Hiway Theatre, and Jenkintown Library.

She is a Democratic Committee person in Philadelphia's Fifth Ward and serves on the Board of Directors of the Fund for the Fairmount Water Works.

-- Woman of the Watershed: Karen Young, Philadelphia County - For over 30 year Karen has devoted a career to environmental education, including the last fifteen years as executive director of the Fairmount Water Works.

Karen's achievements include overseeing the development of the ResourceWater.org urban watershed curriculum guide and its introduction into classrooms across the region. Karen is also a founding member of the Alliance for Watershed Education.

More recently, Karen and the Fairmount Water Works has used its platform to address urgent issues and narratives around racial equity, hosting the POOL! exhibit curated by Victoria Prizzia.

This groundbreaking exhibit leaps from a water utility's traditional orientation to "swimmable" waterways to grapple with issues of race and racism in pool segregation, drowning risk, representation, and access to swimming instruction.

-- Woman of Environmental Justice: Carolyn Moseley, Philadelphia County - Executive Director of the Eastwick United Community Development Association, Carolyn is a devoted member and leader of the Eastwick community.

She has fought for decades to ensure that Eastwick is provided with the resources necessary to combat the escalating impact of climate change and help her community prosper. She seeks restorative justice for the community that served as the site of the nation's largest urban renewal project during the 20th century.

Her lifetime of work in advocating for an environmental justice community was recently recognized by the City of Philadelphia with her appointment to the city's newly-formed Environmental Justice Advisory Commission.

-- Woman of Climate and Renewable Energy: Mayor Barbarann Keffer, Delaware County - In the past two years, during her new role as the Mayor of Upper Darby, the Township has planted many more trees than it had in decades.

Barbarann has helped the Tree Tenders of Upper Darby build a community nursery for native trees and shade trees. She has advanced a riparian buffer project along the Darby Creek at Gillespie Park (ripping out an unused baseball field and fence along the creek to restore it to its natural conditions) consisting of over 300 native trees and shrubs that were planted in the fall of 2021.

She has secured funding to utilize goats to control invasive plants in natural areas. She is a supporter of River friendly garden concepts, and implemented an addition to stream waste reduction by having weekly garden and yard waste collections as part of a recycling program to limit the amount of trash being incinerated or landfilled.

Mulch piles (from Xmas trees) are also available now for residents to load up on locally

produced compost to again, reduce the waste stream.

-- Woman of Environmental Arts: Meg Lemieur, Philadelphia County - Meg is an illustrator based in the ancestral lands of the Lenni Lenape, now known as Philadelphia. She illustrates using pen, paper, and digital color.

Her work focuses on natural and urban environments and subjects, while lending her skills to numerous environmental and racial justice issues.

With artist Bri Barton, Meg created The Waterways, an enormous illustration that uses animals and a playful style to explain the many steps of fracking in Pennsylvania and the characters and communities that interact with this infrastructure.

They printed it on mural-sized fabric and took it on tour explaining fracking to everyone, had it translated to Spanish, and turned it into a game.

-- Woman of Environmental Education: Jeanne Barrett Ortiz, Philadelphia County - Jeanne is the Senior Program Manager Landscape Conservation, for Audubon Mid-Atlantic.

She has served for over eight years as the Environmental Advisory Council (EAC) Network Coordinator, establishing numerous EAC's across the state and was also the primary author of the original EAC Network Handbook.

She is a key environmental policy and planning member of the William Penn Foundation's Delaware River Watershed Initiative, providing education and technical assistance to municipal officials with policies and programs designed to protect and restore the watershed.

In the Upper Lehigh DRWI "cluster", in Carbon County, Jeanne's leadership in producing a 2018 Return on Environment study for the County resulted in the county economic development director becoming a champion for conserving natural areas, creating a "Nature and Commerce" committee.

She directs the Kittatinny Conservation Landscape. This Global Important Bird Area is home to 152 miles of the Appalachian Trail and is PA's most climate resilient landscape.

On the home front, Jeanne was a co-founder of the Wissahickon Sustainability Council, at her children's elementary school, bringing in experts on native landscape restoration that resulted in a campus landscape plan and planting of two native meadows, a native magnolia grove and raised bed gardens.

-- Woman of Environmental Media, Marketing, and Communications: Jaimie Field, Philadelphia County - Jaimie has served as Audacy's Founding Sustainability Director for more than 13 years, institutionalizing Audacy's commitment to the environment in every aspect of how the company operates: including using 10 million fewer sheets of paper over the past 10 years and using 99% eco-friendly paper products in their offices to save 15k+ trees and 7.4m gallons of water, and reducing 1.3M+ lbs of greenhouse gas emissions. Jaimie has built Audacy's 1Thing Sustainability Initiative, #1Thing, to share practical actions, with over 200 million listeners, that we can all take to have a big impact on our environment.

The tips are in the form of 30-second PSAs running on their 235+ stations, digital audio stream, the 1Thing Radio streaming station, across social channels, and in editorial content on their digital platform, 1ThingUS.com.

Each year, Audacy also grants $1 million in media time to local environmental partners promoting specific organizations - like Fairmount Park Conservancy in Philadelphia, Allegheny Cleanways in Pittsburgh.

In addition to her role within Audacy, Jaimie's leadership in environmental stewardship is recognized through her work with Conservation International, the Field Family Environmental

Foundation and Earth Force. She currently sits on PennFuture's President's Leadership Council.
-- Woman of Lifetime Achievement in Conservation: Carol Collier - Philadelphia County - Carol served for more than 15 years as executive director of the Delaware River Basin Commission before joining the Drexel University's Academy of Natural Sciences.

Prior to that she was executive director of Pennsylvania's 21st Century Environment Commission and regional director of the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection (PADEP) Southeast Region.

Prior to PADEP, Collier served 19 years with BCM Environmental Engineers, Inc., beginning as a student intern and ultimately becoming vice president of environmental planning, science and risk.

She is a professional planner licensed in the State of New Jersey, a member of the American Institute of Certified Planners (AICP), and a certified senior ecologist.

In 2014, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers awarded her the Bronze Order of the DeFleury Medal.

She is a member of her township's environmental protection advisory board, on the Boards of the American Water Resources Association (AWRA) (President, 2013), the U.S. Water Alliance, and recent past chair of the Board for the Pinchot Institute for Conservation.

She teaches environmental management courses at the University of Pennsylvania and has published on environmental and water-related topics.

She has testified before the House of Representatives and the Pennsylvania Legislature.

In 2004 she was a member of a nine-person U.S./China/Japan team to assist the People's Republic of China with river basin management. She has also participated in water management and sustainable forest practice events along the Yangtze River in China and in the rain forests of Ecuador.

-- Woman of Lifetime Achievement in Conservation: Debra Wolf Goldstein, Philadelphia County - Debra has devoted her almost 30 year career to protecting nature, conserving land, and raising environmental awareness in southeastern Pennsylvania.

She served as regional advisor to the PA DCNR's Bureau of Recreation & Conservation, where she drafted the state's first Land Trust grant program guidelines and awarded hundreds of grants to municipalities and counties to create new parks and trails.

She served as vice president of the Fairmount Park Commission for over 10 years, followed by a term as Mayor Michael Nutter's representative on the Commission. She went on to serve on the newly created Philadelphia Commission on Parks & Recreation, where she chaired the Land Use & Planning committee and drafted and guided passage of the city's first parkland protection ordinance.

She co-founded the Philadelphia Environmental Film Festival in 2017, bringing in hundreds of top-notch new environmental shorts and feature films to the region, as well as creating speaker programs for filmmakers and local policy experts to share their knowledge with thousands of Festival attendees over five years.

As principal of Conservation Matters, LLC, she has represented dozens of land trusts, government agencies, and landowners, drafting strategic plans and legal documents enabling them to create parks, trails, and nature preserves.

She co-authored the state's first manual on what park agencies need to do to comply with the Americans With Disabilities Act.

A singer-songwriter, Debra won the 2022 PA Parks & Forests Foundation President's

Choice Award for her song "People Have the Power," which celebrated the 50th anniversary of the state's Environmental Rights Amendment. She currently sits on PennFuture's President's Leadership Council.

-- Woman of Lifetime Achievement in Conservation: Jeanne Bonnie Van Alen, Chester County - Bonnie recently stepped down from the position of Executive Director and President of Willistown Conservation Trust (WCT), a nonprofit land trust and conservation organization she founded over twenty-five years ago in Chester County.

She continues as a Trustee and President Emerita of WCT. Her land conservation legacy began over 40 years ago when she raised concerns over development threatening the rural Willistown countryside.

In the early 1980's, she left her work at the Academy of Natural Sciences of Philadelphia to launch a satellite program under the Brandywine Conservancy, with the purpose of conserving Willistown land with conservation easements held by the Brandywine Conservancy.

Following years of successful conservation easement negotiations — 90 in total — that inspired a community of conservation in Willistown and beyond, she received Brandywine Conservancy President Frolic Weymouth's blessing and partnered with friend and current Trustee Alice Hausmann to create an independent 501(c)(3) organization in 1996.

In addition to her conservation work at the Trust, she is also the co-founder of Delchester Group, Inc., a nonprofit organization formed to acquire and preserve critical properties by re-sale to conservation-minded buyers.

Within the Trust's focus area of 28,000 acres, Willistown Conservation Trust has conserved over 7,500 acres, and Delchester Group, Inc. is responsible for saving more than 2,000 acres.

Bonnie has served as a Trustee of the Academy of Natural Sciences of Philadelphia, the PA Chapter of the Nature Conservancy, and has served as a member of the Chairman's Council of the Hawk Mountain Sanctuary Association.

If you would like information on being a sponsor of the 2022-23 Celebrating Women in Conservation Awards event, please contact Travis DiNicola at dinicola@pennfuture.org or 717-214-7924.

[Posted: June 14, 2022]

Who's Protecting Taxpayers? House To Take Up Bill Exempting Conventional Oil & Gas Wells From Plugging Bonds Sticking Taxpayers With $5.1 Billion In Cleanup Liability



On June 16, House Republican Leadership advised members the House will be taking final action on legislation blocking any increase in conventional oil and gas well plugging bonds, exempting pre-1985 wells (which is most of them) from any bonding leaving taxpayers liable for $5.1 billion in cleanup costs.

The House is also scheduled to vote on a second bill that would mandate DEP award oil and gas well plugging contracts to Pennsylvania contractors, with no regard for cost to state

taxpayers.

Blocking, Exempting Oil & Gas Wells From Bonding

The bond blocking legislation-- House Bill 2644 (Causer-R-Cameron)-- was introduced to head off a proposal accepted for study by the Environmental Quality Board in November to increase the well plugging bonding amounts for both conventional oil and gas and unconventional shale gas drillers to what it now costs taxpayers to plug a well when operators walk away from their obligations. Read more here.

The public description of the bill provided by the prime sponsor tries to camouflage the real operational language and purpose of the bill. Just read the bill, you'll see.

The legislation would lock in law the bonding amounts for conventional wells at $2,500 per well, when the average cost to taxpayers of plugging conventional wells is $33,000.

The bill also allows operators to file a blanket bond of a total of $25,000 for all the operator's wells in the state, of which individual operators have hundreds.

The bill again puts in law again a provision exempting oil and gas wells drilled prior to April, 1985 from being required to have any plugging bond. An overwhelming majority of the over 110,000 active oil and gas wells in Pennsylvania were drilled before April 1985.

DEP records show conventional oil and gas companies were issued over 4,270 notices of violation for attempting to abandon oil and gas wells without plugging them between 2016 and 2021. Abandoning wells is pervasive in the industry. Read more here.

During the first quarter of 2022 DEP issued 77 notices of violation to conventional operators for attempting to abandon their wells without plugging them, and those were the ones DEP caught. Read more here.

Taxpayers are now liable for paying over $5.1 billion to plug conventional oil and gas wells operators have already abandoned or are inadequately bonded to pay plugging costs. Read more here.

The new well plugging program established in the federal Bipartisan Infrastructure Act requires states to review their regulations to prevent new wells from becoming abandoned wells. Making sure well plugging amounts are adequate to cover the taxpayer cost of plugging them is a big part of that prevention effort. Read more here.

By preventing any increase in the woefully inadequate bonding amounts DEP has now, this legislation gets in the way of that requirement and further burdens taxpayers.

The bill would also set aside 20 percent of the federal money Pennsylvania is receiving from the Bipartisan Infrastructure Act for conventional oil and gas well plugging to be used as grants to companies interested in plugging wells with few qualifications and no check on whether they have outstanding environmental or other contracting violations. Read more here.

The bill also sets limits on how deep a well must be plugged in terms of feet not in terms of the effectiveness of the plug in cutting off possible routes to contaminate ground or surface water and preventing methane emissions.

The bill also provides well plugging companies with civil immunity from any damage it causes and for any violations of environmental laws and regulations.

No Consideration Of Taxpayer Cost

A second bill-- House Bill 2528 (Struzzi-R-Indiana)-- would mandate DEP award oil and gas well plugging contracts to Pennsylvania contractors, with no regard for cost to taxpayers.

House Bill 2644 and House Bill 2528 are total giveaways to the conventional oil and gas industry and continue to make taxpayers liable for cleaning up billions of dollars of the

environmental mess they leave behind.
*(**Photo:** Republicans burning the hard-earned money of state taxpayers.)*
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-- Attorney General's Office Reported To Be Investigating Conventional Oil & Gas Operators For Illegally Road Dumping Drilling Wastewater
-- On-Site Conventional Oil & Gas Drilling Waste Disposal Plans Making Hundreds Of Drilling Sites Waste Dumps
-- Senate Hearing: Body Of Evidence Is 'Large, Growing,' 'Consistent' And 'Compelling' That Shale Gas Development Is Having A Negative Impact On Public Health; PA Must Act
-- New Abandoned Wells: DEP Records Show Abandoning Oil & Gas Wells Without Plugging Them Is Pervasive In Conventional Drilling Industry; Who Is Protecting Taxpayers?
-- Quarterly Report: DEP Issued 77 Notices Of Violations To Conventional Drillers, 8 To Shale Gas Drillers For Attempting To Abandon Wells Without Plugging Them
-- DEP To Prohibit Conventional Oil & Gas Drillers With Unresolved Environmental Violations From Getting Conventional Well Plugging Contracts; 133 Companies Interested In Doing Well Plugging Work
-- Financial Assurance, Plugging Regulations To Be Reviewed To Prevent New Abandoned Oil & Gas Wells Under Federal Bipartisan Infrastructure Law Plugging Program
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-- Beaver County Times: Big Sewickley Creek Plan Pits Drilling Company Against Watershed Defenders
-- PennLive: Natural Gas Royalty Payments On The Rise In Shale Gas Regions Of PA
[Posted: June 16, 2022]

EQB Adopts Part I Of Reg. Reducing Oil & Gas VOC/Methane Emissions; 80% Of Methane Emissions Come From Conventional Oil & Gas Facilities; IRRC Considers July 21



On June 14, the Environmental Quality Board voted 15 to 3, with one abstention, to adopt Part I of a revised final regulation reducing volatile organic compounds and methane emissions from just unconventional (shale gas) wells and facilities.
The Independent Regulatory Review Commission is due to consider this regulation on July 21.
The provisions of an earlier final regulation were changed to remove requirements covering conventional, low-producing, oil and gas wells.

Because conventional wells were removed, the regulation only results in reducing methane emissions by 20 percent and volatile organic compound emissions by 24 percent of the original combined regulation covering unconventional and conventional oil and gas facilities.

Representatives of Sen. Gene Yaw (R-Lycoming) and Rep. Daryl Metcalfe (R-Butler) and John St. Clair, a representative of DEP's Citizens Advisory Council, voted no.

James Welty, also a member of DEP's Citizens Advisory Council and a representative of the Marcellus Shale Coalition, abstained from the vote.

Welty said he did not vote on the regulation because he felt the original final regulation voted on by the Board in March, which he supported, should be presented to the Independent Regulatory Review Commission for action.

[Note: What he didn't say was that combined regulation was headed for a vote to disapprove at IRRC. See Background below.]

Welty pointed out the final regulation before the board covering only unconventional oil and gas facilities results in 76 percent fewer tons of volatile organic compound reductions and 80 percent fewer tons of methane reductions than the original final regulation covering both unconventional and conventional regulations.

He said this makes the revised regulation a "substantively different rulemaking" than the original, requiring it to go back through the public comment process again.

The numbers Welty referred to were in DEP's Regulatory Analysis Forms in March and given to the EQB for this June meeting--

-- Volatile Organic Compound Reductions--
-- Conventional-- 9,136 tons
-- Unconventional (shale gas)-- 2,864 tons
-- Methane Reductions--
-- Conventional-- 175,788 tons
-- Unconventional (shale gas)-- 45,278 tons

Because DEP separated the regulation, it was the first time they documented how significant the volume of methane and volatile organic compound emission reductions from conventional oil and gas facilities are under the same requirements.

Krishnan Ramamurthy, DEP Deputy Secretary for Waste, Air, Radiation and Remediation, explained it this way-- "Conventional wells [were] pretty much exempted from any permitting requirements, regulatory requirements. For the first time we are addressing those. That's why you have a higher baseline emissions being computed."

He noted unconventional (shale) gas emissions have been regulated by DEP under permit requirements, and that's why their baseline emissions are much lower than conventional facilities.

Ramamurthy also said the final regulation does not change the substance of how Reasonably Available Control Technology requirements are set for unconventional and conventional oil and gas facilities.

It is applied equally to both, not making it a substantively different rulemaking.

Background

The Board had adopted a final regulation on reducing VOC/methane emissions from both unconventional and conventional oil and gas facilities in March, however, DEP temporarily withdrew the regulation from the Independent Regulatory Review Commission in May.

An objection to that regulation was raised by the Republicans on the House Environmental Resources and Energy Committee questioning whether the regulation met the requirements of a 2016 law (Act 52) requiring separate regulations for conventional oil and gas operations. Read more here.

