

Conservation Committee Report

Volume 25 Issue 2

Jack Walters—Conservation Chairman

February 2023



The Conservation Pledge

I give my pledge as an

American to save and faithfully defend from waste, the natural resources of my country; the soil, the water, the air, the minerals, the plant life and the wildlife.

This is my Pledge!

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Pennsylvania Adopts PFAS Limits for Drinking Water

In a first of its kind rulemaking, Pennsylvania has adopted new regulations to protect Pennsylvanians' drinking water from PFAS chemicals by setting new limits on two forms of per- and poly-fluoroalkyl substances (PFAS).

The new rule sets maximum contaminant levels (MCLs) in drinking water for two forms of PFAS – per-fluorooctane sulfonic acid (PFOS) and per-fluorooctanoic acid (PFOA) – in order to protect the public from potential adverse health effects linked to exposure to PFOA and PFOS.

“Since Governor Tom Wolf signed an executive order in 2018, DEP has been committed to protecting Pennsylvanians from the adverse impacts of PFAS. We are still learning more about these chemicals, and these new MCLs are a step in the right direction,

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Defend the Flock - Biosecurity 101

Biosecurity is most important for anyone who owns or works with poultry – whether on a commercial farm, in the wild, or a backyard flock.

Pennsylvanians should take proper steps to keep HPAI from spreading.

Biosecurity refers to everything people do to keep diseases – and the viruses, bacteria, fungi, parasites, and other microorganisms that

cause disease – away from birds, property, and people. It includes:

Structural biosecurity: measures used in the physical construction and maintenance of coops, pens, poultry

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Pennsylvania Adopts PFAS Limits for Drinking Water (continued)

” said DEP Acting Secretary Ramez Ziadeh.

The rule sets an MCL of 14 parts per trillion (ppt) for PFOA and an MCL of 18 ppt for PFOS. The MCLs are intended to protect against adverse developmental effects (including neurobehavioral and skeletal effects), and adverse immune system effects (including immune suppression). The rule also specifies requirements to ensure compliance with the MCLs, including monitoring and reporting, analytical requirements and approved treatment technologies.

PFAS are a class of synthetic chemicals used since the 1940s to make water-, heat-, and stain-resistant products such as cookware, carpets, clothing, furniture fabrics, paper packaging for food, and other resistant materials. These chemicals are persistent in the human body and throughout the environment. PFAS have been associated with adverse health effects but are classified by scientists as emerging contaminants because the risks they pose to human health and the environment are not completely understood.

The MCLs for PFOA and PFOS apply to all 3,117 community, nontransient noncommunity, bottled, vended, retail, and bulk public water systems. Of these, 1,905 are community water systems, serving a combined population of approximately 11.4 million residents; another 1,096 are nontransient noncommunity water systems (businesses, schools, and healthcare facilities) serving approximately 507,000 people.

In September 2018, Governor Wolf signed an [Executive Order](#) establishing the PFAS Action Team, moving Pennsylvania to the forefront of states taking proactive steps to address PFAS and other contaminants.

Led by the Action Team, the administration has taken steps to identify and address contamination and establish a cleanup plan that will result in every Pennsylvanian having water free from PFAS contamination.

Pennsylvania is at the forefront of states taking proactive steps to address PFAS. More information on Pennsylvania’s efforts to address PFAS can be found at this webpage: www.dep.pa.gov/PFAS.

The regulation was published in the [Pennsylvania Bulletin](#) on Saturday, January 14, 2023.

Source: PA Department of Environmental Protection

Defend the Flock - Biosecurity 101 (continued)

houses, family farms, commercial farms, and other facilities.

Operational biosecurity: practices, procedures, policies that are consistently followed by people.

Biosecurity is a team effort. Everyone involved in raising poultry must use structural and operational biosecurity to prepare for and prevent disease outbreaks throughout the United States. Put simply: we have to work together to protect our flocks.

