

Conservation Committee Report

Volume 25 Issue 3

Jack Walters—Conservation Chairman

March 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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UPDATE: Pennsylvania DEP Has Tested Nearly Every Private Well Within One Mile Of Norfolk Southern Derailment Site In The Commonwealth

Department Of Environmental Protection Staff Are Working Quickly To Test The Private Well Water Of Every Pennsylvania Resident Who Requests A Test Within Two Miles Of The Crash Site.

Last week, the

Shapiro Administration announced that the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) will be conducting independent water sampling to closely monitor water contamination risks related to the East Palestine train derailment. On Tuesday, February 21, DEP

began proactive outreach to residents and testing of wells within the two-mile radius and in only four days, DEP has successfully collected samples from nearly every private drinking water well within one mile of the Norfolk Southern derailment site.

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EPA Opens Community Welcome Center in East Palestine for Residents and Business Owners

EPA Community Welcome Center to provide community with 'one-stop shop' for information about the ongoing response to the train derailment EPA de-

plays TAGA mobile lab to conduct real-time air-monitoring during waste removal

As response efforts shift to the long-term cleanup phase, today, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is opening a community welcome center in

East Palestine, Ohio. The EPA Community Welcome Center will provide residents with a one-stop shop for information regarding the federal government's ongoing response efforts to the train

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UPDATE: Pennsylvania DEP Has Tested Nearly Every Private Well Within One Mile Of Norfolk Southern Derailment Site In The Commonwealth (contined)

As of the end of this week, DEP has completed collecting samples from 13 of the 16 known residential wells within a mile radius of the derailment site and is working to schedule testing of wells between one mile and two miles next week. Results from the first round of testing are expected next week.

“The Department of Environmental Protection has been on the scene since the first hours after the Norfolk Southern train derailment, and we will stay in communities like Darlington Township as long as it takes to assure Pennsylvanians their air, water, and environment are safe,” said **Acting DEP Secretary Rich Negrin**, who visited communities in Beaver County twice this week. “DEP staff is on the ground right now, professionally and efficiently taking independent samples of drinking water near the derailment site so that Pennsylvanians can have the information they need to keep themselves and their families safe.”

DEP is proactively contacting residents within a two-mile radius of the train derailment site to initiate water testing. **Concerned residents who are beyond the two-mile radius are encouraged to reach out to DEP to request testing by calling 412-442-4000.**

DEP is using its own laboratories to test for volatile organic compounds that were on some of the train cars, including vinyl chloride, ethylene glycol, butyl acrylates, ethylhexyl acrylate, benzene, and ethanol.

More information and updates can be found on the Pennsylvania Emergency Management Agency (PEMA) [online train derailment dashboard](https://www.pema.pa.gov/derailment). The dashboard is accessible at <https://www.pema.pa.gov/derailment>.

For more information on the [Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection](https://www.pema.pa.gov/derailment), please [visit the website](https://www.pema.pa.gov/derailment) or follow DEP on [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#), or [LinkedIn](#).

Source: The Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection (DEP)

EPA Opens Community Welcome Center in East Palestine for Residents and Business Owners (continued)

derailment that occurred on February 3. Residents and business owners will be able to visit the welcome center and access details about available resources, including in-door air-monitoring screenings and residential and business cleaning services.

EPA is also deploying another mobile laboratory that performs real-time air-monitoring and sampling analyses during the cleanup phase. Working in coordination with local, state, and federal public health agencies, the real-time data will allow EPA to ensure that the removal of wastes is done in a manner that protects people's health. Administrator Michael Regan made the announcement today at the opening of the welcome center, where he was joined by Mayor Conaway and federal officials.

"The East Palestine community suffered a terrible trauma, and EPA is committed to working alongside our local, state, and federal partners to equip residents and business owners with the resources they need to recover and feel whole again," **said EPA Administrator Michael S. Regan.** "The Community Welcome Center will provide a space for the community to access critical information about the federal government's ongoing response efforts, sign up for indoor air monitoring screenings, and learn more about the process for scheduling cleaning services. During my first visit to East Palestine, I promised that EPA would be here until the job is done and done right. We are going to be here to support the people of East Palestine for as long as it may take."

Today's announcement builds on the federal government's ongoing response efforts to the East Palestine train derailment. At President Biden's direction, interagency teams have been out in the community of East Palestine ensuring residents receive up-to-date information. Over the past few days, teams have interacted with more than 530 households, distributing flyers, answering questions, and directing residents to available resources.

TAGA Mobile Laboratory

EPA has been and continues to conduct stationary and roaming air monitoring and sampling activities in the community using various devices. As the state-led emergency response transitions to the remediation phase, EPA is deploying a Trace Atmospheric Gas Analyzer (TAGA) mobile laboratory, which will conduct real-time air monitoring and sampling analyses during waste removal. The mobile lab enables EPA to receive air results in real-time for specific chemicals, rather than having to send offsite to a lab, and will help advance the agency's work to protect the East Palestine community during the cleanup process.