The original final regulation did not distinguish between conventional and unconventional sources of emissions, but set a threshold above which oil and gas facility sources of VOCs/methane would be regulated.

In the executive summary of the revised regulation applying to only unconventional shale gas facilities DEP maintains "...Act 52 applies to rulemakings promulgated under title 58 Pa.C.S. Since this final-form rulemaking is being promulgated under the APCA [state Air Pollution Control Act] in Title 35, the requirements of Act 52 do not apply.

"Even so, the Board amended this final-form rulemaking to clarify that the control measures are only applicable to unconventional sources of VOC emissions."

Conventional Sources

Krishnan Ramamurthy, DEP Deputy Secretary for Waste, Air, Radiation and Remediation, told the Board in order to have a complete SIP [State Implementation Plan] revision meeting the mandatory requirements of EPA, Pennsylvania must cover both conventional and unconventional oil and gas facilities sources.

The Preamble to the revised rulemaking says "... the Department will develop a separate rulemaking for the RACT requirements for sources of VOC emissions installed at conventional well sites" since the regulations covering oil and gas facilities are being promulgated to attain both the federal 2008 and 2015 ozone standard.

"Once promulgated, the separate rulemaking for sources of VOC emissions installed at conventional well sites will also be submitted as a SIP [State Implementation Plan] revision.

"The Department is working toward completing both submittals by December 16, 2022, to avoid the Federal Highway sanctions."

DEP staff told the EQB a regulatory package covering conventional oil and gas

operations should be sent to the Board for action as soon as possible, but likely in September.

DEP said it is still evaluating whether to bring the conventional rule back to the Board as a proposed or final regulation.

Without regulations covering conventional oil and gas facilities, Pennsylvania would be losing 80 percent of the methane reductions and 76 percent of the volatile organic compound emissions benefits and not complying with EPA requirements.

Click Here for the revised regulation and related documents.

Radiological Health Fees

The Environmental Quality Board voted 17 to 2 to approve for public comment proposed regulations raising a variety of permit fees under the program.

For more information and available handouts, visit the Environmental Quality Board webpage. Questions should be directed to Laura Griffin, Regulatory Coordinator, laurgriffi@pa.gov, 717-772-3277.

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[Posted: June 14, 2022]

Post-Gazette Editorial: PA Republican Lawmakers Poised To Cost PA Billions In Highway Funding At Behest Of Oil & Gas Industry

This editorial first appeared in the Pittsburgh Post-Gazette on June 17, 2022--



Republican state legislators are poised to cost Pennsylvania billions of dollars in federal highway funding at the behest of the oil and gas industry.

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency has a collection of rules for emissions from oil and gas drilling sites that states must adopt, or else they will lose billions of possible dollars in federal highway funds.

Pennsylvania is years behind schedule, and has a final deadline of Dec. 16, 2022.

It may be a kind of blackmail, but it's effective — and it's the law. It doesn't matter what you think of the EPA's rules: The way the regulations are set up, when the EPA says "jump," Pennsylvania asks how high.

Unless you're Daryl Metcalfe, the retiring Republican state legislator from Cranberry Township who has distinguished himself as one of Harrisburg's most right-wing, and pugilistic, characters.

A bosom friend of the oil and gas industry, Mr. Metcalfe chairs the State House's Environmental Resources and Energy Committee.

Pennsylvania's Department of Environmental Protection, doing its job, proposed a set of clean air regulations that would comply with the EPA's rules and apply to both conventional oil and gas and shale gas extraction.

But that regulation has to be rubber stamped by Mr. Metcalfe's committee, which has objected, arguing that a 2016 state law requires that conventional and shale resources be regulated separately.

In response, on Tuesday the state's Environmental Quality Board passed satisfactory regulations on the shale part of the industry.

Now the question is: Can the DEP and EQB break out the conventional regulations from the combined rule and vote on them in short order? Or must they begin the rulemaking process again, from the very beginning, which would take at least two years?

Pennsylvania doesn't have two years, but Mr. Metcalfe's committee wants to require it.

The party of small and efficient government is intentionally gumming up the work of state authorities.

And for no reason.

The already-written regulation does not need to be reworked. Whatever game the Republican legislators think they're playing, it's a game that will only hurt Pennsylvania.

They're risking taxpayer dollars that should belong to Pennsylvania to play it.

If the GOP wants to challenge the EPA's rules and powers, they should do so through the proper channels: through filing challenges in the courts and winning control of the executive branch.

Playing tough with the feds wastes time and money. It will make a difference in the highways we drive on, especially how safe they are.

Worse, in a time when Americans rightly worry about their democracy, the Republicans' stunt contributes to the public's sense that government today is nothing more than a game for insiders, rather than grown-up work performed by serious men and women for the good of the people of Pennsylvania.
***(Photo:** Pittsburgh Post-Gazette.)*
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[Posted: June 17, 2022]

Oil & Natural Gas Facility Health Impacts Assessment Bill Introduced In The House



On June 14, House Bill 1467 was introduced to establish an Oil and Natural Gas Facility Health Impacts Assessment Program in the Department of Health.

The requirements in the bill cover oil and natural gas facilities, including wells, pipelines, pumping

stations, compressor stations, power plants, natural gas processing plants or plants processing waste streams from oil and gas operations.

Both unconventional and conventional oil and gas well operations are covered by the language in the legislation, since both types of wells typically use hydraulic fracturing.

The bill would establish an Interdepartmental Coordinating Task Force in the Department of Health, with the Department of Environmental Protection, to oversee the collection and analysis of baseline health and environmental data related to the impact of oil and natural gas facilities on public health and safety.

One of the major duties of the Task Force is to identify health symptoms that are connected to the health impacts from oil and natural gas facilities, and hydraulic fracturing in particular, and share that information with the public and physicians.

The Department of Health and the Task Force are also charged with investigating complaints from individuals who report adverse health effects from oil and natural gas facilities and hydraulic fracturing chemicals

For the first time, the bill would require the Department of Health to collect baseline, community-wide health data prior to the permitting of new oil and natural gas facilities-- wells, pipelines, pumping stations, compressor stations, power plants, natural gas processing plants or plants processing waste streams from oil and gas operations.

Part of the baseline assessment data required to be collected by toxicologists is focused on biomarker indicators for chemicals commonly used in hydraulic fracturing operations.

As part of the baseline data collection, oil and natural gas companies would be required to declare the health impacts expected during the development and operation of their facilities, prior to permitting.

The Department of Health is required to report on the data they collect and analyze one year after the effective date of the legislation and annually thereafter. The data is required to be publicly available on the Internet.

Quarterly reports are also required to be submitted to the Governor's Office, Attorney General and to various members of the Senate and House.

The Department of Environmental Protection is also required to gather baseline water and air quality data within 2,500 feet of the oil and natural gas facilities covered by the bill prior to construction and quarterly thereafter.

The Department of Health is required to establish an Oil and Natural Gas Production Health Registry to track public exposures and health impacts from oil and natural gas facilities.

[Note: The Department does have a Oil and Gas Health Registry, but limitations in existing epidemiologic studies and other issues prevent it from being as effective as it could be. Read more here.

[In its work with the existing registry, however, the Department of Health said, "epidemiologic evidence has found associations between unconventional oil and natural gas production in Pennsylvania and the following: adverse birth outcomes and increased respiratory problems." Read more here.]

Under the legislation, Health is required to conduct a public education campaign promoting the Registry to members of the public living, working or attending school within 20 miles of oil and natural gas facilities.

The campaign is also required to include sharing information with the public of likely health symptoms resulting from impacts by oil and natural gas facilities so they can better assess

their own potential exposures and seek appropriate medial care.

Health is required to provide training to physicians on the symptoms to look for related to exposure to health impacts from oil and natural gas facilities.

The bill establishes an Oil and Natural Gas Public Health Registry Fund to provide funding for the responsibilities of Health and DEP under the bill.

A new annual Environmental Hazard Fee of $10,000 per oil and natural gas facility covered by the legislation would be assessed and deposited into the Fund.

Other provisions include--

-- **Department of Health is required to develop a response plan** for each incoming environmental or health compliant, including a communications plan;

-- No Liability For Disclosing Health Impacts by people with existing nondisclosure agreements confidentially reporting health information to the Department of Health as part of baseline and complaint investigations;

-- Prohibiting Nondisclosure Agreements between oil and natural gas companies restricting individuals from reporting health impacts or symptoms associated with chemicals used in hydraulic fracturing;

-- Duty Of Physicians To Report treating patients with symptoms commonly found in connection with health impacts from oil and natural gas facilities and identified by the Department of Health as a result of data collection on the legislation; and

-- DEP Coordination With Health on the health impacts of pollution events at oil and natural gas facilities.

Background

The prime sponsors of the legislation-- Rep. Rick Krajewski (D-Philadelphia) and Dan Frankel (D-Allegheny)-- said in announcing the bill--

"The 2020 Attorney General [Grand Jury] Report called for the Department of Health (DOH) to have an active and defined role in regulating the fracking industry to protect the health and safety of Pennsylvanians above all else." Read more here.

"For this reason, we plan to introduce a bill that would require the DOH [Health] to coordinate with the DEP to collect, analyze and maintain updated data on the impact of fracking on public health and make this data available and easily accessible to the public.

"In addition, my bill would require DOH and DEP to investigate all resident complaints related to fracking facilities.

"DOH would also coordinate with local health centers and develop public education resources and training on the impact of fracking for local health officials.

"To better facilitate data collection, DOH would ensure that affected communities are fully aware of, and have easy access to, lines of communication with the department."

Since the 2020 Grand Jury report, both the Senate and House have held hearings on the health impacts of oil and natural gas facilities.

Most recently at a June 2 hearing in the Senate, Dr. Brian S. Schwartz said the body of evidence on negative impacts on public health from oil and gas operations is "large, growing," "consistent" and "compelling." Read more here.

In April, the Southwest PA-based Environmental Health Project issued a white paper--- Pennsylvania's Shale Gas Boom: How Policy Decisions Failed to Protect Public Health and What We Can Do to Correct It-- providing an assessment of the latest information available on health impacts and recommendations for policy changes going forward. Read more here.

In May, Penn State University released a study that found runoff from conventional oil and gas wastewater dumped on unpaved roads as a dust suppressant contains pollutants that exceed human-health and environmental standards. Read more here.

The Penn State study follows others that found health concerns related to the naturally occurring radiation in drill cuttings and wastewater from the oil and gas industry. Read more here. Read more here. Read more here.

Also in May, a new tool released by Earthworks and the FracTracker Alliance provides the public with an easy way to understand how close they live to natural gas wells, distribution and other facilities. It could help individuals correlated the symptoms they are experiencing with a possible impact of a natural gas facility. Read more here.

In January, the Department of Health announced the award of a $2.5 million contract to the University of Pittsburgh Graduate School of Public Health to conduct research on the potential health effects of hydraulic fracturing in Pennsylvania. Read more here.

Health said the goal is to have the study finished in two years.

Last November, the PA League of Women Voters and the University of Pittsburgh Graduate School of Public Health held another in their series of Shale Gas and Public Health Conferences outlining the most recent research on health impacts from the oil and gas industry. Read more here.

The potential health impacts from oil and natural gas development surfaced immediately as a concern at the beginning of unconventional (shale) gas drilling in the state.

In March of 2013, in response to these concerns, Republican Sen. Joe Scarnati (Jefferson), President Pro-Tempore of the Senate, introduced the first legislation creating a Marcellus Shale Health Advisory Panel. Read more here.

Under the legislation, the panel was tasked with thoroughly investigating and studying advancements in science, technology and public health data in order to provide Pennsylvania elected officials, regulators and the general public with information, analysis and recommendations regarding the safe, efficient and environmentally responsible extraction and use of unconventional natural gas reserves in the Commonwealth.

In 2015, Rep. Karen Boback (R-Luzerne) introduced the same legislation in the House. Read more here.

However, neither bill saw real legislative action.

The creation of the Registry was one of many recommendations in the July 2011 report of the Gov. Corbett's Marcellus Shale Commission. Read more here.

Concerns about the health impacts of chemicals used in hydraulic fracking did make their way into the 2012 amendments to the Oil and Gas Act (Act 13). But the provisions only dealt with disclosure to physicians and others and not an evaluation of health impacts. Read more here.

There has been a lot of concern about health impacts and work done to collect and analyze data on the issues related to oil and natural gas facilities.

House Bill 1467 and other legislation in the Senate and House could begin a conversation-- again-- on how to build a framework to run a more comprehensive and effective health impacts assessment program to address the very real concerns of the residents living next to these facilities.

*(**Photos:** Top- Natural gas flaring within sight of a school, Environmental Health Project, FracTracker Alliance, PennEnvironment; Filter clogged with drill cuttings from "dusting"*

operations; Bottom- Indiscriminate road dumping conventional drilling wastewater; 2018 explosion of brand new Revolution Pipeline in Beaver County.)

Related Articles:

-- Senate Hearing: Body Of Evidence Is 'Large, Growing,' 'Consistent' And 'Compelling' That Shale Gas Development Is Having A Negative Impact On Public Health; PA Must Act

-- New Penn State Study Finds Runoff From Conventional Oil & Gas Wastewater Dumped On Unpaved Roads Contains Pollutants That Exceed Human-Health, Environmental Standards

-- Now On Demand: Videos From 2021 Shale Gas & Public Health Conference; Including Preliminary Results Of A Penn State Study On Health Risks From Road Spreading Conventional Drilling Wastewater

-- Dept. Of Health Awards $2.5 Million Contract To University of Pittsburgh To Research Health Effects Of Hydraulic Fracturing In PA

-- New Pitt-Duquesne Study Shows Higher Exposures To Radiation In Road Dumping Of Drilling Wastewater When Appropriate Exposure Scenarios Are Used

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

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

-- Physicians For Social Responsibility Release 8th Compendium of Scientific, Medical, Media Findings On Risks, Harms Of Fracking And Oil & Gas Infrastructure

-- Earthworks, FracTracker Alliance Release New Online Oil & Gas Threat Map; Find Natural Gas Facilities, Wells Near You

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-- EQB Adopts Part I Of Final Regulation Reducing Oil & Gas VOC/Methane Emissions; DEP Documents 80% Of Methane Emissions Come From Conventional Oil & Gas Facilities

-- IRRC To Consider EQB Regulation Reducing VOC/Methane Emissions From Unconventional Shale Natural Gas Facilities July 21

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[Posted: June 16, 2022]

Penn State Beaver Seeking Volunteers For June 23 Focus Group On Energy Development, Groundwater Quality & Public Health In Western PA



A Penn State research team is currently researching Energy Development, Groundwater Quality and Public Health in Beaver, Washington, and Greene Counties, and you can participate in the first focus group for this study, to be held at Penn State Beaver on June 23, 6:30-8:00 p.m.
Penn State's research organizers are looking for 12-15 community members to share their insights at this June 23 focus group.

The focus group will last approximately 90 minutes. It will be recorded and transcribed, but recordings and transcriptions will only be shared with the research team.

Your participation is voluntary and you can stop participating at any time. All responses will also be anonymized.

Why participate? Your input will inform a geoscientific analysis of a water sampling database collected in the region (7,000 samples).

The findings will be shared with representatives from government agencies including the US Environmental Protection Agency, the state Department of Environmental Protection and the Department of Health—all while keeping your personal data confidential.

The study is funded by the Health Effects Institute—Energy, the National Science Foundation, the Institutes of Energy and Environment and Earth and Environmental Systems Institute at Penn State.

Click Here to register for the June 23 focus group from 6:30 - 8:00 pm at Penn State Beaver.

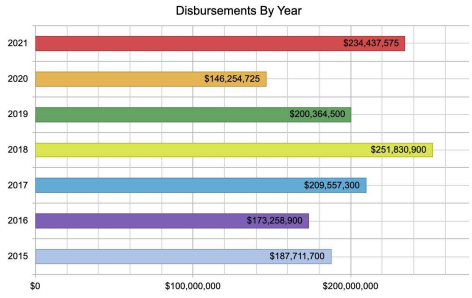
Or get in touch with Dr. Jennifer Baka, the Principal Investigator or Owen Harrington, a Penn State Graduate Student in Geography who will help conduct the focus groups in all three counties: Dr. Baka: jeb525@psu.edu or call 814-865-9656; Mr. Harrington: ofh5033@psu.edu.

Visit the Energy Development, Groundwater Quality and Public Health project webpage.

(Reprinted from Bobscaping Blog and Beaver County Marcellus Awareness Community

Related Articles This Week:
-- Oil & Natural Gas Facility Health Impacts Assessment Bill Introduced In The House
-- Who's Protecting Taxpayers? House To Take Up Bill Exempting Conventional Oil & Gas Wells From Plugging Bonds Sticking Taxpayers With $5.1 Billion In Cleanup Liability
-- Post-Gazette Editorial: Republican Lawmakers Poised To Cost PA Billions In Highway Funding At Behest Of Oil & Gas Industry
-- EQB Adopts Part I Of Reg. Reducing Oil & Gas VOC/Methane Emissions; 80% Of Methane Emissions Come From Conventional Oil & Gas Facilities; IRRC Considers July 21 [PaEN]
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-- StateImpactPA: DEP Drops Major Source Of Methane From New Rule Limiting Oil & Gas Facility Emissions
-- Post-Gazette: Allegheny County Executive Defends Record On Fracking Amid Calls For Drilling Ban In County Parks
-- Beaver County Times: Big Sewickley Creek Plan Pits Drilling Company Against Watershed Defenders
-- PennLive: Natural Gas Royalty Payments On The Rise In Shale Gas Regions Of PA
[Posted: June 16, 2022]

PUC Distributes $234 Million In 2021 Revenue From Act 13 Drilling Impact Fee; Represents Lowest Effective Tax Rate On Natural Gas Companies On Record - IFO



On June 17, the Public Utility Commission posted detailed information about the distribution of 2021 Act 13 Drilling Impact Fee revenue from unconventional shale natural gas producers – totaling $234,437,575 – on the PUC's Act 13 website.
County and municipal governments directly affected by drilling will receive a total of $123,217,163 for the 2021 reporting year.
Additionally, $86,030,934 will be transferred to the Marcellus Legacy Fund, which provides financial support for environmental, highway, water and

sewer projects, rehabilitation of greenways and other projects throughout the state.