What can you do? You can practice biosecurity each and every day. By practicing good biosecurity, you can reduce the risk of people, animals, equipment, or vehicles carrying infectious diseases onto your property – either accidentally or on purpose. You will also help protect other flocks by preventing the spread of disease.

Keep visitors to a minimum. Only allow those people who take care of your poultry to come in contact with your birds, this includes family and friends. Keep track of everyone who is on your property at all times. Make sure everyone who has contact with your flock follows biosecurity principles.

Wash your hands before and after coming in contact with live poultry. In addition to potentially spreading disease from farm to farm or bird to bird, you can also spread germs such as Salmonella that can impact human health. Wash with soap and water (always your first choice). If using a hand sanitizer, first remove manure, feathers, and other materials from your hands because disinfectants will not penetrate organic matter or caked-on dirt.

Provide disposable boot covers (preferred) and/or disinfectant footbaths for anyone having contact with your flock. If using a footbath, be sure to remove all droppings, mud or debris from boots and shoes using a long-handled scrub brush BEFORE stepping into the disinfectant footbath, and always keep it clean.

Change clothes before entering poultry areas and before exiting the property. Visitors should wear protective outer garments or disposable coveralls, boots, and headgear when handling birds, and shower and/or change clothes when leaving the facility.

Clean and disinfect tools or equipment before moving them to a new poultry facility. Before allowing service vehicles, trucks, tractors, or tools and equipment—including egg flats and cases

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Defend the Flock - Biosecurity 101 (continued)

that have come in contact with birds or their droppings—to exit the property, make sure they are cleaned and disinfected to prevent contaminated equipment from transporting disease. Do not move or reuse items that cannot be cleaned and disinfected—such as cardboard egg flats.

Look for signs of illness. Know the [warning signs](#) of infectious bird diseases.

Report sick birds. Don't wait. If your birds are sick or dying, call a local veterinarian, cooperative extensive service, or state veterinarian. Call USDA toll-free at 1-866-536-7593.

For more information about biosecurity practices, including checklists you can follow, visit the Defend the Flock [Resource Center](#).

Source: PA Department of Agriculture

Biden-Harris Administration Announces Action to Help Protect Bristol Bay Salmon Fisheries

EPA issued a Final Determination under the Clean Water Act to help protect Bristol Bay, the most productive wild salmon ecosystem in the world. With this action, the Biden-Harris Administration is protecting certain waters that are important to sustaining Southwest Alaska's salmon resources from disposal of dredged or fill materials associated with developing the Pebble deposit.

Protecting Bristol Bay builds on a series of recent actions the Biden-Harris Administration has taken to conserve and restore some of America's most cherished lands and waters, many of which are sacred to Tribal Nations. Last week the Administration finalized protections for the Tongass National Forest in Alaska and the Boundary Waters Area Watershed in Minnesota.

"The Bristol Bay watershed is a vital economic driver, providing jobs, sustenance, and significant ecological and cultural value to the region," **said EPA Administrator Michael Regan.** "With this action, EPA is advancing its commitment to help protect this one-of-a-kind ecosystem, safeguard an essential Alaskan industry, and preserve the way of life for more than two dozen Alaska Native villages."

"After reviewing the extensive scientific and technical record spanning two decades, EPA has determined that specific discharges associated with developing the Pebble deposit will have unacceptable and adverse effects on certain salmon fishery areas in the Bristol Bay watershed," **said EPA Assistant Administrator for Water Radhika Fox.** "Our Final Determination helps prevent those adverse effects while helping protect a vibrant and magnificent watershed. It's also important to note that EPA's action does not apply to current or future resource development projects in Alaska."

The Bristol Bay watershed's fishery resources are a thriving economic driver for the region, generating significant nutritional, cultural, economic, and recreational value. The total economic value, including subsistence uses of the Bristol Bay watershed's salmon resources, was estimated at more than \$2.2 billion in 2019 and results in 15,000 jobs annually. The Bristol Bay Watershed is home to 25 Alaska Native villages and communities and supports one of the last intact, sustainable salmon-based cultures in the world. Salmon provides more than half of the subsistence harvest for some Alaska Native communities in the Bristol Bay region.

After reviewing the Recommended Determination provided by EPA's Region 10 office, including the scientific and technical information spanning nearly two decades, EPA has determined that the discharges evaluated in the Final Determination will have unacceptable adverse effects on salmon fishery areas in the South Fork Koktuli River, North Fork Koktuli River, and Upper Talarik Creek watersheds of Bristol Bay. Ecologically valuable streams, wetlands, and other aquatic habitats, like those found in these watersheds, provide the foundation for the productive fishery areas in the region.

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Biden-Harris Administration Announces Action to Help Protect Bristol Bay Salmon Fisheries (continued)

Final Determination

The Final Determination prohibits certain waters of the United States in the South Fork Koktuli River and North Fork Koktuli River watersheds from being used as disposal sites for the discharge of dredged or fill material for the construction and routine operation of Pebble Limited Partnership's mine plan described in its June 8, 2020 CWA Section 404 permit application. It also prohibits future proposals to construct and operate a mine to develop the Pebble deposit that would result in the same or greater levels of loss or change to aquatic resources. The Final Determination also restricts the use of certain waters of the United States in the South Fork Koktuli River, North Fork Koktuli River, and Upper Talarik Creek watersheds as disposal sites for the discharge of dredged or fill material associated with future proposals to develop the Pebble deposit that would result in adverse effects similar or greater in nature and magnitude to those associated with the 2020 Mine Plan.

In the 50-year history of the Clean Water Act, EPA has used its Section 404(c) authority judiciously. Today's action marks the third time in 30 years, and only the 14th time in the history of the Clean Water Act, that EPA has used this authority. This highlights the value of the Bristol Bay watershed's fishery resources.

The federal government, the State of Alaska, federally recognized Tribal governments, the Pebble Limited Partnership, and many interested stakeholders have devoted significant resources over many years of study, engagement, and review. Considering the extensive record, it is not reasonable or necessary to engage in additional multi-year National Environmental Policy Act or Clean Water Act Section 404 processes for future proposals to develop the Pebble deposit involving discharges of dredged or fill material that would result in adverse effects that EPA has already determined are unacceptable in this Final Determination. By acting now, based on an extensive and carefully considered record, EPA promotes regulatory certainty for all stakeholders and avoids unnecessary expenditure of additional resources by all stakeholders.

The prohibition and restriction in EPA's Final Determination only apply to certain discharges of dredged or fill material associated with developing the Pebble Deposit. This action does not apply to any current or future resource development projects in the state of Alaska.

A copy of the Final Determination is available on EPA's Bristol Bay website at: www.epa.gov/bristolbay.

Background

The Pebble deposit, a large, low-grade deposit containing copper-, gold-, and molybdenum-bearing minerals, is located at the headwaters of the pristine Bristol Bay watershed in Southwest Alaska. The Pebble deposit underlies portions of the South Fork Koktuli River,

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Biden-Harris Administration Announces Action to Help Protect Bristol Bay Salmon Fisheries (continued)

North Fork Koktuli River, and Upper Talarik Creek watersheds, which drain to two of the largest rivers in the Bristol Bay watershed, the Nushagak and Kvichak Rivers.

Efforts to evaluate the effects of developing a mine at the Pebble deposit have been underway for more than a decade. The Pebble Limited Partnership's 2020 Mine Plan underwent the CWA Section 404 permit review process with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and was evaluated in the context of an Environmental Impact Statement pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act. In November 2020, USACE denied Pebble Limited Partnership's permit application; Pebble Limited Partnership appealed the permit denial with USACE, and review of the appeal is ongoing.