Also, $25,189,477 will be distributed to state agencies, as specified by Act 13.

The PUC has forwarded the information to the Department of Treasury for payment and expects checks to be distributed in early July.

Since 2011, the Act 13 Drilling Impact Fee has resulted in total revenues of $2.258 billion.

The Fee is assessed per well, and not on the amount of natural gas produced like a severance tax.

The Independent Fiscal Office calculates an effective tax rate on natural gas drilling companies for the Act 13 Impact Fee every year. For 2021 revenue collections, the tax rate was 1.3 percent, the lowest on record. In 2020, the ETR was 3.3 percent, the highest on record. Read more here.

This year's distribution is near $100 million higher than last year, driven primarily by the average price of natural gas in 2021 ($3.84 per MMBtu) versus the average price in 2020 ($2.08 per MMBtu) which generated a higher impact fee payment for each well in 2021 – along with the addition of 518 new wells during 2021.

The U.S. Energy Information Administration expects the average price of natural gas in May 2022 was $8.14 per MMBtu and this summer is expected to be $8.81 per MMBtu. Read more here.

The distributions for individual municipalities are detailed on the PUC's Act 13 website.

Extensive details regarding the impact fee distribution are available online, including specifics on funds collected and distributed for each year since 2011.

Visitors can search and download statistics such as distributions to individual municipalities or counties; allocation and usage of those funds, based on reports submitted by various municipalities; eligible wells per county/municipality; and payments by producers.

The PUC is responsible for implementing the collection and distribution of an unconventional gas well fee (also called an Impact Fee), established by the Unconventional Gas Well Impact Fee Act and signed into law as Act 13 of 2012.

Visit the PUC's Act 13 website for more information.

Reaction

The Marcellus Shale Coalition released this statement on the Act 13 Impact Fee announcement--

"The nearly 60 percent increase in this year's distribution is directly related to heightened activity levels and the commodity price environment, underscoring the importance of policies that encourage domestic natural gas development, transportation and use. Our members continue to be focused on responsibly developing clean, abundant Pennsylvania natural gas, which is even more important today in keeping America and our allies energy secure," said Marcellus Shale Coalition president David Callahan

Click Here for the complete statement.

NewsClips:

-- WSJ: High U.S. Gasoline, Diesel, Natural Gas Exports Contributing To Spike In U.S. Prices

"A rapid rise in American fuel exports this year has helped push gasoline prices to a record $5 a gallon and is pressuring U.S. prices of natural gas, which hit the highest levels in over a decade earlier this month."

-- Inquirer - Andrew Maykuth: A Proposed LNG Natural Gas Plan In Chester Would Be Gigantic

And Hardly Anyone Knows About It
-- WHYY: Could Delaware County Get A Major LNG Natural Gas Plant, How Will It Clash With Environmental Justice Goals In Chester
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-- Beaver County Times: Big Sewickley Creek Plan Pits Drilling Company Against Watershed Defenders
-- PennLive: Natural Gas Royalty Payments On The Rise In Shale Gas Regions Of PA
-- The Guardian: Fossil Fuel Firms 'Have Humanity By The Throat,' Says UN Head In Blistering Attack
-- Reuters: UN Chief Says The Dash For New Fossil Fuels Is 'Delusional'

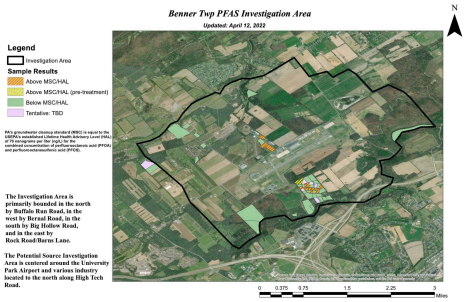
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-- EQB Adopts Part I Of Final Regulation Reducing Oil & Gas VOC/Methane Emissions; DEP Documents 80% Of Methane Emissions Come From Conventional Oil & Gas Facilities
-- IRRC To Consider EQB Regulation Reducing VOC/Methane Emissions From Unconventional Shale Natural Gas Facilities July 21
-- PA Dept. Of Agriculture Temporarily Suspends Requirement For 2% Biodiesel For Out-Of-State Fuel Sold In PA In Response To Rolling Outages Of Diesel Fuel

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-- PennLive: Natural Gas Royalty Payments On The Rise In Shale Gas Regions Of PA
[Posted: June 17, 2022]

DEP Hosts June 28 Hearing On Benner Twp. PFAS Hazardous Site Cleanup Investigation In Centre County



On June 15, the Department of Environmental Protection will host a public hearing to provide a brief informational presentation regarding the ongoing Benner Township PFAS investigation in Centre County around the University Park Airport and to hear oral comments on DEP's proposed prompt interim response action.
The meeting will be held at 6:30 p.m. on June 28, 2022, at the Benner Township Municipal Building,1224 Buffalo Run Road, Bellefonte, PA 16823.

DEP's Bureau of Environmental Cleanup and Brownfields is investigating a groundwater plume located in Benner Township, Centre County, in accordance with the Hazardous Sites Cleanup Act (HSCA).

DEP has initiated a prompt interim response which consists of providing bottled drinking water and has proposed installation of whole-house filtration systems on private residential water supplies where perfluorooctanesulfonic acid (PFOS) andperfluorooctonic acid (PFOA) exceed the applicable Health Advisory Level (HAL).

Perfluoroalkyl and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS), which includes PFOA and PFOS, are man-made chemicals that persist in the environment and the human body. PFAS are not found naturally in the environment and are used in the manufacture of a variety of products and materials.

They are also used in firefighting foams and in a number of industrial processes.

A copy of the Administrative Record, fact sheet about the investigation, map, and additional information about PFAS is available on DEP's Benner Twp. PFAS Site webpage.

The Administrative Record is also available for review at the Benner Township Municipal Building.

Those who wish to offer testimony at the public hearing should register with Megan Lehman, Community Relations Coordinator for DEP's Northcentral Region, at 570-327-3659 or by email at meglehman@pa.gov.

Registration to testify will close at 4:00 p.m. on Monday, June 27, 2022. Oral comments are limited to three minutes per person and will be recorded. Registration is not required simply to attend the hearing.

Written comments of any length will be accepted until 4:00 p.m. on Friday, August 26, 2022, and should be sent to Cheryl Sinclair, Environmental Group Manager, by email at csinclair@pa.gov, or by mail or hand-delivery to the DEP Northcentral Regional Office, 208 W. 3rd Street, Suite 101, Williamsport, PA 17701.

All comments, whether delivered orally during the hearing or submitted in writing, carry equal weight and consideration with DEP.

Following the close of the public comment period, DEP will prepare a comment and response document responding to all public comments received orally at the hearing and in writing prior to the deadline.

Persons with a disability who wish to attend the hearing and require auxiliary aid, service, or other accommodations to participate in the proceedings should call through the Pennsylvania

AT&T Relay Service at 1-800-654-5984 (TDD) to discuss how DEP may accommodate their needs.

A notice of the public hearing appeared in the Pennsylvania Bulletin on Saturday, May 14, 2022, and in the Centre Daily Times newspaper on Wednesday, May 15, 2022.

For more information, visit the DEP's Benner Twp. PFAS Site webpage.

Related Article:

-- DEP Sets June 28 Hearing On Response To PFOA/PFOS Contamination Around University Park Airport, Centre County

Related Article This Week:

-- EPA: New Drinking Water Health Advisories Set For 4 PFAS Chemicals; $1 Billion In Bipartisan Infrastructure Law Funding Available For Cleanup [PaEN]

[Posted: June 15, 2022]

EPA: New Drinking Water Health Advisories Set For 4 PFAS Chemicals; $1 Billion In Bipartisan Infrastructure Law Funding Available For Cleanup

On June 15, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency released four drinking water health advisories for per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) in the latest action under President Biden's action plan to deliver clean water and Administrator Regan's PFAS Strategic Roadmap.

EPA also announced that it is inviting states and territories to apply for $1 billion – the first of $5 billion in Bipartisan Infrastructure Law grant funding – to address PFAS and other emerging contaminants in drinking water, specifically in small or disadvantaged communities.

These actions build on EPA's progress to safeguard communities from PFAS pollution and scientifically inform upcoming efforts, including EPA's forthcoming proposed National Primary Drinking Water Regulation for PFOA and PFOS, which EPA will release in the fall of 2022.

Click Here for the complete announcement.

Related Article:

-- DEP Hosts June 28 Hearing On Benner Twp. PFAS Hazardous Site Cleanup Investigation In Centre County [PaEN]

[Posted: June 15, 2022]

DEP Citizens Advisory Council To Hear Update June 21 On Oil & Gas Advisory Board Activities; Discuss Legacy Issues Report; Transition Paper

DEP's Citizens Advisory Council is scheduled to meet June 21 to hear an update on Oil and Gas Technical Advisory Board activities and discuss its DEP Legacy Issues Report and a new transition paper for the next Governor.

This will also be DEP Secretary Patrick McDonnell's last Council meeting report before he leaves the agency on July 2.

Jeff Walentosky, P.G., Council's appointment to the Oil and Gas Technical Advisory Board, will give the update on Board activities.

The Board has been meeting on a wide variety of issues including DEP draft Environmental Justice Policy revision, proposed permit fee increases for oil and gas well permits, radioactive monitoring of drilling wastes going to waste disposal facilities, updates to

the conventional oil and gas drilling regulations and on the issue of road spreading conventional oil and gas drilling wastewater.

The Council is also scheduled to discuss developing a transition paper to present policy and organizational issues the administration of the next Governor should address.

DEP's monthly written report to Council highlighting agency activities is also available.

Public Comments

Individuals interested in providing public comments during the meeting must sign up prior to the start of the meeting by contacting Keith Salador at ksalador@pa.gov, 717-787-8171.

The meeting will be held in Room 105 Rachel Carson Building starting at 12:30 p.m. Click Here to register to attend via WebEx. Audio of the meeting will be available by conference call: +1-415-655-0003 Access code: 2632 319 715.

The next meeting of Council is scheduled for July 19.

For more information, visit DEP's Citizens Advisory Council webpage. Questions should be directed to Keith Salador, Executive Director, ksalador@pa.gov, 717-787-8171.

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-- Who's Protecting Taxpayers? House To Take Up Bill Exempting Conventional Oil & Gas Wells From Plugging Bonds Sticking Taxpayers With $5.1 Billion In Cleanup Liability

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-- Beaver County Times: Big Sewickley Creek Plan Pits Drilling Company Against Watershed Defenders

-- PennLive: Natural Gas Royalty Payments On The Rise In Shale Gas Regions Of PA
[Posted: June 16, 2022]

DCNR Celebrates French Creek As The 2022 River Of The Year At Paddle Fest Celebration



On June 11, Department of Conservation and Natural Resources Secretary Cindy Adams Dunn joined the French Creek Valley Conservancy and the PA Organization for Waterways and Rivers to celebrate French Creek as the 2022 River of the Year.

"Pennsylvania is a beautiful state with amazing waterways, and today I am pleased to paddle one of the Commonwealth's best bodies of water, French Creek, to celebrate the tremendous 2022 River of the Year honor," Dunn said. "Special thanks to the French Creek Valley Conservancy and its volunteers for protecting the creek throughout the year. That work is critical to community leadership driving conservation and providing valuable recreation opportunities to the public."

Dunn joined a group on a nine-mile paddle on French Creek, beginning at Bicentennial Park in Meadville to Shaw's Landing in Crawford County.

French Creek is one of the most biologically diverse waterways of its size in the United States, meandering 117 miles from its headwaters in southern New York through four Pennsylvania counties to the Allegheny River.

The creek is home to 27 species of freshwater mussels, more than 80 species of fish, and numerous waterfowl and songbird species, including bald eagles and four Audubon-designated Important Bird Areas (IBAs).

French Creek is also home to the Eastern Hellbender, the largest species of salamander in North America, and the official amphibian of Pennsylvania.

"Today is a very special day and we are delighted to celebrate French Creek as Pennsylvania River of the Year," said French Creek Valley Conservancy Executive Director Brenda Costa. "We are grateful to DCNR and POWR for supporting this program and giving this honor to French Creek. The creek is a common thread that joins so many small communities in northwest Pennsylvania with a sense of pride and passion, and we are grateful to the thousands of people who voted for French Creek. People often share stories with me about their experiences and family memories surrounding French Creek, and I look forward to having more people discover our community treasure."

FCVC is an accredited land trust dedicated to protecting the French Creek Watershed. FCVC currently protects more than 3,000 acres of land throughout the watershed, helping to conserve French Creek, its tributaries, critical riparian areas, and providing recreational access.

FCVC manages French Creek as an official Pennsylvania Water Trail and will celebrate its 40th anniversary this year.

As a part of winning the River of the Year award, the French Creek Valley Conservancy received a $10,000 Leadership Grant to help fund a slate of year-long award activities.

DCNR and POWR worked with FCVC to create a free, commemorative poster

celebrating the French Creek River as the 2022 Pennsylvania River of the Year.

"We are proud to celebrate the French Creek and all of the great work done to elevate it to this level," said POWR's Janet Sweeney. "As enthusiasm for River of the Year continues to grow, this program continues to be a wonderful opportunity to showcase all of the nominated waterways and the great work being done in Pennsylvania communities on these valuable resources."

A commemorative River of the Year sojourn is among many paddling trips supported by DCNR and POWR each year.

An independent program, the Pennsylvania Sojourn Program, is a unique series of a dozen such trips on the state's rivers.

These water-based journeys for canoeists, kayakers, and others raise awareness of the environmental, recreational, tourism, and heritage values of rivers.

Learn more about the River of the Year program and sojourns, visit DCNR's website.

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:

-- French Creek Named 2022 Pennsylvania River Of The Year

-- DEP Our Common Wealth Blog: Surveying Mussels In French Creek, Crawford County

[Posted: June 12, 2022]

PA Farm Bureau, Sand County Foundation, Partners Now Accepting Nominations For PA Leopold Conservation Award



The PA Farm Bureau, The Heinz Foundation and the Sand County Foundation are now accepting nominations for the 2022 Pennsylvania Leopold Conservation Award. The deadline for nominations is August 1. The $10,000 prize and the Award are given in honor of renowned conservationist Aldo Leopold, the award recognizes landowners who inspire others with their dedication to land, water and wildlife habitat management on private, working land.

In his influential 1949 book, "A Sand County Almanac," Leopold called for an ethical relationship between people and the land they own and manage.

Previous winners in Pennsylvania include-- Brubaker Farm, Lancaster County- 2021; Ben and Sharon Peckman, Franklin County- 2020; Dean and Rebecca Jackson, Bradford County-2019; and the DiFebo Family, Northampton County.

The Pennsylvania Leopold Conservation Award is made possible through the generous support from American Farmland Trust, The Heinz Endowments, PA Farm Bureau, Sand County Foundation, USDA NRCS-PA, PA Department of Agriculture, and PA Association of Conservation Districts.

The Leopold Conservation Award will be presented at the Pennsylvania Farm Show in January.

For all the details and how to apply, visit the 2022 Pennsylvania Leopold Conservation Award webpage.

Take Action Now!

-- Tell Your Legislator NOW To Set Aside $500 Million From Federal American Rescue Funds To Support Local Environmental, State Park & Forest Projects

Related Articles:

-- Bay Journal: EPA And Farm Bureau Find Common Ground In Pennsylvania - Urge State Lawmakers To Support Chesapeake Bay Cleanup Funding - By Karl Blankenship, Chesapeake Bay Journal

-- Preparations Underway For Penn State's 2022 Ag Progress Days August 9-11

[Posted: June 13, 2022]

ESMC Partners With Conservation Innovation Fund To Create Innovative Water, Carbon, And Biodiversity Credit Opportunities In the Mid-Atlantic States



The Ecosystem Services Market Consortium (ESMC) and the Conservation Innovation Fund (CIF) have announced the launch of an inaugural project to streamline the creation and sale of environmental credits from dairy and beef producers across the Mid-Atlantic.

Through the project, farmers will implement practices such as edge-of-field conservation, increased nutrient management, manure management, cover crops, and reduced tillage.

These practices will generate environmental credits from measurable water quality improvements, carbon reduction, and biodiversity enhancements.

The project provides up-front capital to producers along with agricultural technical assistance providers to develop water, biodiversity, and carbon credits that benefit all stakeholders.

Credit buyers in the food and beverage sector will have the opportunity to meet their Scope 3 supply chain carbon goals using agriculture as an environmental solution.

Credits developed through the project will meet the quality requirements of global corporate supply chain accounting and reporting standards.

"Market-based sustainability initiatives have the potential to fundamentally reshape how we integrate carbon sequestration, water quality, and biodiversity preservation into our agricultural supply chains," said Ashley Allen Jones, CEO of i2 Capital and founding board member of the CIF. "We formed the Conservation Innovation Fund to systematically align resources and reduce adoption risk to agricultural producers, quantification and transaction experts, and corporate purchasers, thereby strengthening the emerging market for carbon and water smart commodities."

Additional lead project partners include Maryland & Virginia Milk Producers Cooperative Association (MDVA), TeamAg, RedBarn Consulting, Stroud Water Research Center, the Alliance for the Chesapeake Bay, Lancaster Clean Water Partners, the Alliance for the Shenandoah Valley, and members of the Virginia and Pennsylvania Soil Health Coalitions,

alongside several food and beverage brands.

"Our family farmer-owned cooperative of over 950 dairy farmers across the Mid-Atlantic embraces sustainability as a core operating principle," said Lindsay Reames, Executive Vice President of Sustainability and External Relations for MDVA. "Our partnership with ESMC and CIF will support the delivery of carbon- and water-smart commodities to our many retail customers while strengthening farm operations and bolstering rural economies across our region."

ESMC is targeting up to 500,000 acres enrollment in 2022 with its market program launch, Eco-Harvest.

ESMC's program stacks multiple ecosystem credits, including increased soil carbon, reduced greenhouse gases, water quality, water use conservation, and biodiversity, to make ESMC a unique and attractive option for farmers and for buyers and investors seeking high quality carbon and environmental credits.

ESMC's Executive Director Debbie Reed noted that, "US farmers and ranchers are rising to the challenge to become more sustainable and meet the demands of corporations and consumers. Our joint programming will reward farmers for implementing sustainability practices that are quantified and verified in our digitized program that generates high quality credits. The up-front funding mechanism of this project provides Mid-Atlantic producers the capital to implement practices with less financial risk. This increases their ability to participate in ecosystem services markets that scale quantified improvements to water, carbon, and biodiversity."

For more information, visit the Revolving Water Fund website. Questions should be directed to: signup@revolvingwaterfund.com or the Contact Us page on the website.

Related Articles:

-- Bay Journal: EPA And Farm Bureau Find Common Ground In Pennsylvania - Urge State Lawmakers To Support Chesapeake Bay Cleanup Funding - By Karl Blankenship, Chesapeake Bay Journal

-- PA Farm Bureau, Sand County Foundation, Partners Now Accepting Nominations For PA Leopold Conservation Award

-- Preparations Underway For Penn State's 2022 Ag Progress Days August 9-11

[Posted: June 16, 2022]

DEP Invites Comments On Proposed Advance Restoration Plan For Trout Run Watershed, Erie County

The Department of Environmental Protection published notice in the June 18 PA Bulletin inviting comments on a proposed Advance Restoration Plan for Trout Run Watershed in Erie County. (PA Bulletin, page 3519)

The impairments addressed by the plan were listed as being caused by excessive siltation due to agriculture. In addition to improving local water quality, implementation of this proposed plan may help protect the watershed's wild trout populations, improve water quality in Lake Leboeuf, and help protect sensitive species within downstream areas of the French Creek watershed.

The ARP approach was chosen as a temporary alternative to the development of a Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL). An ARP is currently a better option for this watershed because

it not only sets a pollution reduction goal, but it also lays out a comprehensive plan for restoration.

The Western Pennsylvania Conservancy would take the leading role in plan implementation. Funding is proposed to be sought under Section 319 of the Clean Water Act among other sources.

If the restoration plan fails to result in delisting of the siltation impairments, a TMDL per Section 303(d) of the Clean Water Act would be needed in the future.

Click Here for a copy of the proposed Plan.

Read the entire PA Bulletin notice for instructions on how to submit comments and other background (PA Bulletin, page 3519).

Questions should be directed to Michael Morris at michamorri@pa.gov or calling him at 717-772-5670.

Visit DEP's PRP/TMDL Plans webpage for more information on 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: June 17, 2022]

American Water Charitable Foundation Accepting Applications For Water And The Environment Grants



The American Water Charitable Foundation is now accepting applications for Water And The Environment Grants. The deadline to apply is June 30.

This grant program seeks to fund projects focused on clean water, conservation, environmental education, climate variability, and water-based recreation in American Water service territories-- like PA American Water.

Examples include programs that improve, restore or protect watersheds/water quality; promote water conservation; and/or improve equitable access to water-based recreation in underserved communities.

Other examples include environmental projects that seek to educate, inform and advance environmental issues to preserve and protect natural resources.

Click Here for all the details.

Visit the American Water Charitable Foundation Grant Program webpage for a list of other grant opportunities which typically have several deadlines to apply through the year.

[Posted: June 14, 2022]

Old Lycoming Township, DEP Highlight Local Recycling Efforts, Illegal Dumping Prevention



On June 15, representatives of the Department

of Environmental Protection visited the Old Lycoming Township Recycling Center in Lycoming County to view physical improvements made in part using DEP recycling grant funds, including electronic gates, lighting, and surveillance cameras, and discussed how these improvements have successfully addressed an illegal dumping issue.

"Old Lycoming Township was in danger of closing its recycling center due to persistent and very costly illegal dumping of non-recyclable materials at our recycling drop-off bins," said Matt Aikey, township manager. "The grant funds provided by DEP in three recent funding rounds have helped the township successfully address this problem by installing features that have allowed us to identify illegal dumpers and deter unwanted activity, making it feasible to continue our recycling program at this site."

Representatives from Lycoming County Resource Management Services (LCRMS) explained that the county recycling program also utilizes DEP's Section 902 recycling grant funds for equipment such as recycling trucks and containers needed to service the township's site and for the central recycling facility at the county's landfill.

"DEP is pleased to offer Recycling Performance and Implementation Grant funds to assist municipal and county recycling programs to make targeted investments that solve real-world problems to sustain recycling opportunities across our communities," said Patrick Brennan, Waste Management Program manager for DEP's Northcentral Regional Office. "Municipalities like Old Lycoming Township are demonstrating how to make recycling work in Pennsylvania through proactive and innovative projects to meet their communities' needs."

During the tour, representatives from DEP, LCRMS, and Old Lycoming Township discussed some of the current challenges in recycling.

While recycling programs in Pennsylvania are locally controlled at the county and municipal levels, they are influenced by national and global trends.

The sustainability of recycling in Pennsylvania requires regular adjustments to local recycling programs, including the rules for recycling and the materials that are accepted, in order to meet the ever-changing needs of recycling markets.

"It's been a struggle to maintain free recycling services at municipal drop-off sites due to fluctuating recycling markets and gas prices, so it's even more important that consumers help us collect only clean, acceptable recyclable materials," said Lauren Strausser, Lycoming County recycling coordinator. "In recent years, the County has updated all recycling containers with smaller openings, which has helped reduce unwanted waste and cut down transportation trips by 40%, among other practical steps."

Strausser identified illegal dumping at drop off centers, wishful recycling (trying to recycle items that are not locally accepted), the incompatibility of automated sorting equipment with single-use plastic bags, and lack of outlets to recycle materials such as lithium batteries and single stream glass as some of the current challenges facing local recycling programs.

Recycling Guidelines

To help address such issues, DEP highlighted its recently published "Guidelines for Recycling in Your Community" booklet, a simple guide to help residents and businesses understand how to recycle properly by finding recycling programs in their local area, learning their local rules, and following them to maximize the social, environmental, and economic benefits of recycling. It explains how to handle commonly-recycled materials, answers frequently asked questions, and addresses common misconceptions about recycling.

"DEP is committed to supporting successful recycling programs in local communities

through grantmaking and public education," said DEP Secretary Patrick McDonnell. "We encourage everyone to find ways to reduce their waste, reuse materials, recycle what they can, and properly dispose of what they must."

Impact Of Recycling In PA

DEP has overseen Pennsylvania's statewide recycling program since 1988, when the Municipal Waste Planning Recycling and Waste Reduction Act, known as Act 101, took effect.

Among other measures, Act 101 requires larger municipalities to offer curbside recycling programs to residents and businesses and establishes a statewide fee on waste disposal to fund local recycling programs.

About 19 out of 20 Pennsylvanians have access to some form of recycling program in their community, including approximately 1,050 municipal curbside pickup programs and 870 drop-off programs, which extend recycling opportunities to Pennsylvania's rural areas.

Recycling generates tremendous environmental and financial benefits for Pennsylvania. Pennsylvania recycles approximately 7 to 8 million tons of resources each year, cutting 10 million tons of carbon dioxide emissions from the air (equal to taking 2 million cars off the road) and saving enough electricity to power 1.5 million homes.

Visit DEP's Recycling In Pennsylvania webpage to learn more about this program.

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

***(Photo:** Old Lycoming Township Recycling Center, WNEP.)*

NewsClip:

-- Williamsport Sun: Old Lycoming Twp Cracks Down On Illegal Dumping
[Posted: June 15, 2022]

Guest Essay: Saving Our World From Becoming Planet Plastic, One Road At A Time

By Jan Goodwin, Award-Winning Journalist & Author, Friend Of SEEDS
https://tinyurl.com/knjka65b



Scientists are extremely concerned that the world has been mass-producing plastics since the mid-1950s to the point that we are now becoming Planet Plastic. From Mount Everest to the deepest oceans, vast amounts of plastic waste contaminate the entire planet.

In the last 65 years, we've produced nine billion tonnes of the stuff. And plastic production is set to double in the next two decades.

Only 9 percent of that is recycled, so 91 percent ends up in landfills. And none of these commonly used plastics are biodegradable.

Even more concerning, fragmented microplastics are showing up in human bodies worldwide, even in newborns, and nursing mothers' milk.

We inhale or ingest tiny, invisible plastic fibers floating in the air around us, fibers shed by our own clothes, carpets, and upholstery, etc.

We know that microplastics damage human cells in the laboratory, and air pollution particles already enter the body and cause millions of early deaths a year.

So some good news: roads internationally are now starting to be built from waste plastics –trash from the ocean, plastic bottles, grocery bags, yogurt containers, and even, surprisingly, from used disposable diapers, which Wales in the U.K. first began.

This latter is welcome news indeed, as the US throws out 18 billion used diapers a year. But don't worry, say the experts, diaper roads smell like roads, not baby poop.

Each mile of road built with plastic removes the equivalent weight of more than one million plastic bottles or 2.8 million single-use plastic bags from the environment.

"We created a repaved stretch of highway in Oroville, California, that looks like an ordinary road, but is the first highway in the country to be paved with recycled plastic–then the equivalent of roughly 150,000 plastic bottles per mile of the three-lane road. Now it is 1,600,000 per lane mile. Plus two more road sections in L.A. that are performing very well," Sean Weaver, president of TechniSoil, Redding, CA., told SEEDS.

"And this year and next, we have two more projects in Minnesota and Michigan. We also built one for the Democratic Republic of Congo six months ago, and will be doing a 75-mile pilot for them next. This new type of road is much more resistant to potholes and cracking and lasts two to three times longer than standard asphalt. They are also much more resistant to heat, cold and flooding. And because it lasts much longer than asphalt, it is much cheaper over its life cycle."

Roads built from plastic also do not absorb water, have better flexibility which results in less rutting and less need for repair. Surfaces remain smooth, are lower maintenance, and absorb sound better.

Roads built with plastic can withstand extreme temperatures (from minus 40F to 176F) much better than traditional asphalt roads.

TechniSoil uses PET plastic to design roads, Weaver says, which is the clear and lightweight plastic that is widely used for packaging foods and beverages, especially convenience-sized soft drinks, juices and water.

Virtually all single-serving and 2-liter bottles of carbonated soft drinks and water sold in the U.S. are made from PET.

"We also use the distressed or unwanted PET such as delivery food containers, food bags from the grocery store, straws, carpet, packaging waste, and industrial waste. Basically, it's the 90 percent or more of PET that goes to the landfill," he explains."We recycle the plastic waste chemically back into its original monomers. Then use those monomers to build a new polymer called Neo Binder. It's like super glue, just with properties that are ideal to bond recycled asphalt together."

Encouragingly, road contractors already have all the equipment needed to build plastic roads, says Weaver. And even more positive news, there is no concern about plastic roads causing microplastic for us to inhale.

"Our binder is chemically converted from plastic to an elastomer that is chemically bonded to the aggregate," he says. "Even when it is recycled twice, or 100 years from now, it can be ground up and used for base rock without any shedding of microplastics into the environment."

But in this new technology, the U.S. was late to the game.

The first country to recycle plastics for roads was India, which started doing it 18 years

ago, when the city of Chennai, formerly known as Madras, and India's fifth largest city, commissioned 1,000 kilometers of plastic roads.

The plastic road was invented by Prof. Rajagopalan Vasudevan, at Thiagarajar College of Engineering, an Indian scientist, who specializes in waste management concepts.

For his innovative method of using plastic waste for roads, he was awarded the Padma Shri, one of India's highest civilian awards.

Since then, India's fishermen have been turning ocean plastic into roads. They started doing this when they realized that their shrimp and fishing nets were bringing up more plastic than fish.

Fishing crews were spending hours separating the plastic garbage from their catch as the nets were heavily weighted down with all the plastic tangled in them.

Now, some 5,000 fishermen from the state of Kerala, for example, have been hauling back to land all the plastic they find while they're out at sea.

With help from several government agencies, according to National Geographic Magazine, they've set up the first-ever recycling center in the region, to clean, sort, and process all the tons of sea-tossed plastic bags, bottles, straws, flip-flops, and drowned Barbie dolls they fish out.

Another concern about ocean plastic is that many types of fish mistake plastic for prey; studies show that they can die of either poisoning or malnutrition as a result.

Other marine life gets caught in and strangled by abandoned nylon fishing nets. And large patches of plastic on the sea bed block some species from accessing their breeding grounds.

Initially, however, the region had no municipal waste collection, or recycling program. But in 2018, the female state minister of fisheries came up with a solution after roping in five other government agencies, including the department for women's empowerment.

That agency is tasked with improving employment opportunities for women, in an area where many fields, like fishing, had long been dominated by men. So the agency hired an all-female crew to work there.

For the past four years, a group of women have been working full-time to painstakingly wash and sort plastic that the fishermen collect.

Most of it is too damaged and eroded to recycle in traditional ways. Instead, they sell it to local construction crews who use it to strengthen asphalt for paving roads.

The proceeds—along with government grant money—cover the women's salaries.

Since 2009, the northern European environmental group KIMO has been recruiting fishermen in the U.K., the Netherlands, Sweden, and the Danish Faroe Islands for a similar program called Fishing for Litter.

Globally, there are now 5.25 trillion pieces of plastic waste estimated to be in our oceans. I was shocked, for example, when visiting Bali three years ago, once known for its stunningly beautiful beaches, to find them covered in broken-down plastics, which the tides brought in every day.

"The world is facing a tsunami of plastic waste, and we need to deal with that," says Dr. Erik van Sebille of Utrecht University in the Netherlands, an oceanographer who tracks plastics in our seas.

Climate change is threatening to all infrastructure, but plastic roads mitigate flooding, are easier to maintain, and can be recycled up to seven times.

They are also four times lighter, 70% faster to build, last three times longer, and produce

up to 72% fewer carbon emissions than conventional roads.

In the last couple of years, countries as far afield as Australia, Dubai, South Africa, Germany and Taiwan are now constructing roads from waste plastic.

Ah, if only we could persuade PennDOT to do the same.

According to a recent study, Pennsylvania's road infrastructure ranks fifth worse in the nation, as anyone driving over our constant terrain of potholes here knows.

The study found that 30 percent of the Keystone state roads are in poor condition. And yet PA pays the 4th highest gas prices in the country, next only to California, Oregon and Washington, because of taxes on our gas, which is meant to go toward road repair! Where does that money go?

It turns out that PennDOT is currently testing an asphalt modified with recycled plastics in a pilot project through its Strategic Recycling Program, their spokesperson Alexis Campbell told SEEDS.

The project is only two quarter-mile road sections in which recycled plastic asphalt modifier was used as a 2% additive to the binder in the road's wearing course.

"While this does not seem like a lot, it equates to recycling approximately 150,000 single-use plastic bags," she says.

The project in Delaware County will be monitored for sustainability for five years.

In the meantime, get used to our roads craters and ditches.

"With Pennsylvania's aggressive freeze-thaw cycle, our roadways will always experience potholes. Pavements in other states that do not experience similar freeze thaw cycles as Pennsylvania are not as susceptible to them," says Campbell. "States to our north and in Canada may be colder but they do not experience the same number of freeze-thaw cycles. Also contributing to pavement deterioration is the large volume of heavy trucks that utilize Pennsylvania's roadways daily throughout the year. Given PA's geographical location, our Interstates serve as major freight corridors to the northeast."

She adds: "PennDOT is reliant on gas taxes for 78 percent of its highway and bridge funding. We are far more dependent on this revenue source than any of our surrounding states. Gas tax revenues have been declining heavily over the past several years, due to changing travel patterns and more fuel efficiency. Our outsized reliance on gas taxes makes Pennsylvania's transportation system incredibly vulnerable to market changes like we're seeing now."

*(**Photo:** CalTrans paving a road with plastic asphalt.)*

***Jan Goodwin** is an award-winning journalist and author and a friend of the Sustainable Energy Education & Development Support nonprofit based in Wayne County.*

[Posted: June 12, 2022]

DOE Partners With Carnegie Mellon University To Launch The 2022 Global Clean Energy Action Forum In September

GLOBAL CLEAN ENERGY ACTION FORUM
CEM13/MI•7 USA 2022

On June 13, the U.S. Department of Energy announced its partnership with Carnegie Mellon University to launch and host the 2022 Global Clean Energy Action Forum in Pittsburgh September 21–23.

This landmark convening brings together energy leaders from around the world to turn clean energy ambition into action and accelerate the

transition toward a more secure energy future.

The Global Energy Forum will combine the regular convening of the 31 countries of the Clean Energy Ministerial for CEM13, Mission Innovation for MI-7, and a broad presence of clean energy businesses, innovators, and civil society.

The United States previously hosted these meetings in 2016 in San Francisco.

"By convening the Global Clean Energy Action Forum, the United States is continuing its leadership on the world stage to foster greater international cooperation to achieve our shared climate ambitions, drive innovation, and accelerate the deployment of clean energy solutions, while creating millions of good paying jobs," said **U.S. Secretary of Energy Jennifer M. Granholm**. "We are proud to bring our international partners to the Steel City — a wonderful example of how communities can pivot from traditional industries to become clean energy innovation hubs. The convening in Pittsburgh will leverage collective action in the public and private sectors to tackle the climate crisis and catalyze a global clean energy workforce."