The diverse, abundant, and high-quality streams, wetlands, and other aquatic habitats in the South Fork Koktuli River, North Fork Koktuli River, and Upper Talarik Creek watersheds provide important spawning and rearing habitat for Coho, Chinook, and Sockeye salmon and provide high-quality habitat for other fishes, such as Rainbow Trout, Dolly Varden, Arctic Grayling, and Northern Pike. The aquatic habitats of the South Fork Koktuli River, North Fork Koktuli River, and Upper Talarik Creek watersheds also provide critical support for downstream habitats. By contributing water, organic matter, and macroinvertebrates to downstream systems, these headwater areas help maintain downstream habitats and fuel their fish productivity. Together, these functions—direct provision of high-quality habitat and indirect provision of other resources to downstream habitats— support the valuable fisheries of the Bristol Bay watershed.

The objective of the Clean Water Act is to restore and maintain the chemical, physical, and biological integrity of the nation's waters. EPA and the Army Corps of Engineers share responsibilities for implementing Section 404 of the Clean Water Act. Section 404(a) of the Clean Water Act requires a permit from the Corps of Engineers to discharge dredged or fill material into waters of the United States. Section 404(c) of the Clean Water Act authorizes EPA to prohibit the specification of or restrict the use for specification of any defined area as a disposal site for the discharge of dredged or fill material whenever it determines that such discharges will have an unacceptable adverse effect on fishery areas (including spawning and breeding areas

For further information: EPA Press Office (press@epa.gov)

Source: U.S. EPA

DEP Releases Final 2022 Pennsylvania State Water Plan and Online Atlas of Water Resources and Use

The Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) released the final [2022 Pennsylvania State Water Plan](#) and an [interactive online atlas of statewide water resources](#) and use trends to inform leaders' decision making and educate Pennsylvanians on sustainable use of our lakes, rivers, streams, and groundwater.

"While Pennsylvania is a water-rich state, our water resources are affected by many factors, including the warming climate, increased development, and others," said DEP Acting Secretary Rich Negrin. "The State Water Plan helps leaders understand how these factors can affect water resources and make planning decisions that protect this precious natural resource for all Pennsylvanians."

The final 2022 Pennsylvania State Water Plan follows [announcement of the draft plan](#) in August and [public feedback](#). The DEP Water Use and Planning Section developed the plan in collaboration with more than 100 water resources professionals who served on a [statewide committee](#) and [six regional committees](#).

The plan recommends 100 actions statewide in areas such as floodplain and stormwater management, water withdrawal policy, contaminants of emerging concern, and others.

It also recommends actions tailored to each of six water planning regions across Pennsylvania: the Great Lakes basin and the Upper/Middle Susquehanna, Lower Susquehanna, Potomac, Ohio, and Delaware river basins.

The online water atlas shares data on statewide water use from 2008 to 2020. Overall water use in Pennsylvania decreased 33 percent, as daily withdrawals declined from 7.8 billion to 5.2 billion gallons per day in this time period. Closure of some coal-burning power plants was the primary reason for the decline, followed by reduced water use by some large manufacturers. However, overall water use varied by region, for example, water use ticked up in the Potomac region.

Designed to be not only a planning tool, but also an educational resource, the water atlas provides information on many other factors that may negatively or positively affect the quality and quantity of water resources in Pennsylvania.

DEP Releases Final 2022 Pennsylvania State Water Plan and Online Atlas of Water Resources and Use (continued)

Since the 2022 Pennsylvania State Water Plan isn't regulatory, the next step is educational outreach to inform legislative, government, advocacy, and business leaders on how they may implement the strategies and actions to benefit all members of their communities.

Pennsylvania Act 220 of 2002 requires DEP to develop updates to the State Water Plan every five years.

Source: The Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection (DEP)

Drought Watch Lifted for Five Counties, Hydrologic Conditions Normal Statewide

The Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) announced after a meeting of the Commonwealth Drought Task Force that drought watch has been lifted for five counties and hydrologic conditions are normal statewide.

Drought watch has been lifted for Carbon, Luzerne, Northampton, Potter, and Schuylkill counties.