The transition to a clean energy economy cannot occur quickly enough without all sectors of the international clean energy community working together.

The Global Energy Forum will convene cabinet level officials from over thirty countries, industry leaders, innovators, youth, labor, civil society, and others to advance solutions to today's challenges to achieve a clean energy future.

The Global Energy Forum will also for the first time hold a joint plenary of CEM and MI. By bringing together decision-makers from partner countries and the international energy community, this annual gathering will accelerate innovation, deployment, and market uptake of clean energy solutions, from renewables, to abated fossil energy, nuclear, and new technologies.

Over the last century, the Pittsburgh region underwent an extraordinary energy and environmental transformation. Once known exclusively as a heavy industry center reliant on fossil fuels, Pittsburgh now ranks among the top cities in the United States for fostering innovation in clean energy, green buildings, and advanced manufacturing solutions.

Carnegie Mellon University has a long history as a birthplace of innovation, with award-winning faculty renowned for working closely with students to solve major scientific, technological, and societal challenges.

Carnegie Mellon University will partner with a local host committee to ensure voices and perspectives from across industry, government, labor, non-profit organizations, and philanthropy are part of the planning process.

The host committee will be co-chaired by Rich Fitzgerald, Allegheny County Executive, Ed Gainey, Mayor of Pittsburgh; Farnam Jahanian, President of Carnegie Mellon University; and Stefani Pashman, CEO of the Allegheny Conference on Community Development.

"Carnegie Mellon is thrilled to partner with the Department of Energy and bring our community together to host international leaders for this climate forum in Pittsburgh, a region that has radically changed the trajectory of its energy future over the past generation," said **Carnegie Mellon University President Farnam Jahanian**. "CMU's mission to impact society through technology, education and innovation is a perfect match with the forum's goal to take decisive action to recast the future. Our entire region looks forward to demonstrating to the global community how we are partnering to ensure our successful transition to clean energy."

"Once the steel capital of the world, Allegheny County still makes steel, but is today part of a global innovation ecosystem where people are making the future with technology," said **Allegheny County Executive Rich Fitzgerald**."By hosting the GCEAF, the international

community will have the opportunity to see the region's leadership in the development and deployment of critical climate and energy technologies that can change the world.

"Pittsburgh has been a national leader in showing how economies can be transformed by technology, science, education, and healthcare," said **Pittsburgh Mayor Ed Gainey**. "It is our honor to host the 2022 Global Clean Energy Action Forum, and showcase our tech ecosystem, our green buildings, and the people who have made this transition possible. If we are going to have a just transition to a clean energy future we must find ways to work together to ensure that as our energy and economies transition nobody is left behind."

"The 2022 Global Clean Energy Action Forum will be an unprecedented opportunity to make the world aware of how the Pittsburgh region always has – and will continue – to collaborate to create solutions to big challenges," said Stefani Pashman. "When there are problems to solve, the world has often looked to Pittsburgh. Energy transition is no exception. A unique combination of assets and a spirit of collaboration position the Pittsburgh region to lead in the development of low carbon energy production including clean hydrogen, grid improvements and other ways to use energy more efficiently."

The United States will pass the Global Clean Energy Action Forum next year to India, who will also host the 2023 G20 Leaders Summit.

The Global Energy Forum will occur in person, with some options for attendees to participate virtually. In-person registration will open later in June 2022, with virtual attendance opportunities and registration offered closer to the event date.

Stakeholders Welcome

DOE welcomes interested stakeholders in the clean energy action community to showcase their clean energy technologies in Pittsburgh.

This technology showcase is a key component of the forum and offers opportunities to showcase solutions that are accelerating and demonstrating progress towards our shared clean energy goals.

Proposals are being accepted until June 30, 2022, and information about how to apply can be found HERE.

Visit the Global Energy Forum website for more information about the event and key deadlines for participants and attendees.

[Posted: June 16, 2022]

PennDOT Invites Feedback On Components Of Proposed State Plan For National Electric Vehicle Infrastructure Formula Program



On June 15, the Department of Transportation launched a survey for the public to share feedback on the goals, infrastructure-prioritization, and program-administration components of the Draft Pennsylvania State Plan for access to National Electric Vehicle Infrastructure (NEVI) Formula Program funds.

"PennDOT is committed to making future-focused investments in Pennsylvania to update our highway network to accommodate more electric

vehicles and hybrids," said PennDOT Secretary Yassmin Gramian. "We have received public and stakeholder feedback throughout this process, which is vital to understanding wants and needs as this transformational technology takes hold."

The survey – which also includes an overview of the Federal Highway Administration's NEVI Formula Program Guidance will close on Thursday, June 30, 2022.

The public can also submit feedback by emailing ra-pdevcorridors@pa.gov.

The results of this survey will build upon outreach and discussions the department has previously had and continues to have with lawmakers, planning partners, utilities, local government organizations, EV-charging companies and stakeholders with equity, labor, education, and environmental expertise.

As part of the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL), PennDOT will receive and distribute $171.5 million in formula funds for EV charging infrastructure over the next five years. The department must outline and submit a state EV infrastructure deployment plan to the U.S. Department of Transportation (U.S. DOT) by August 1, 2022.

The funding supports the Commonwealth goal of expanding EV charging along the previously designated Alternative Fuel Corridors (AFCs) (list) and Interstate lookalikes.

Federal AFC criteria was updated earlier this year to require AFC designated corridors to have charging stations no more than 1 mile from an Interstate exit or highway intersection (previously 5 miles) and no more than 50 miles apart.

The department has been reviewing all corridors to align all AFCs with the new criteria.

Pennsylvania has over 1,800 miles of AFCs. Per the guidance from U.S. DOT, any EV charging infrastructure installed with NEVI formula funds shall be located along a designated AFC and meet U.S. DOT minimum standards and requirements.

Should PennDOT determine, and U.S. DOT certifies, that the AFCs are fully built out, then Pennsylvania may use funds to build EV charging equipment on any public road or in any publicly accessible location, including but not limited to parking facilities at public buildings, public schools, and parks.

Additionally, PennDOT – following guidance issued from U.S. DOT – will use its EV Equity Guiding Principles announced this year to help the department evaluate EV proposals in accordance with the federal guidance.

The principles aim to increase accessibility to the infrastructure and maximize benefits for all Pennsylvanians and fall into five categories:

-- Make EVs more affordable;
-- Make EV charging more accessible;
-- Invest in fleet electrification;
-- Invest in traditionally underserved, low-income, persons of color and otherwise vulnerable population areas; and
-- Increase EV awareness, education, and technical capacity.

The Commonwealth's previous work and the new funding will support growing EV usage and industry transitions.

There are more than 23,000 EVs registered in Pennsylvania, more than double the roughly 9,700 that were registered in March 2019.

To enhance traveler information for the growing number of EV drivers, the state's traveler information system – 511PA – now also includes EV charging station locations as an option on its traffic map.

Using data from the U.S. Department of Energy, the map shows locations across the state by connector type, including CCS, J1772, CHAdeMO, Tesla, and NEMA.

For more information, visit PennDOT's Electric Vehicles and Alternative Fuels and DEP's Drive Electric PA Coalition webpages.

Related Article:

-- EPA Announces Available Funding For Clean School Buses [PaEN]

[Posted: June 15, 2022]

EPA Announces Funding Available For Clean School Buses



On June 15, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency announced it is accepting applications from school districts for Clean School Bus Rebates as part of a $500 million funding effort under the Biden Administration's Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL).

The deadline to apply is August 19.

"This new funding can make a big difference in communities in our region, especially in school districts facing environmental justice challenges," said EPA Mid-Alantic Regional Administrator Adam Ortiz. "We encourage every school district to apply for these funds. These new zero emission busses will help improve air quality, reduce noise pollution, require less maintenance and will impact our communities' overall health, safety and quality of life."

This is only the first round of funding from the BIL, where an unprecedented $5 billion is being invested over the next five years.

The Philadelphia School District has already replaced two diesel school buses to cleaner electric school buses through the 2020 Diesel Emission Reduction Act Clean School Bus Rebate funding.

Diesel air pollution is linked to asthma and other health problems that hurt our communities and cause students to miss school, particularly in communities of color and Tribal communities.

New, zero-emission and low-emission buses will not only reduce greenhouse gas emissions, but produce cleaner air for students, bus drivers, school staff working near the bus loading areas, and the communities that the buses drive through each day.

These zero-emission buses cost less to operate, and the electricity stored in zero-emission school buses can transmit energy back to the power grid to meet extra energy demand or provide energy to communities during power outages.

EPA will prioritize applications that will replace buses serving high-need local education agencies, Tribal Schools, and rural areas, and it supports President Biden's Justice40 initiative to direct at least 40% of the benefits of certain government investments to underserved communities.

Questions about applying may be directed to CleanSchoolBus@epa.gov.

To learn more about the rebate programs, applicant eligibility, selection process, and informational webinar dates, visit EPA's Clean School Bus Program webpage.

Related Article:

-- PennDOT Invites Feedback On Components Of Proposed State Plan For National Electric

Vehicle Infrastructure Formula Program
[Posted: June 15, 2022]

PA Dept. Of Agriculture Temporarily Suspends Requirement For 2% Biodiesel For Out-Of-State Fuel Sold In PA In Response To Rolling Outages Of Diesel Fuel

On June 17, 2022, the Department of Agriculture announced the suspension of the 2 percent biodiesel content mandate on diesel fuel sold for on-road use imposed under section 3(a)(1) of the Biofuel Development and In-State Production Incentive Act (73 P.S. § 1650.3(a)(1)) for out-of-state fuel sold in the Commonwealth.

The suspension shall be effective Monday, June 27, 2022 until 11:59 p.m. on Tuesday, July 26, 2022, subject to certain conditions outlined below.

The suspension was made in response to a request made under section 5(d) of the Act (73 P. S. § 1650.5(d)), which authorizes PDA, in consultation with the Department of Environmental Protection to suspend or modify to reduce the mandated content required by section 1650.3(a)(1) of the Act if PDA determines that doing so is warranted by factors, including but not limited to, substantially increased costs to consumers or insufficient quantity or distribution of biodiesel.

In consultation with DEP, PDA has reviewed the industry's evaluation of the impact of ongoing market price volatility on the consumption and availability of diesel fuel in Pennsylvania.

"Because wholesalers are unable to forecast the ongoing diesel fuel needs for in-state customers, they have ceased carrying a surplus of diesel fuel.

"The extreme price fluctuation and limited inventory from wholesalers have caused low stock and rolling outages of diesel fuel throughout Pennsylvania."

Based on this evaluation, PDA has determined, and DEP concurs, that it is necessary to take further action to minimize or prevent disruption of the supply of diesel fuel in Pennsylvania.

In accordance with the authority granted by section 5(d) of the Act, PDA hereby issues a partial and temporary suspension of the 2 percent biodiesel content mandate in this Commonwealth required under section 3(a)(1) of the Act.

The suspension shall be effective Monday, June 27, 2022 until 11:59 p.m. on Tuesday, July 26, 2022, subject to the following terms and conditions--

-- **In-State:** All in-state terminal facilities shall continue to receive and blend diesel fuel in compliance with the 2 percent biodiesel content mandate and all other provisions of the Act. Additionally, these facilities should consider higher blends within the acceptable OEM engine requirements and their customer's ability to make such products available to consumers.

-- **Out-Of-State:** During the period of this temporary suspension, the sale of diesel fuel for use in on-road compression ignition engines by any retailer, as defined in the Act, shall not be subject to the 2 percent biodiesel content mandate required by section 3(a)(1) of the Act. Any retailer that took delivery of diesel fuel blended outside the Commonwealth and which is not compliant with the mandated 2 percent biodiesel content required by section 3(a)(1) may sell such diesel fuel to consumers during the period of this suspension.

-- **After Suspension:** After this temporary suspension expires, any retailer that took delivery of

diesel fuel that is not compliant with the 2 percent biodiesel mandate during the period of suspension may sell the noncompliant diesel fuel already in its possession for use in on-road compression ignition engines.

Any deliveries of diesel fuel to a retailer after this temporary suspension expires shall be subject to all provisions of the Act.

PDA will continue to monitor conditions impacting the available supply of 2% biodiesel blend in the Commonwealth. Should conditions warrant, this suspension may be modified, terminated or extended as appropriate.

Questions about this suspension should be directed to PDA through the Bureau of Ride and Measurement Standards Director Walter Remmert at 717-787-9089 or send email to: wremmert@pa.gov.

Click Here for a copy of the complete announcement.

For more information on this program, visit the Department of Agriculture's Biofuel Development and In-State Production webpage.

NewsClip:

-- MCall - Ford Turner: PA Having 'Rolling Outages' Of Diesel Fuel, Makes Move To Allow Sales Of Out-Of-State Fuel

[Posted: June 17, 2022]

Seven State Agencies Celebrate Pennsylvania's First Native Species Day



On June 17, leaders from seven state agencies highlighted the importance of protecting native species, which are critical to protecting our natural resources, at a stream restoration site at Fish and Boat Commission headquarters.

Gov. Tom Wolf has proclaimed the first Pennsylvania Native Species Day.

The agencies, along with 14 organizations in academia, environmental advocacy, and agriculture and other industries, are members of the Governor's Invasive Species Council (GISC).

The council created Pennsylvania Native Species Day to celebrate the state's diverse native plants, insects, and animals and increase people's understanding of the importance of protecting them as invasive nonnative species proliferate.

"Municipal and state officials, business owners, community organizations, and local residents are realizing the need to conserve this essential part of Pennsylvania's natural infrastructure," said **Tim Schaeffer, Fish and Boat Commission Executive Director**. "We are thrilled to join these partners in highlighting the work on our property that reduced erosion and restored natural stream flow while keeping native species in mind. Along with the 4,000 native plants and trees that have been added to the landscape, other habitat improvements will benefit native aquatic species and wildlife."

A diverse native ecosystem provides a range of benefits to Pennsylvanians, including food sources, timber, climate resilience, outdoor recreation, such as fishing and hiking, and related economies.

"Biodiversity is important to the health of our water, land, and air, and therefore

important to our quality of life in Pennsylvania," said **Department of Environmental Protection Secretary Patrick McDonnell**.

DEP works with partners around the state to reduce aquatic invasive species, including sea lamprey in Lake Erie and European frog-bit in Pymatuning Reservoir, and to support native species, including the American eel in the Susquehanna River basin and native vegetation on stream banks.

"Pennsylvania has 2.2 million acres of state forests, millions of acres of state park and game lands, and private forestlands that must be protected from invasive species," **Department of Conservation and Natural Resources Assistant State Forester Matt Keefer** said. "To help raise awareness and minimize impacts, DCNR provides training and outreach on invasives, works with federal agencies for early detection and rapid response, participates in Pennsylvania's Invasive Species Management Plan, and strives to prevent and reduce the extent of invasives. Protecting our native plants and forests is critical to keeping Pennsylvania landscapes beautiful and productive for future generations."

Survival of many native species is under increasing pressure from the proliferation of invasive nonnative species that has occurred as global commerce and travel have increased.

Spotted lanternfly, which arrived in 2014 in southeastern Pennsylvania and has now spread to two-thirds of the state, is a very recent example.

It follows sea lamprey, emerald ash borer, quagga mussels, hydrilla, and numerous other nonnative species that have arrived and spread throughout Pennsylvania with detrimental impacts in the past century.

Invasive nonnative species not only damage food chains and habitats for native species, but also have negative economic and health impacts on Pennsylvanians.

"Pennsylvania Native Species Day is an opportunity to celebrate and protect our native plants, insects, and animals. Native organisms provide outdoor experiences, ecosystem services, and natural resources that all Pennsylvanians depend on," said **Kristopher Abell, coordinator of GISC, for the Department of Agriculture**. "When invasive species like the spotted lanternfly spread, they have detrimental effects on native species, and our environment, economy, and quality of life can be impacted. That is why it's so critical to create awareness on how to best manage invasive pests and support the commonwealth's native species."

"Public health is interconnected with our environment," said **Acting Secretary of Health and Physician General Dr. Denise Johnson**. "The Department of Health supports efforts to combat the prevalence of invasive species because they directly affect our health in many ways. From the mitigation of diseases such as Lyme, to decreasing allergic reactions and even playing a part in improving mental and physical health, this is a worthy goal that we're proud to be a part of."

"Working with federal environmental partners, we're refining our roadside seed mixes to focus on native species and pollinators," said **Department of Transportation Acting Executive Deputy Secretary Melissa Batula**. "Additionally, we've entered into a National Fish and Wildlife Foundation grant partnership with the Audubon Society of Western Pennsylvania to develop pollinator plots on PennDOT rights-of-way, with two sites selected for seeding."

"Our state's diverse wildlife resources depend on our native ecosystems. Invasive nonnative insects and plants can disrupt these delicately balanced systems, and create difficult challenges to managing for healthy wildlife and healthy habitats. Through partnership, we can share knowledge and resources to promote native species and ensure healthy habitat for wildlife

for current and future generations of Pennsylvanians," said **Game Commission Director of Wildlife Habitat Management David Gustafson**.

The GISC recently developed a program called Partnerships for Regional Invasive Species Management. If funded, the program would establish and support six regional independent public-private partnerships statewide to address local invasive species priorities and for early detection and rapid response to new invasive threats.

A number of state parks and other organizations are celebrating the first Pennsylvania Native Species Day with local events, including talks, walks, and volunteer activities, such as pulling nonnative invasive plants.

Resource Links:

-- DCNR Blog: Bring Life To Your Yard With Native Plants - Start With These; Garden Templates; Where To Buy

-- DCNR Blog: Growing Native Plants To Thwart Invasive Species

-- PA Master Naturalists: Celebrating PA Native Species Day June 17

-- PennLive - Marcus Schneck: PA Town Pushes Bee City USA To 300 Communities

-- Pollinator Gardens: Help Encourage Ecological Diversity In Your Own Backyard [Videos]

Related Articles:

-- DCNR State Parks Environmental Educators Can Help You Celebrate PA Native Species Day June 17

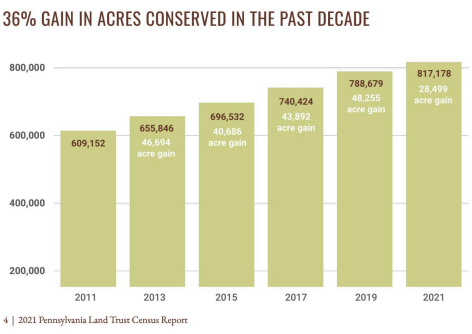
-- Celebrate The Bloom! At The Only Prairie In PA Featuring The Blazing Star July 30 At Jennings Environmental Center, Butler County

-- Westmoreland Pollinator Partners, Penguin Court Invite Entries To Pennsylvania Pollinator Photo Challenge 2022

-- Sen. Comitta Introduces Legislation To Establish PA Pollinator Habitat Program To Support Migrating Pollinators

[Posted: June 17, 2022]

WeConservePA: PA Land Trusts Preserved 208,026 Acres; 107,300 Pennsylvanians Contribute To Land Trusts



On June 15, WeConservePA released the biennial Pennsylvania land trust census report. Highlights from the report found that between 2012 and 2021, land trusts in Pennsylvania--

-- Conserved 208,026 acres – 325 square miles;

-- Conserved 57 acres per day – an average of 20,803 acres per year;

-- Increased land conservation by 25.5%;

-- Completed 325 land acquisitions, protecting 47,366 acres;

-- Completed 1,453 easements conserving 70,872 acres;

-- Transferred 89,835 acres to government entities for parks, game lands, and other public spaces.

-- Individuals Contributing To Land Trusts: 107,300 [Previous report had just over 100,000.]

Click Here to read the full report.

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.

More than 107,000 Pennsylvanians contribute to local land trusts.

Related Articles:

-- Dept. Of Agriculture Protects 2,264 Acres Of Farmland In 18 Counties; 613,884 Acres Protected

-- NRCS-PA Now Accepting Applications For Farmland Preservation Grants In Chesapeake Bay Watershed

-- PA Farm Bureau, Sand County Foundation, Partners Now Accepting Nominations For PA Leopold Conservation Award

-- Preparations Underway For Penn State's 2022 Ag Progress Days August 9-11

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-- Four Revolutionary War Era Cannons Unearthed At Thomas P. Bentley Nature Preserve In Chester County

-- Bike The Brandywine Returns For Its 5th Year On Sept. 17 In Chester County

-- Help Wanted: Brandywine Conservancy - Easement Steward

-- Help Wanted: Landforce Empowerment, Training Program Staff In Western PA

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-- TribLive: Westmoreland Land Trust Nature Backpacks Are Ready To Check Out At County Libraries

-- Fast Company: Should We Protect Nature For Its Own Sake? For Its Economic Value? Because It Makes Us Happy? Yes - By Bradley J. Cardinale, Penn State Ecosystem Science & Management

[Posted: June 15, 2022]

Dept. Of Agriculture Protects 2,264 Acres Of Farmland In 18 Counties; 613,884 Acres Protected



On June 16, the Department of Agriculture announced Pennsylvania protected 2,264 acres on 32 farms in 18 counties from future development, investing nearly $8.2 million in state, county and local dollars to ensure that prime farmland is not lost to development.

This brings Pennsylvania's total to 6,076 farms and 613,884 acres in 58 counties, now forever protected from commercial, industrial or residential development.

Pennsylvania continues to lead the nation in the number of preserved farms, investing more than $1.6 billion since 1988 to protect the state's valuable farmland.

The 32 newly preserved farms are in Berks, Bucks, Centre, Chester, Cumberland, Dauphin, Lancaster, Lebanon, Lehigh, Lycoming, Mifflin, Monroe, Montgomery, Northampton,

Perry, Schuylkill, Washington and York counties.

"Saving farmland protects the beauty and productivity of our state, the health of our environment, the vitality of our economy, and our ability to feed a growing population," Agriculture Secretary Russell Redding said. "It is not only one of the most important investments our state, federal and local governments make together, it is a priority we all agree on."

By selling their land's development rights, landowners preserve their farms, protecting land from future residential, commercial or industrial development. Farm families often sell their land at below market value to ensure that it will remain farmland forever.

Pennsylvania partners with county and sometimes local governments and nonprofits to purchase development rights, ensuring a strong future for farming and food security.

Notable farms preserved at the PA Land Preservation Board meeting include--

-- The Nancy A. and Webb C. Miller Farm in Ferguson Township, Centre County is one of three partially forested farms being donated to the program this month. Many preserved farms include valuable woodlots, which provide wildlife habitat, storing carbon and renewing groundwater.

-- Aaron Ezra and Gary H. Eby in East Earl Township, Lancaster County are the sixth generation of the Eby family to farm this land. Preserving the farm will ensure the family's farming legacy for generations to come.

-- W. Darren and Suzanne K. Marsteller's farm in Hopewell Township, York County is in an area under intense development pressure as a bedroom community for Baltimore. Local officials have worked hard to protect area farmland, with 4,431 acres enrolled in the township's Agricultural Security Area, a prerequisite for selling the development rights to preserve a farm.

-- Drew M. and Kimberly S. Cowden raise purebred Shorthorn cattle for show, in Hopewell Township, Washington County, marketing in fifteen states and Canada in recent years.

Click Here for a complete list of farms protected.

Visit the Department of Agriculture's Farmland Preservation webpage for more information on this program.

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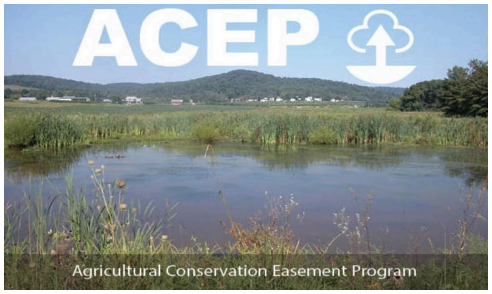
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Libraries
-- Fast Company: Should We Protect Nature For Its Own Sake? For Its Economic Value? Because It Makes Us Happy? Yes - By Bradley J. Cardinale, Penn State Ecosystem Science & Management
[Posted: June 16, 2022]

NRCS-PA Now Accepting Applications For Farmland Preservation Grants In Chesapeake Bay Watershed



The USDA's Natural Resources Conservation Service in Pennsylvania now has $1.5 million in funding available through the Agricultural Conservation Easement Program (ACEP) to help state and local agencies and land trusts protect agricultural lands and wetlands within the Chesapeake Bay watershed.

The deadline for applications is August 16.

"For over 25 years, NRCS has worked with landowners to protect Pennsylvania's prime farmlands," said State Conservationist Denise Coleman. "Conservation easements are important tools for people who are trying to maintain agricultural viability, improve soil health, water and air quality, and wildlife habitat on their land."

Funding is available for the Agricultural Land Easement (ALE) program. Through ACEP ALE, NRCS provides funds to eligible entities to purchase permanent easements on private agricultural lands.

This program helps keep working lands working, especially in areas experiencing urban and suburban development pressure.

For ALE, $1,315,900.00 in funding is available for cooperating/partner entities to acquire conservation easements.

Click Here for more information on the program.

Partners interested in agricultural land easements should contact Hathaway Jones, Easement Coordinator at: 717-237-2100 or send email to: hathaway.jones@usda.gov.

Visit the NRCS-PA webpage for more information on assistance available to landowners.

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[Posted: June 17, 2022]

Bike The Brandywine Returns For Its 5th Year On Sept. 17 In Chester County



Back from a pandemic hiatus, the Brandywine Conservancy's Bike the Brandywine event will officially return for its fifth year on Saturday, September 17, 2022.

This year's ride will feature three scenic routes that explore the beautiful Brandywine Creek Greenway and surrounding countryside.

Proceeds from the ride benefit the clean water and open space programs of the Brandywine Conservancy.

Riders can choose from distances of 25-, 45- and 62-mile (metric century) routes—each with unique and thrilling experiences for both recreational and more seasoned cyclists.

Those on the metric century route will journey along the West Branch of the Brandywine River, traveling 62 miles through bucolic countryside and historic sites.

After departing from Chadds Ford, riders will travel near the Conservancy's Laurels Preserve, through the magnificent King Ranch area in Unionville and the open agricultural lands just west of the famous Whip Tavern, before winding their way through Modena and the historic village of Marshallton.

For a similar ride—with less mileage—the 45-mile route closely follows along to the metric century journey.

Those looking for a more recreational option can join the 25-mile ride along the Brandywine Creek Greenway. This loop is a shorter version of the other rides, following the West Branch of the Brandywine through open farmland, scenic river valleys and equestrian landscapes.

Featuring some of the most picturesque roads in Chester County, PA, each loop will start and end at the Chadds Ford Historical Society-- located at 1736 N Creek Road, Chadds Ford, PA.

Well provisioned rest stops will be available every 10-20 miles, depending on the route, with Support and Gear (SAG) assistance provided by Trek Delaware throughout the day.

The event concludes with a free lunch at the Chadds Ford Historical Society for all participants.

The event will take place rain or shine on September 17, 2022, from 6:30 a.m. to 4:30

p.m. Advance registration is $55 per rider.

To register, visit the Bike the Brandywine website.

For more information on programs, initiatives and upcoming events, visit the Brandywine Conservancy website. Click Here to sign up for regular updates from the Conservancy (middle of the webpage.) Visit the Conservancy's Blog, Like the Conservancy on Facebook and Follow them on Instagram.

The Conservancy currently holds over 485 conservation and agricultural easements and has facilitated the permanent preservation of more than 66,000 acres of land.

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[Posted: June 13, 2022]

Friends Of Allegheny Wilderness Advocates Cancellation Of Tracy Ridge Burn Project To Protect Bat

In a letter to Forest Supervisor Jamie Davidson, the nonprofit wilderness advocacy organization Friends of Allegheny Wilderness is asking the U.S. Forest Service to cancel a prescribed burn project in the proposed Tracy Ridge Wilderness Area in the Allegheny National Forest, out of concern for the imperiled northern long-eared bat (Myotis septentrionalis).





The controlled burn project, which if implemented would affect around 2,000 acres in the southern end of the proposed wilderness area, was approved in June of 2021.

As part of the agency's decision notice approving the project, it was acknowledged that the project would cause direct mortality to northern long-eared bats, as well as degrade their habitat.

Northern long-eared bats live in mature interior forests and forage along wooded hillsides and ridgelines. Because of this, they are vulnerable to forest fragmentation.

In March of 2022, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service announced their proposal to move the northern long-eared bat from its current status of "threatened" to "endangered" under the Endangered Species Act of 1973.

Populations of the northern long-eared bat have dropped precipitously in recent years due to a phenomenon known as "white-nose syndrome."

White-nose syndrome, caused by a fungus originating in Europe, also affects 11 other North American bat species. Biologists consider the fungus to be one of the most severe wildlife disease outbreaks in history.

As bat numbers dwindle, insect pest problems increase — with the potential to cause billions of dollars worth of agricultural damage.

"The proposed Tracy Ridge Wilderness Area provides some of the highest-quality wildlife habitat anywhere in the Allegheny National Forest," noted Kirk Johnson, executive director for FAW. "Given what we now know about the perilous condition of the northern long-eared bat, and the measures the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service are taking to address the issue, the controlled burn project at Tracy Ridge should quite obviously be canceled at this point."

"From the standpoint of both people and wildlife, the highest use for the proposed Tracy Ridge Wilderness Area, that will provide the greatest good for the greatest number over the longest period of time — as we and many others have said for decades now — is for the U.S. Congress to add the entire 9,705-acre area to America's National Wilderness Preservation System as soon as possible, to be forever protected from all forms of development," Johnson concluded.

Click Here for October, 2021 FAW comments on proposed controlled burn.

Click Here for copy of June 11, 2022 FAW letter.

For more information on programs, initiatives, upcoming events, and how you can get involved, visit the Friends Of Allegheny Wilderness website. Follow them on Facebook. Click Here to sign up for regular email updates.

Friends seeks to foster an appreciation of wilderness values and benefits, and to work with local communities to ensure that increased wilderness protection is a priority of the stewardship of the Allegheny National Forest in Elk, Forest, McKean and Warren counties.

*(**Photo:** Mature interior forest cover in Proposed Tracy Ridge Wilderness Area by Kirk Johnson, FAW; Northern long eared bat, Friends of Rachel Carson National Wildlife Refuge.)*

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[Posted: June 13, 2022]

Four Revolutionary War Era Cannons Unearthed At Thomas P. Bentley Nature Preserve In Chester County



The French & Pickering Creeks Conservation Trust unearthed four massive Revolutionary War cannons cast at the historic Warwick Furnace.

According to historian and author Daniel Graham, "during the 1777 British advance on Philadelphia, cannon cast at Warwick were buried in the fields next to French Creek to keep them from falling into British hands".

The cannons were discovered after Ray Bentley, a neighbor and key supporter of French & Pickering's Thomas P. Bentley Nature Preserve commissioned geophysical surveys that detected magnetic anomalies indicating the presence of large iron objects.

A manual search for the cannons at these locations was then performed by a small crew led by Bentley, former Warwick Township Supervisor Jason Swinehart, and Jim Moore of the French & Pickering Creeks Conservation Trust.

Bentley indicated that discovering the first cannon was a thrilling moment: "These cannons were cast and buried at a critical time in our country's history and rested unseen only a couple of feet below the soil for almost two and a half centuries. Their sheer size makes producing them at Warwick Furnace and even moving them to their final resting spot an amazing feat. We could barely move them with modern equipment."

Dr. Martin Helmke, a geology professor at West Chester University, collaborated with

GES of Exton, PA and White River Technologies of Lebanon, NH for this project, says: "This project was a great opportunity to use drones and state-of-the-art magnetometer technology to locate and preserve these important historic artifacts."

The four nearly identical cannons are over 7 feet long, over 4,500 pounds, and were made to fire 18-pound balls. Two of the cannons were found with a cannon ball in the barrel. One was stuck in the barrel and the other rolled out during the cleaning process.

Bill Gladden, Executive Director of French & Pickering, shared appreciation for all involved: "Thanks to Ray's generous underwriting and his well- equipped and skilled crew, these important relics were carefully recovered. The location is a unique and wonderful synergy between the ecological and the archeological. We welcome support to help us display a cannon on site and further interpret the fascinating stories of French & Pickering's Thomas P. Bentley Nature Preserve."

This historic find promotes French & Pickering Creeks Conservation Trust's mission of preserving, stewarding and connecting people to the land by amplifying the breadth and depth of our connection to the historic and environmental elements of our world.

We invite you to visit the preserve, learn more about French & Pickering to support the pursuit of our mission for our enjoyment today as well as for future generations.

To learn more about land conservation, upcoming events and how you can get involved, visit the French & Pickering Creeks Conservation Trust website.

Established in 1967, French & Pickering owns and manages two signature nature preserves and has protected more than 13,350 acres in northern Chester County through purchases, conservation easements and public/private partnerships.

The nonprofit organization works with landowners, townships, foundations and the state and county to purchase and monitor conservation easements, create parkland and preserve environmentally sensitive land.

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[Posted: June 14, 2022]

June 17 Take Five Fridays With Pam From PA Parks & Forests Foundation



The June 17 Take Five Fridays With Pam is now available from the PA Parks & Forests Foundation.

It's coming down to crunch time on the state budget: Click Here to urge your legislators to support Growing Greener III and funding for State Park and Forest safety and maintenance projects.

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:** Along the John P. Saylor Trail in Gallitzin State Forest, Cambria County, by Tim McCauley.)*

Take Action Now!

-- Tell Your Legislator NOW To Set Aside $500 Million From Federal American Rescue Funds To Support Local Environmental, State Park & Forest Projects

NewsClips:

-- StateCollege.com: Penns Valley Bridge Highlights Infrastructure Needs Of DCNR's State Parks, Forests

-- Republican Herald: Tuscarora State Park Beach Closed Due To Algae

Related Articles:

-- DCNR Celebrates French Creek As The 2022 River Of The Year At Paddle Fest Celebration

-- DCNR Blog: Be Prepared Outdoors - What To Do When… Nature Calls, Lightning Strikes, Encountering A Rattlesnake, How To Protect Food From Animals

-- WeConservePA: PA Land Trusts Preserved 208,026 Acres; 107,300 Pennsylvanians Contribute To Land Trusts

-- DCNR Names Justin Waid Sinnemahoning State Park Manager

-- Bay Journal: EPA And Farm Bureau Find Common Ground In Pennsylvania - Urge State Lawmakers To Support Chesapeake Bay Cleanup Funding - By Karl Blankenship, Chesapeake Bay Journal
[Posted: June 17, 2022]

Bay Journal: 'It's Here To Stay': Lessons From The Frontlines Of The Spotted Lanternfly Battle

By Jeremy Cox, Chesapeake Bay Journal



Despite quarantines, public squashing campaigns and federally subsidized bug-spraying blitzes, the spotted lanternfly continues its stubborn game of hopscotch across the Mid-Atlantic region.

Pennsylvania added 11 counties to its quarantine zone earlier this year, raising the total to 45. Maryland designated nine new counties, bringing its number to 11. And in Virginia, agriculture officials announced a new detection in Prince William County but declined to include the county among the state's four quarantined jurisdictions.

Experts suspect the first lanternflies arrived in the United States in 2014 in Berks County, PA, aboard a shipment of stone from their native China. Since then, the winged pests have invaded 11 states, mostly in the Mid-Atlantic and Midwest. They have been reported in every Chesapeake Bay watershed state but not the District of Columbia.

The lanternfly's latest push into new territory increases the already long shot odds of expelling the invasive species. And they serve up more evidence behind an emerging scientific consensus that the pretty, but destructive, bugs are winning the battle.