Palmerton Municipal Water Authority in Carbon County remains on voluntary restrictions, but groundwater indicators for that county have returned to normal and precipitation has been sufficient to support groundwater recharge.

To determine drought conditions, the DEP drought coordinator assesses information from public water suppliers and data on four indicators: precipitation, surface water (stream and river) flow, groundwater level, and soil moisture. This is done in partnership with the U.S. Geological Survey, which maintains gauges in streams and wells in many locations across Pennsylvania.

DEP makes drought status recommendations after assessing departures from normal ranges for all indicators for periods of 3-12 months.

DEP shares these data and its recommendations with the state and federal agencies and other organizations that make up the Commonwealth Drought Task Force. Declarations are determined by DEP, with the concurrence of the task force.

For more information, including a map of drought status declarations updated daily, see the [DEP drought web page](#).

Source: The Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection (DEP)

EPA Announces Financial Capability Guidance to Support Communities and Ensure Clean, Affordable Water

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) announced its updated Clean Water Act Financial Capability Assessment (FCA) Guidance to help communities ensure public health protections and financial feasibility as they make plans to comply with the Clean Water Act (CWA). The Guidance outlines strategies for communities to follow to support affordable rates while planning investments in water infrastructure essential to protecting our Nation's waters.

"EPA is committed to ensuring all communities have access to clean water and critical water services. We also recognize that a growing number of people struggle to afford their water bills," **said EPA Assistant Administrator for Water Radhika Fox.** "The updated FCA Guidance provides a better process to assess communities' ability to afford water quality improvements, and also highlights a variety of tools, including assistance programs, grants, and subsidized loans, to help communities plan and pay for necessary water infrastructure improvements."

When discharges from municipal wastewater treatment facilities violate the CWA, EPA sets a schedule for the municipality to implement control measures to address the discharges as soon as possible. When negotiating CWA compliance schedules, EPA considers public health, environmental protection, and a community's financial capability. The FCA Guidance outlines the financial information and formulas used to assess a community's financial ability to make the needed water infrastructure investments essential for CWA implementation. The FCA Guidance is also used to evaluate the economic impacts on public entities of certain water quality standards (WQS) decisions.

For communities seeking extended CWA compliance schedules or certain changes to water quality standards, the updated FCA Guidance provides a clear process to demonstrate financial capability and ensure that a financial strategy is in place to support needed infrastructure upgrades without overburdening their most vulnerable ratepayers. The updated FCA Guidance also contains new measures that provide a better description of a community's ability to afford water services, including community-specific poverty factors that are available and easy to find from census data. The FCA Guidance incorporates feedback from nearly 3,000 comments received during the public comment period and provides clear, step-by-step instructions for evaluating financial capability, including options for communities with less capacity.

The FCA Guidance is a starting point for negotiations and is not legally binding. The FCA Guidance recognizes that a variety of factors should be included in CWA schedule negotiations and encourages communities to bring their individual circumstances to those discussions. If a community has additional information that justifies a longer schedule than the general schedule benchmarks, this information can be submitted to EPA. Where appropriate, this information can result in different schedules than those suggested by the baseline analysis in the FCA Guidance.

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EPA Announces Financial Capability Guidance to Support Communities and Ensure Clean, Affordable Water (continued)

The updated FCA Guidance provides ideas for working within legal boundaries and broadly consider how to minimize rate impacts to residents. For example, the FCA Guidance provides links to resources for obtaining available federal funding or for establishing programs to help low-income customers. In addition, EPA's Water Finance Center can connect communities to technical assistance providers who can help with rate design and analysis, asset management planning, identifying sources of funding, and/or developing State Revolving Fund applications.

[Read the FCA Guidance.](#)

Background

The Updated FCA Guidance supersedes the *1997 Guidance for Financial Capability Assessment and Schedule Development* to evaluate a community's capability to fund CWA control measures in both the permitting and enforcement context. The FCA Guidance also supplements the public sector sections of the *1995 Interim Economic Guidance for Water Quality Standards* to assist states and authorized tribes in assessing the degree of economic and social impact of potential WQS decisions.