"There's a lot of research being done on spotted lanternfly, and I don't think any of it is positive," said David Gianino, who oversees the plant industry division of the Virginia Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services.

"We can't eradicate it at this point," he added. "It's here to stay. All we can do at this point is to slow its spread."

Why keep up the fight? The typical response is that there are simply too many livelihoods at stake.

The bugs themselves are fascinating-looking. Measuring an inch long by a half-inch wide, they have large, colorful wings with spots that give them their name. The front set is usually beige with black dots. The back wings are two-tone — a bottom of scarlet with black spots and a top of black and white stripes.

Lanternflies, though, feast on 70 types of plants and crops, including apples, peaches, oaks and pines. And they are especially unkind to alcohol lovers: Hops and grapes are among its dining options.

In the early days of the infestation in Berks County, some wine vineyards lost almost 100% of their crop to the voracious bugs.

"While they are not known to pose any serious human or animal health concern, the spotted lanternfly is a destructive invasive species that has negatively impacted agriculture operations throughout the Mid-Atlantic region," said Maryland Department of Agriculture Secretary Joe Bartenfelder. "MDA has taken steps to expand the quarantine zone out of an abundance of caution as we remain vigilant in controlling the spread of this destructive insect."

One of the biggest challenges with controlling the spread is that lanternflies tend to move into new areas by hitchhiking in cargo or on the sides of vehicles, with anyone's guess where

they might pop up next.

The quarantines restrict the movement of certain articles that might contain the spotted lanternfly in any of its life stages, including egg masses, nymphs and adults. Restricted items include plants, construction waste, firewood, packing materials and vehicles.

Businesses, municipalities and government agencies that require the movement of such items must obtain a specialized permit.

Officials in many states have turned to the public for support, hoping to build a volunteer army of lanternfly squashers. They are most vulnerable to stomping in their egg stage.

A sampling of recent news headlines reflects the increasingly dire tone of the crusade: Die, beautiful spotted lanternfly, die; See a spotted lanternfly? Squash it, officials say; For states dealing with the spotted lanternfly, the policy is no mercy; and Stomp them out!

Another problem: The lanternfly's diet is so varied that it's all but impossible to put a dent in their numbers by removing their sources of food, said Shannon Powers, a spokeswoman for the Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture.

"Is it realistic to think they'll be eradicated? We don't know," Powers said.
Scientists are coming to a similar conclusion.

A Purdue University study, for instance, that was published last December attempted to quantify the rate of the lanternflies' spread. The researchers based the analysis mainly on visual surveys conducted 2014–19 by the U.S. Department of Agriculture and Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture.

It estimated that infested areas were spreading at a rate of about 25 miles per year in all directions. The researchers concluded that the best states can do is to slow the insects' rate of expansion.

"Based on the results presented here, we anticipate that spotted lanternflies will continue to spread in the USA, though management and eradication efforts may effectively reduce population densities, reproductive potential and ultimately rate of spread," they wrote.

In Virginia, lanternflies have been largely relegated to the state's northern tip. Gianino wants to keep it that way. The state is looking to receive $750,000 in USDA funding this coming year, a $40,000 bump over the current year, to continue the fight.

"For us, by taking some action to control its spread, we are protecting the industries that are the greatest risk in Virginia," Gianino said.

But obstacles abound. Last year, he and his colleagues observed the biggest jump to date in localities with detections – what he called a "banner year." He blames the uptick on an increase in traveling as coronavirus restrictions began to lift.

But commerce probably also played a role in the spread, he added. The economic slowdown during the height of the pandemic left many shipping containers sitting around, giving lanternflies plenty of time to slather them with egg masses, Gianino said. Once those containers got moving again, the insects went along for the ride into new domains.

The lanternfly is slipperier than most pests, Gianino explained. So far, no one has been able to find or develop a chemical to lure lanternflies to a trap. And it appears to have no natural predators. The way he sees it, efforts to suppress the spread buy time for researchers to develop better tools for the fight.

"We're putting out some small fires when it comes to this pest," he said, "but we don't have any silver bullets yet."

[For more information, visit the PA Dept. of Agriculture Spotted Lanternfly and Penn

State Extensions Spotted Lanternfly webpages.]

(Reprinted from the Chesapeake Bay Journal.)
More Chesapeake Bay News:
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Click Here to subscribe to the free Chesapeake Bay Journal
[Posted: June 13, 2022]

Help Wanted: Berks Conservation District Urban Resource Conservationist

The Berks County Conservation District is looking for qualified applicants to fill the Urban Resource Conservationist position, this is a full-time, permanent position with benefits.

Urban Resource Conservationists are responsible for implementing several state delegated regulatory programs that include, but are not limited to, Chapter 92 (NPDES), Chapter 102 (Erosion Control) and Chapter 105 (Waterway Management).

Click Here for all the details and how to apply.

Visit the PACD Jobs webpage for positions available at other conservation districts.

Related Articles:
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-- Help Wanted: Landforce Empowerment, Training Program Staff In Western PA
[Posted: June 14, 2022]

Help Wanted: Brandywine Conservancy - Easement Steward



The Chester County-based Brandywine Conservancy is seeking qualified individuals to fill the position of Easement Steward.

The Easement Steward 2 assists with the administration, monitoring and enforcement of Brandywine's conservation and agricultural conservation easements.

Click Here for all the details. Send resumes and cover letters to cscholz@brandywine.org.

For more information on programs, initiatives and upcoming events, visit the Brandywine Conservancy website. Click Here to sign up for regular updates from the Conservancy (middle of the webpage.) Visit the Conservancy's Blog, Like the Conservancy on Facebook and Follow them on Instagram.

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Environment & Energy Educational Opportunities For Students & Adults

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

-- WGGT: Planet Philadelphia - Generations Of Inspirational Faith-Based Environmental Activism - June 17 4:00-5:00
-- Courier Times: College Settlement Camp In Horsham Celebrates 100 Years Of Giving Kids Outdoor Experiences
-- DCNR Blog: Be Prepared Outdoors - What To Do When… Nature Calls, Lightning Strikes, Encountering A Rattlesnake, How To Protect Food From Animals
-- Post-Gazette: Can Music Heal Polluted Rivers? Brooke Smokelin Has Dedicated Her Life To Trying
-- TribLive: HazMat Safety Train Gives Western PA First Responders Training On Dealing With Dangerous Derailments
-- Post-Gazette: First Responders Attend Hands-On Train And Truck Safety Event After Train Derailment In Pittsburgh Last Month
-- Wilkes-Barre Times: Riverfest Offers Educational Fun Alongside Susquehanna River
-- Citizens Voice: People Enjoy Nature, Susquehanna River During 2nd Day Of Riverfest
-- Middle Susquehanna Riverkeeper: 8 Floating Classroom Programs Announced For Williamsport
-- Schuylkill Action Network Summer Newsletter: Perkiomen Floating Classroom, Farms For Clean Water, Delaware Urban Waters Partnership, Much More
-- TribLive: Westmoreland Land Trust Nature Backpacks Are Ready To Check Out At County Libraries
-- Huntingdon Daily News: Huntingdon Conservation District, County Library Team Up To Teach Youth About Importance Of Healthy Streams
-- Preparations Underway For Penn State's 2022 Ag Progress Days August 9-11 [PaEN]
-- Penn State Extension Survey: Suggest Ways To Improve Pond Management Education
-- Seven State Agencies Celebrate Pennsylvania's First Native Species Day [PaEN]
-- PA Master Naturalists: Celebrating PA Native Species Day June 17
-- PennLive - Marcus Schneck: Impact Of Invasive Species Noted On First Pennsylvania Native Species Day
-- PennLive - Marcus Schneck: PA Town Pushes Bee City USA To 300 Communities
-- Centre Daily Times: From Climate To Transparency, What Penn State Forward's Board Of Trustees Win Means For Future
-- American Water Charitable Foundation Accepting Applications For Water And The Environment Grants [PaEN]
-- Susquehanna River Basin Commission Podcast: Groundwater Level Monitoring Grants
-- Appalachian Chapter Audubon Society Offering Full Scholarship To Hog Island Audubon Camp In Maine [PaEN]
-- Fast Company: Should We Protect Nature For Its Own Sake? For Its Economic Value? Because It Makes Us Happy? Yes - By Bradley J. Cardinale, Penn State Ecosystem Science & Management
-- Help Wanted: Landforce Empowerment, Training Program Staff In Western PA

-- WHYY: Why Visiting A Museum Is Good For Your Health
-- Game Commission: Conservation Heritage Museum To Open June 25 At Middle Wildlife Management Area, Lebanon County [PaEN]
-- MCall: Lehigh Valley College Students Leave Piles Of Stuff Behind At End Of School Year; Schools Making Sure It Doesn't Go To Waste
-- Bike The Brandywine Returns For Its 5th Year On Sept. 17 In Chester County [PaEN]
-- Bay Journal: 'It's Here To Stay': Lessons From The Frontlines Of The Spotted Lanternfly Battle [PaEN]
-- Erie Times: Allegheny College, East Stroudsburg University Lab Partner For Statewide Tick Mitigation Study
-- PennLive - Marcus Schneck: Stargazing In PA: Here Are The Top Night Sky Spots
-- TribLive - Mary Ann Thomas: Hays Bald Eagle Juveniles Take Flight, Share The Skies With Young Hawk
-- Warren Times: Observe MAPS Bird Banding At Audubon Community Nature Center
-- Post-Gazette: Turn Your Lights Out This Week To Help Save The Lightning Bugs
-- Scranton Times: Helping The State Insect - The Firefly

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: June 19, 2022] PA Environment Digest

Preparations Underway For Penn State's 2022 Ag Progress Days August 9-11



Organizers have begun preparations for Penn State's 2022 Ag Progress Days exposition, which will be held Aug. 9-11 in Centre County.

Sponsored by the College of Agricultural Sciences, the expo is held at the Russell E. Larson Agricultural Research Center at Rock Springs, located 9 miles southwest of State College on state Route 45. Admission and parking are free.

Jesse Darlington, Ag Progress Days manager, said the event is designed to appeal to farm operators, home gardeners, conservationists, youth and families, woodland owners, horse enthusiasts, and anyone interested in the science behind agricultural production and natural resource management.

"We try to plan an event that reflects the diversity of Pennsylvania's agriculture in a way that provides value for those attendees who rely on the ag industry for their livelihood," he said. "We also strive to showcase Penn State's land-grant research and educational programs while offering fun, educational activities for families and consumers."

Although many COVID-related public health restrictions have been loosened since last year's expo, Darlington said, Penn State still will require that Ag Progress Days visitors and exhibitors comply with any state, local or University mitigation measures that may be in effect at

the time of the event.

Ag Progress Days typically features more than 500 commercial and educational exhibitors. Commercial exhibits will showcase the latest ag-related goods and services, and field demonstrations will feature the newest models of farm machinery in action.

Interactive educational displays and workshops will highlight the latest science-based practices, and visitors can take guided tours to see some of the research underway at the surrounding, 2,100-acre Russell E. Larson Agricultural Research Center.

Darlington noted that the College of Agricultural Sciences Exhibits Building and Theater will provide a hub for expert information and presentations on animal health, including avian influenza, vector-borne diseases such as Lyme disease, and climate-smart agriculture.

Faculty and Penn State Extension educators also will be on hand throughout the grounds to answer questions and provide information on crop, dairy, livestock and equine production; conservation practices; integrated pest management; woodlot management; farm safety; foods and nutrition; home gardening; 4-H youth programs; and other topics.

Other planned activities and attractions include food demonstrations, a sunflower maze, horse exhibitions and clinics, wildlife displays, children's activities, exhibits of antique farm and home implements in the Pasto Agricultural Museum, and a wide variety of food booths.

Ag Progress Days hours are 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Aug. 9; 9 a.m. to 7 p.m. on Aug. 10; and 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Aug. 11.

More information is available on the Ag Progress Days website. Twitter users can find and share information about the event by using the hashtag #agprogressdays, and the event also can be found on Facebook (@AgProgressDays).

[How Clean Is Your Stream?

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

(Reprinted from Penn State News.)

Take Action Now!

-- Tell Your Legislator NOW To Set Aside $500 Million From Federal American Rescue Funds To Support Local Environmental, State Park & Forest Projects

Related Article:

-- Bay Journal: EPA And Farm Bureau Find Common Ground In Pennsylvania - Urge State Lawmakers To Support Chesapeake Bay Cleanup Funding - By Karl Blankenship, Chesapeake Bay Journal
[Posted: June 13, 2022]

Game Commission: Conservation Heritage Museum To Open June 25 At Middle Wildlife Management Area, Lebanon County



Understanding how far you've traveled requires stopping to look back to where you started.

Pennsylvania's Conservation Heritage Museum will offer just that perspective. Opening to the public on Saturday, June 25 at the Middle Creek Wildlife Management Area Visitor Center in Stevens, on the border of Lebanon and Lancaster counties, the new museum will show how stewardship of the state's

wildlife evolved – and continues to do so – over time.

Chad Eyler, Chief of the Game Commission's Special Permits Division, will give a talk at 10:00 a.m. that day on "Pennsylvania's Conservation History."

Work to develop the museum began about five years ago. Now-retired Game Warden Bill Bower had a huge collection of memorabilia related to conservation and the Game Commission.

He was looking for a way to permanently share these pieces of history.

That led to a new wing at Middle Creek for the Heritage Museum.

"The opening of the museum is something that's been long anticipated," said Lauren Ferreri, the Game Commission's Biological & Visitor Manager at Middle Creek. "It features a chronological walk-through explaining how the Game Commission came to be and why it was so needed to protect wildlife."

The Game Commission was created in 1895, at a time when many now-common species of wildlife were in trouble.

Some had already disappeared, victims of unregulated exploitation and habitat loss.

Still others, like bald eagles, would all but vanish decades later because of pollution and environmental contaminants.

The Game Commission, together with partner conservationists, turned all that around.

White-tailed deer, black bears and beavers are once again found all over the state; large raptors like eagles, peregrine falcons and ospreys have come off the state's threatened and endangered lists; otters are expanding, too.

Bringing those restorations wasn't always easy and not every recovery strategy proved worthwhile. And, certainly, challenges remain. But current and future generations can enjoy healthy habitats and healthy wildlife because of assorted laws, protections and management practices put into place over the past century-plus.

The Conservation Heritage Museum will tell that story.

Ferreri said it will showcase the old and the new. Visitors, for example, will be able to compare the equipment used by Game Wardens in the early 1900s with what officers use today.

There will also be historic hunting and trapping tools, hunter education and wildlife management materials, photographs, wildlife art and publications like Pennsylvania Game News magazine, and more memorabilia to see.

And touch, too. Ferreri said that while some exhibits will be under glass, others are interactive, offering visitors the opportunity to literally get a feel for history.

"Conservation involves a constantly-changing learning curve," Ferreri said. "New research, new technologies, new understanding, they all drive the protection of wildlife. The Conservation Heritage Museum aims to show how far we've come and offer some insight on where we're headed."

Middle Creek already draws about 150,000 people a year. Visitors descend on the site to walk trails, take part in controlled hunts and view wildlife, like the migrating snow geese that arrive by the hundreds of thousands each spring.

The museum will give those people, and the thousands of school children who visit each year with families or as part of organized school groups, one more attraction to take in.

Middle Creek Wildlife Management Area's Visitor Center is located at 100 Museum Road, Stevens, PA 17578.

Admission to it and the Conservation Heritage Museum is free during regular center hours, from 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Tuesday through Sunday. It is closed on Mondays.

Ferreri invites people out to see what the Conservation Heritage Museum has to say about the distance – measured in miles, years and lessons – between where Keystone State conservation started and where it is now.

Visit the Game Commission's Middle Creek Wildlife Management Area webpage for more information.

To learn more about Pennsylvania's conservation history, visit the PA Conservation Heritage Project webpage.

*(**Photo:** Visitors Center at Middle Creek.)*

[Posted: June 16, 2022]

Appalachian Chapter Audubon Society Offering Full Scholarship To Hog Island Audubon Camp In Maine



The Appalachian Chapter Audubon Society is now accepting applications for a full scholarship to the Hog Island Audubon Summer Camp in Maine. The deadline to apply is June 27. The scholarship would be for one adult or student (ages 14-17) and provides an opportunity for enthusiastic young birders to connect with people their own age, learn field identification and explore bird ecology from talented educators on an amazing island.

Primary scholarship consideration will be given to applicants who reside within the Chapters zip codes.

Click Here for schedule options for the camp.

Click Here to apply. Any questions? Contact our education chair at Education@appalachianaudubon.org.

For more information on programs, initiatives, upcoming events and how you can get involved, visit the Appalachian Chapter of the Audubon Society website.

[Posted: June 14, 2022]

News From PA House & Senate

The information you need to follow legislation in the House and Senate- starting with articles and NewsClips from last week--

Environment & Energy NewsClips--

-- Oil & Natural Gas Facility Health Impacts Assessment Bill Introduced In The House [PaEN]
-- Who's Protecting Taxpayers? House To Take Up Bill Exempting Conventional Oil & Gas Wells From Plugging Bonds Sticking Taxpayers With $5.1 Billion In Cleanup Liability [PaEN]
-- Post-Gazette Editorial: Republican Lawmakers Poised To Cost PA Billions In Highway Funding At Behest Of Oil & Gas Industry [PaEN]
-- House Environmental Committee Meets June 22 On Bill To Protect Military Airspace From Windmills [PaEN]
-- Senate Environmental Committee Meets June 20 On Bill To Extend Underground Storage

Tank Cleanup Programs [PaEN]
-- Republican Rep. Metcalfe This Week Began Circulating A Resolution To Impeach DEP Secretary Patrick McDonnell
-- Altoona Mirror: House Sends Series Of Flooding Bills To Senate [Temporary Solutions At Best]
-- Bay Journal: EPA And Farm Bureau Find Common Ground In Pennsylvania - Urge State Lawmakers To Support Chesapeake Bay Cleanup Funding - By Karl Blankenship, Chesapeake Bay Journal
-- DCNR Conservation & Natural Resources Advisory Council Urges Lawmakers To Support Growing Greener III Funding [PaEN]
-- StateCollege.com: Penns Valley Bridge Highlights Infrastructure Needs Of DCNR's State Parks, Forests
-- LancasterOnline: Sen. Martin Elected Chair Of Chesapeake Bay Commission's PA Delegation
-- Rep. Bizzarro: End Gasoline Price Gouging Through New Stop Price Fixing Act Legislation
-- **June 22--** House Democratic Policy Committee hearing on combating inflation with the Stop Gasoline Price Fixing Act. Room 523 Irvis Building. 9:00 a.m. Click Here to watch online.
-- The Center Square: With Food And Energy Prices High, Few Short-Term Solutions [PA House Hearing]
-- MCall - Ford Turner: PA Farmers Getting Crushed By Record Diesel Prices, Lawmakers Told

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]

Senate, House Bills Moving Last Week

The following environmental and energy bills saw movement last week--

Senate

Child Lead Testing: Senate Bill 522 (Baker-R-Luzerne) providing for universal lead testing for children was amended and passed by the Senate and now goes to the House for action. [Note: This bill was first proposed in May, 2019. Read more here.]

Insurance Coverage For Tick-borne Diseases: Senate Bill 1188 (Brooks-R-Crawford) requiring insurance coverage for Lyme disease and tick-borne illnesses was referred to the Senate Appropriations Committee.

Diesel Engines, Deep Mining: Senate Bill 1255 (Pittman-R-Indiana) would change Pennsylvania's Deep Mine Safety Program to replace the oil and filter on all diesel-powered equipment used in underground coal mining every 100 hours at the request of the mine operator was referred to the Senate Appropriations Committee.

In-Person Meetings: Senate Bill 1029 (Yaw-R-Lycoming) requiring state agency meetings where public comments are being taken to be in-person, except during a declared disaster emergency was referred to the Senate Appropriations Committee.

Recreation Liability: House Bill 1694 (Struzzi-R-Indiana) further providing for limiting landowner liability for opening property to recreation was referred to the Senate Appropriations Committee.

Critical, Rare Earth Minerals: Senate Resolution 229 (Dush-R-Clearfield) directing the Joint State Government Commission to conduct a study of the economic, environmental and health impacts related to the development of critical mineral and rare earth minerals in the Commonwealth was Tabled due to inaction on the resolution. Read more here.

House

Solar Energy Subscriptions: House Bill 1161 (Mizgorski-R-Allegheny) authorizing the establishment of local solar energy subscriber programs supported by electric utilities was reported out of the House Appropriations Committee and passed by the full House 167 to 33. The bill now goes to the Senate for action. [Note: This is not the community solar program supported by farmers, environmental and other advocacy groups. Read more here.]

2 Leftovers From Flood Package: House Bill 2404 (Owlett-R-Tioga)**:** Would allow local government organizations to apply for a permit for continuing maintenance for a period of at least 10 years for the streams within their jurisdiction. This permit would grant an affirmative duty to the local government entity to properly maintain the streams and would not require the local government to get pre-approval for maintenance projects; House Bill 2407 (Hamm-R-Lycoming) would clarify that the Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission has no authority for permitting or enforcement related to stream clearing or maintenance activities. This authority shall belong solely to DEP and the county conservation districts as appropriate. The bills were reported out of the House Appropriations Committee and passed by the House. They are now in the Senate for consideration. Read more here.

Prevent DEP From Increasing Conventional Oil & Gas Bond Amounts: House Bill 2644 (Causer-R-Cameron) was introduced to head off a proposal accepted for study by the Environmental Quality Board in November to increase the well plugging bonding amounts for both conventional oil and gas and unconventional shale gas drillers to what it now costs taxpayers to plug a well when operators walk away from their obligations was referred to the House Appropriations Committee. Read more here.

Mandate Award Of Plugging Contracts To PA Companies Regardless Of Cost: House Bill 2528 (Struzzi-R-Indiana)-- would mandate DEP award oil and gas well plugging contracts to Pennsylvania contractors, with no regard for cost to taxpayers was amended and referred to the House Appropriations Committee. Read more here.

Prohibiting Communities From Supporting Clean, Cheaper Energy Sources To Address

Climate Change: Senate Bill 275 (Yaw-R- Lycoming) which limits the ability of communities to offer new and clean energy sources and energy efficiency programs by locking in the status quo, in particular natural gas was referred to the House Appropriations Committee. Read more here.

PFOS/PFOA Firefighting Foams: Senate Bill 302 (Yaw-R-Lycoming) providing for limits on use and warning labels for PFOS/PFOA firefighting foams was reported from the House Veterans Affairs and Emergency Preparedness Committee and Tabled.

Farmland Funds For Land Trusts: Senate Bill 64 (Martin-R-Lancaster) setting aside a portion of farmland preservation funds for use by land trusts was reported out of the House Agriculture and Rural Affairs Committee and Tabled.

Bill Calendars

Senate (June 20): Senate Bill 692 (Bartolotta-R-Washington) which makes fundamental changes in the erosion and sedimentation permitting requirements for conventional and unconventional oil and gas activities, including well pads, pipelines, processing and treatment facilities; Senate Bill 718 (Bartolotta-R-Washington) limiting scope of DEP permit appeals [Read more here]; Senate Resolution 285 (Gordner-R-Columbia) would direct the Joint State Government Commission to conduct an assessment and analysis of public and private recycling infrastructure and operations across the state (sponsor summary); House Bill 1947 (O'Neal-R-Washington) which prohibits counties, local governments and authorities from promoting clean, cheaper energy sources to reduce climate-changing greenhouse gas emissions; House Bill 2075 (Knowles-R-Schuylkill) would suspend DEP's regulations setting heavy-duty diesel emissions standards based on California standards. <> Click Here for full Senate Bill Calendar.

NEW. House Republican The Week Ahead Floor Action Summary

House (June 20): 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 Bill 2104 (Rapp-R-Forest) which set minimum statewide bonding and decommissioning requirements for solar and wind energy facilities to make it more restrictive and preempts local governments from adopting their own requirements [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.

Committee Meetings

House

June 22-- House Environmental Resources and Energy Committee meets to consider House Bill 2367 (Mako-R-Northampton) would prohibit the construction of wind turbines that negatively affect military installations (sponsor summary). Room 523 Irvis Building. 10:00 a.m. Click Here to watch online.
June 22-- House Democratic Policy Committee hearing on combating inflation with the Stop Gasoline Price Fixing Act. Room 523 Irvis Building. 9:00 a.m. Click Here to watch online.
<> Click Here for full House Committee Schedule.

Senate
June 20-- Senate Environmental Resources and Energy Committee meets to consider House Bill 1780 (Armanini-R-Clearfield) extending the sunset dates for underground storage tank cleanup program from June 30, 2022 to December 31, 2027. Room 461. 12:45 p.m. Click Here to watch online.
<> Click Here for full Senate Committee Schedule.

Bills Introduced

Oil & Natural Gas Facility Health Impacts Assessment Program: House Bill 1467 was introduced to establish an Oil and Natural Gas Facility Health Impacts Assessment Program in the Department of Health. Read more here.

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
June 20, 21, 22, 23, 24, 27, 28, 29, 30
September 19, 20, 21
October 17, 18, 19, 24, 25, 26
November 15

House
June 20, 21, 22, 23, 24, 27, 28, 29, 30
September 12, 13, 14, 19, 20, 21
October 24, 25, 26
November 14, 15, 16

[Posted: June 19, 2022]

Senate Environmental Committee Meets June 20 On Bill To Extend Underground Storage

Tank Cleanup Programs

The Senate Environmental Resources and Energy Committee is scheduled to meet June 20 on House Bill 1780 (Armanini-R-Clearfield) extending the sunset dates for underground storage tank cleanup program from June 30, 2022 to December 31, 2027.

Watch for late additions to this agenda-- it's that time of year.

The meeting will be held in Room 461 Main Capitol starting at 12:45 p.m. Click Here to watch online.

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.
[Posted: June 16, 2022]

House Environmental Committee Meets June 22 On Bill To Protect Military Airspace From Windmills

The House Environmental Resources and Energy Committee is scheduled to meet June 22 to consider House Bill 2367 (Mako-R-Northampton) which would prohibit the construction of wind turbines that negatively affect military installations (sponsor summary).

"Recent proposals to construct windmills on property adjoining Indiantown Gap has raised serious concerns within the Pennsylvania Department of Military and Veterans Affairs," said Rep. Zachary Maki when announcing the bill. "Recent press reports indicate DMVA is specifically concerned that the construction of windmills within the buffer zone surrounding the Gap will impact helicopter training maneuvers during nighttime hours and increase the risk of accidents.

"With this in mind, I am introducing legislation that would require DEP to consult with the Adjutant General prior to permitting windmills within the flight path or airspace of the Gap."

The agenda also includes the regular warning-- "And any other business that may come before the committee." During budget time, observers should heed that warning.

The meeting will be held in Room 523 Irvis Building starting at 10:00 a.m. Click Here to watch online.

Rep. Daryl Metcalfe (R-Butler) serves as Majority Chair of the House Environmental Committee and can be contacted by calling 717-783-1707 or sending email to: dmetcalf@pahousegop.com. Rep. Greg Vitali (D-Delaware) serves as Minority Chair and can be contacted by calling 717-787-7647 or sending email to: gvitali@pahouse.net.
[Posted: June 15, 2022]

The Feds

Articles and NewsClips about federal actions impacting Pennsylvania--

-- Bay Journal: EPA And Farm Bureau Find Common Ground In Pennsylvania - Urge State Lawmakers To Support Chesapeake Bay Cleanup Funding - By Karl Blankenship, Chesapeake Bay Journal

-- NRCS-PA Now Accepting Applications For Farmland Preservation Grants In Chesapeake Bay Watershed [PaEN]
-- TribLive: VP Harris Visits Pittsburgh, Touts Need For Lead Pipe Removal
-- Post-Gazette: VP Harris Touts White' House's Bipartisan Infrastructure Funding To Replace Lead Water Lines
-- EPA: New Drinking Water Health Advisories Set For 4 PFAS Chemicals; $1 Billion In Bipartisan Infrastructure Law Funding Available For Cleanup [PaEN]
-- EPA Announces $6.5 Billion In New Funding Available Under Water Infrastructure Loan Program
-- DOE Partners With Carnegie Mellon University To Launch The 2022 Global Clean Energy Action Forum In Pittsburgh In September [PaEN]
-- Financial Times: Pentagon Bankrolls Rare Earths Plant As U.S. Plays Catch-Up To China
-- EQB Adopts Part I Of Reg. Reducing Oil & Gas VOC/Methane Emissions; 80% Of Methane Emissions Come From Conventional Oil & Gas Facilities; IRRC Considers July 21 [PaEN]
-- Post-Gazette - Laura Legere: DEP Splits Long-Stalled Oil & Gas Air Pollution Rule; Rule Loses Roughly 80% Of Reduction Benefit By Excluding Conventional Oil & Gas Sources
-- StateImpactPA: DEP Drops Major Source Of Methane From New Rule Limiting Oil & Gas Facility Emissions
-- Post-Gazette Editorial: Republican Lawmakers Poised To Cost PA Billions In Highway Funding At Behest Of Oil & Gas Industry
-- Appalachian Voices: Advocates Urge Biden To Fill Vacant Director Of Surface Mining Position
-- Energy News Network: FERC Proposes Rules Tackling Interconnection Backlog
-- U.S. DOE: Proposes New Cost-Saving Energy Efficiency Standards For Home Furnaces
-- PennDOT Invites Feedback On Components Of Proposed State Plan For National Electric Vehicle Infrastructure Formula Program [PaEN]
-- EPA Announces Available Funding For Clean School Buses [PaEN]
-- US EIA Expects Significant Increases In Wholesale Electricity Prices Due To Natural Gas Price Spikes
-- Three Mile Island Alert: NRC Approves Distribution Of Decommissioning Funds For Undamaged TMI Unit 1 To Constellation Energy
-- Friends Of Allegheny Wilderness Advocates Cancellation Of Tracy Ridge Burn Project To Protect Bat [PaEN]
-- Warren Times: Allegheny National Forest Proposes Dewdrop Recreation Area Improvements
-- AP: Sanctions Sought Against FBI Over Videos Of Civil War Gold Dig On DCNR State Forest Land

[Posted: June 19, 2022]

Public Participation Opportunities/Calendar Of Events

Click Here for a list of public participation opportunities and a calendar of events.

-- DEP Hosts June 28 Hearing On Benner Twp. PFAS Hazardous Site Cleanup Investigation In Centre County [PaEN]

-- DEP Invites Comments On Proposed Advance Restoration Plan For Trout Run Watershed, Erie County [PaEN]
-- PUC Seeks Comments On Proposed Settlement With Columbia Gas Concerning Washington County House Explosion In 2019; $990,000 Penalty Included

Grants & Awards

Click Here for grants, awards, recognition programs and contest deadlines.

-- American Water Charitable Foundation Accepting Applications For Water And The Environment Grants [PaEN]
-- NRCS-PA Now Accepting Applications For Farmland Preservation Grants In Chesapeake Bay Watershed [PaEN]
-- EPA Announces $6.5 Billion In New Funding Available Under Water Infrastructure Loan Program
-- EPA Announces Available Funding For Clean School Buses [PaEN]
-- PennLive: State Seeks Innovators To Solve Farm Problem - Waste Plastics
-- Susquehanna River Basin Commission Podcast: Groundwater Level Monitoring Grants

PA Bulletin

Highlights of the environmental and energy notices in the latest PA Bulletin--

The Department of Environmental Protection published notice in the June 18 PA Bulletin of the availability of the final Residual Waste General Permit WMGR096 related to Beneficial Use Of Regulated Fill.

The Department of Environmental Protection published notice in the June 18 PA Bulletin of Environmental Laboratory Accreditation Proficiency Test Study Requirements under the Laboratory Certification Program.

PA Infrastructure Investment Authority/ Department of Environmental Protection published notice in the June 18 PA Bulletin of completed environmental assessments for projects to be considered for funding by PennVEST.

The Department of Environmental Protection published notice in the June 18 PA Bulletin inviting comments on a proposed Advance Restoration Plan for Trout Run Watershed in Erie County. (PA Bulletin, page 3519) Read more here.

The Department of Environmental Protection published notice in the June 18 PA Bulletin withdrawing the draft 2006 Technical Guidance related to the Public Water Supply Manual - Part III: Bottled Water, Bulk Water Hauling, Water Vending Machines And Retail Water Facilities.

The Department of Environmental Protection published notice in the June 18 PA Bulletin of changes to the list of companies certified to perform radon-related activities (page 3518).

PA Bulletin - June 18, 2022

Note: The Department of Environmental Protection published 99 pages of public notices related to proposed and final permit and approval/ disapproval actions in the June 18 PA Bulletin - pages 3444 to 3543.

Sign Up For DEP's eNotice: Did you know DEP can send you email notices of permit applications submitted in your community? Notice of new technical guidance documents and regulations? All through its eNotice system. Click Here to sign up.

Related Tools ----------

Visit DEP's Public Participation Center for public participation opportunities.

DEP Proposals Out For Public Review
Other Proposals Open For Public Comment - DEP webpage
Submit Comments on Proposals Through DEP's eComment System
Recently Closed Comment Periods For Other Proposals - DEP webpage
Other Proposals Recently Finalized - DEP webpage

DEP Regulations In Process
Proposed Regulations Open For Comment - DEP webpage
Submit Comments on Proposals Through DEP's eComment System
Proposed Regulations With Closed Comment Periods - DEP webpage
Recently Finalized Regulations - DEP webpage
DEP Regulatory Update - DEP webpage

DEP Technical Guidance In Process
Draft Technical Guidance Documents - DEP webpage
Technical Guidance Comment Deadlines - DEP webpage
Submit Comments on Proposals Through DEP's eComment System
Recently Closed Comment Periods For Technical Guidance - DEP webpage
Technical Guidance Recently Finalized - DEP webpage
Copies of Final Technical Guidance - DEP webpage
DEP Non-Regulatory/Technical Guidance Documents Agenda [February 2022] - DEP webpage

Stories Invited - About PA Environment Digest

Send your stories, photos and links to videos about your project, environmental issues or programs for publication in the **PA Environment Digest** to: PaEnviroDigest@gmail.com.

PA Environment Digest is a publication of **PA Environment News LLC** and is edited by David E. Hess, former Secretary Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection. He can be contacted by sending email to: PaEnviroDigest@gmail.com.

Did you know you can search back issues of **PA Environment Digest** since May 28, 2004 on dozens of topics, by county and on any keyword you choose? Just click on the search page.

PA Environment Digest weekly was the winner of the PA Association of Environmental Educators' 2009 Business Partner of the Year Award.

Also take advantage of these related publications--

PA Environment Daily Blog: provides daily environmental NewsClips and significant stories and announcements on environmental topics in Pennsylvania of immediate value. Sign up and receive as they are posted updates through your favorite RSS reader. You can also sign up for a once daily email alerting you to new items posted on this blog. Add your constructive comment to any blog posting.

PA Environment Digest Twitter Feed: Instant news updates.

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PA Abandoned Mine Reclamation Conference June 22-23

The PA Abandoned Mine Reclamation Conference will be held in-person and virtually June 22-23 at the Ramada Inn and Conference Center in State College. This year's theme-- New Opportunities On The Horizon! Registration Open! Read more here.

Supporting Member PA Organization For Watersheds & Rivers; PA Outdoor Writers Assn.; PA Trout Unlimited

PA Environment Digest is a supporting member of the PA Organization for Watersheds & Rivers, PA Outdoor Writers Association, PA Council Trout Unlimited and the Doc Fritchey Chapter Trout Unlimited.