During a 60-day public comment period on the proposed FCA Guidance, EPA received nearly 3,000 public comments from a wide range of stakeholders, including local governments, state governments, utilities and municipalities, environmental organizations, NGOs, and private citizens. The final FCA Guidance has been informed by the input provided during the comment period.

For further information: EPA Press Office (press@epa.gov)

Source : The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)

EPA Opens Public Comment Period for Indoor airPLUS Program Update

In order to advance indoor air quality protection, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is announcing proposed updates to the Indoor airPLUS program, and will be taking public comment for 60 days. **Comments will be accepted until April 3, 2023.**

Indoor airPLUS is a voluntary partnership and labeling program designed to improve indoor air quality in homes to help reduce the likelihood of common and serious health problems like heart disease, cancer, asthma and other respiratory issues. Builders that participate in the program must use construction practices designed to minimize exposure to airborne pollutants and contaminants in the home. The indoor airPLUS program also requires that these practices are inspected and certified by qualified verifiers.

The updates to the program being proposed today take into consideration the broad range of feedback EPA received in response to a December 2020 opportunity for public comment on revised Indoor airPLUS Construction Specifications proposed at that time. This 2023 proposal is designed to address feedback received on the 2020 proposal and to encourage broad industry participation to advance indoor air quality protections, while strengthening program integrity with an improved verification and quality assurance framework.

Under this proposed program update, builders will have an opportunity to choose between two Indoor airPLUS labels: Indoor airPLUS Certification, and Indoor airPLUS Gold. The proposed "Indoor airPLUS Certification" specifications focus on strategies to improve indoor air quality without a pre-requisite of ENERGY STAR certification. The proposed "Indoor airPLUS Gold" specifications include more advanced protections for improved indoor air quality in conjunction with ENERGY STAR certification.

Other features of the proposed program update include changes to the training requirements for verifiers, a Home Certification Organization model to improve quality assurance, and a five-year expiration date to the new Indoor airPLUS labels and specifications for voluntary recertification by the home/building owner after the five-year expiration.

Following the 60-day comment period, EPA expects to release the final Indoor airPLUS Certification and Gold specifications in January 2024. During the first 12-months of implementation beginning January 2024, partners could continue to use *Indoor airPLUS Construction Specifications Version 1, Rev.4* or begin to use one of the new two-tier specifications, if finalized. EPA anticipates that the *Indoor airPLUS Construction Specifications Version 1, Rev. 4* will be sunset by January 2025. These dates are subject to change.

More about the Indoor airPLUS program:

Indoor airPLUS homes are healthier by design, improving indoor air quality (IAQ) and comfort. Labeled homes can help reduce the likelihood of common and serious health problems like heart disease, cancer, asthma, allergies, respiratory issues, headaches and more

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EPA Opens Public Comment Period for Indoor airPLUS Program Update (continued)

through comprehensive IAQ approaches. These approaches include mold and moisture control; radon resistance; pest management; improved heating, ventilating, and air-conditioning systems; combustion venting; healthier building materials; and homeowner education.

Source: U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)

Study Shows Growth in K-12 Students' Recycling Knowledge

The Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) and the Professional Recyclers of Pennsylvania (PROP) collaborated on a [School Recycling Study Survey](#) that shows that Pennsylvania K-12 students have increased their knowledge and awareness of recycling over the past fiscal year.

"Students are our future, and it is great to see that they are increasing their awareness around recycling. It is incredible that these schools made a commitment to Pennsylvania's present and future," Acting DEP Secretary Richard Negrin said.

From July 2021 through June 2022, PROP (with funding from DEP) coordinated the study. This is the second year of the study, which gauges understanding of recycling among students and staff. Schools were asked to complete a brief survey, providing details on their current recycling programs and practices. The survey was sent to 3,770 public and private schools in Pennsylvania.

Of the schools surveyed, 86.6% recycle. Also, 43.5% of the schools surveyed have a recycling awareness program.

In the 2020-2021 fiscal year, the survey was sent to 2,713 schools with 199 responding. In the 2020-2021 fiscal year, 81.4% of schools responded that they have a recycling program.

Some of the questions in the survey include: Does the school recycle? Does your school have a recycling awareness program? Is cost a barrier?

"Student awareness of recycling is a critical step in making sure these students continue to recycle through adulthood," said PROP Executive Director Jennifer Summers. "Recycling is a cross-generational effort, and it is imperative that we know how our students are faring with their recycling knowledge."

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Study Shows Growth in K-12 Students' Recycling Knowledge (continued)

The summary report also details ways to increase awareness and how schools respond to waste with other methods, like composting. PROP is instrumental in driving student awareness and hosts a yearly [poster contest](#) for students.

“Just as our schools nurture and preserve their students’ futures, so too must our communities nurture and preserve the future of our environment,” said Acting Secretary of the Pennsylvania Department of Education Dr. Khalid N. Mumin. “By introducing learners to the importance of recycling, that knowledge can spread, and young minds can be empowered by sharing this critical best practice with their friends, families, and neighbors.”

The next steps include working with individual coordinators with results from their counties and another survey. Another survey will be used to collect more detail about the types of education and training that is needed for the schools. The outcomes of the surveys will result in the creation of tools and resources for schools and school business officials, including web resources.

Source: The Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection (DEP)

Wolf Administration Announces Over \$2 Million for Conservation Projects in Southeast Pennsylvania

Projects include streambank restoration efforts, stormwater retrofitting technical assistance and floodplain restoration.

The Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) announced that ten projects in the state's southeast region were awarded a total of \$2,119,504 through DEP's [Growing Greener Plus Program](#). These projects work to protect waterways and watersheds, reclaim abandoned mine sights and work to reclaim and plug abandoned oil and gas wells. Statewide, this year's awards exceed \$19 million.

Growing Greener is the largest single investment of state funds in Pennsylvania's history to address critical environmental concerns. Entities eligible for Growing Greener grants can be watershed groups, local or county government, municipal authorities, county planning commissions, county conservation districts, council of governments, educational institutions, or non-profit organizations. Grantees have up to three years to implement their projects.

The full list of approved Growing Greener projects in Southeastern Pennsylvania includes:

Chester County:

Green Valleys Association of Southeastern PA
Providing Technical & Financial Assistance to Equestrian Operations in the French Creek Watershed - \$100,344

West Sadsbury Township
Officers Run at Strasburg Rd. Streambank Restoration - Design & Permitting - \$64,000

Brandywine Red Clay Alliance
Radley Run Stream and Floodplain Restoration - \$298,020

Willistown Conservation Trust
Rushton Woods Preserve Okehocking Run Watershed Enhancement - \$127,000

White Clay Watershed Association
Avondale GSI Demonstration Project - \$261,870

Delaware County:

John J. Tyler Arboretum
North Meadow Restoration - \$229,672

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Wolf Administration Announces Over \$2 Million for Conservation Projects in Southeast Pennsylvania (continued)

Montgomery County:

Tookany/Tacony-Frankford Watershed Partnership
Congregation Adath Jeshurun Stormwater retrofit - \$260,788

Philadelphia County:

Responsible Preservation Inc.
Wissahickon Stream Reach Restoration Project - \$315,209

Partnership for the Delaware Estuary, Inc.
Advancing the application of living shorelines in the tidal freshwater prism of the Delaware Estuary - \$106,601

Friends of the Wissahickon
Pachella Gully Restoration and Sedimentation Reduction Project - \$356,000

More information on the Growing Greener Plus grant program, application guidance, and sign up for notifications when grant programs reopen are available on DEP's webpage, <https://www.dep.pa.gov/Citizens/GrantsLoansRebates/Growing-Greener/Pages/default.aspx>

Source: The Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection (DEP)