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EPA Opens Community Welcome Center in East Palestine for Residents and Business Owners (continued)

Get in Touch with EPA

Residents who would like more information about cleaning services – or about the response more generally – can get in touch with EPA through several ways:

- **EPA Community Welcome Center** located at 25 North Market St. in East Palestine. Residents are invited to drop in to talk to EPA staff about the ongoing response. The welcome center will be open from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. ET daily.
- **EPA toll-free information line** (866-361-0526)
- **EPA website** East Palestine, [Ohio Train Derailment Emergency Response webpage](#), which includes an [inquiry form](#) that enables community members to ask questions about the response and request additional information about the cleaning process.

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

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

Biden-Harris Administration Announces Over \$250 Million to Fund Innovative Projects That Tackle Climate Pollution

New Climate Pollution Reduction Grant Program made possible by President Biden's Inflation Reduction Act

The Biden-Harris Administration is making \$250 million available to develop innovative strategies to cut climate pollution and build clean energy economies. These planning grants, through the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), are the first tranche of funding going to states, local governments, Tribes, and territories from the \$5 billion Climate Pollution Reduction Grants (CPRG) program created by President Biden's Inflation Reduction Act. The program provides flexible planning resources for states, Tribes, territories, and municipalities to develop and implement scalable solutions that protect people from pollution and advance environmental justice.

All 50 states, the District of Columbia and Puerto Rico are eligible to receive \$3 million in grant funds. In addition, each of the 67 most populous metropolitan areas in the country are eligible to receive \$1 million for plans to tackle climate pollution locally. EPA is also making millions in noncompetitive planning grant funds available to territory and tribal governments. Later this year, EPA will launch a competition for \$4.6 billion in funding to implement projects and initiatives included in these plans. States, cities, territories, and Tribes can also use this funding to develop strategies for using the other grant, loan, and tax provisions secured by President Biden's historic legislation, including the Inflation Reduction Act and Bipartisan Infrastructure Law, to achieve their clean energy, climate, and environmental justice goals.

"We know that tackling the climate crisis demands a sense of urgency to protect people and the planet," **said EPA Administrator Michael S. Regan.** "President Biden's Inflation Reduction Act is a historic opportunity to provide communities across the country with the resources they need to protect people from harmful climate pollution and improve our economy. These Climate Pollution Reduction Grants are an important first step to equip communities with the resources to create innovative strategies that reduce climate emissions and drive benefits across the country."

President Biden's Inflation Reduction Act includes historic funding to combat climate change while creating good-paying jobs and advancing environmental justice. Today's announcement builds on \$550 million announced last week for EPA's new [Environmental Justice Thriving Communities](#) Grantmaking program and [\\$100 million announced earlier this year](#) for environmental justice grants to support underserved and overburdened communities. Additionally, the [Greenhouse Gas Reduction Fund](#) will award nearly \$27 billion to leverage private capital for clean energy and clean air investments across the country.

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Biden-Harris Administration Announces Over \$250 Million to Fund Innovative Projects That Tackle Climate Pollution (continued)

About the Climate Pollution Reduction Grant Program

The CPRG planning grants will support states, territories, Tribes, municipalities and air agencies, in the creation of comprehensive, innovative strategies for reducing pollution and ensuring that investments maximize benefits, especially for low-income and disadvantaged communities. These climate plans will include:

- Greenhouse gas emissions inventories;
- Emissions projections and reduction targets;
- Economic, health, and social benefits, including to low-income and disadvantaged communities;
- Plans to leverage other sources of federal funding including the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law and Inflation Reduction Act;
- Workforce needs to support decarbonization and a clean energy economy; and
- Future government staffing and budget needs.

In program guidance released today, EPA describes how the Agency intends to award and manage CPRG funds to eligible entities, including states, metropolitan areas, Tribes, and territories.

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States

Under the formula-based program for planning grants, the governments of all states, the District of Columbia, and Puerto Rico are eligible for up to \$3 million. Each state government will be expected to develop or update any existing climate action plan in collaboration with sub-state jurisdictions including air pollution control districts and large and small municipalities statewide, and to conduct meaningful engagement including with low income and disadvantaged communities throughout its jurisdiction.

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Biden-Harris Administration Announces Over \$250 Million to Fund Innovative Projects That Tackle Climate Pollution (continued)

Metropolitan Areas

To further EPA's efforts to cover as much of the population as possible under regional planning grants, the 67 most populous metropolitan areas will be awarded \$1 million each to develop regional planning grants with key stakeholders in their area. Communities that do not rank in the top 67 most populous areas will have opportunities to partner with their states and neighboring jurisdictions.

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Territories & Tribes

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The territories of Guam, American Samoa, U.S. Virgin Islands, and the Northern Mariana Islands as well as federally recognized Indian Tribes are also eligible entities; their application process is detailed in a separate program guidance.

Tribes have a set-aside of \$25 million, for grants up to \$500,000 for a single Tribe or \$1 million for groups of 2 or more. Territories are eligible for up to \$500,000 each. Applicants are not required to provide a cost-share or matching funds for this funding.

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Next Steps

States must submit a notice of intent to participate by March 31, 2023; the 67 most populous metropolitan areas nationally must submit a notice of intent to participate by April 28, 2023. EPA strongly encourages all eligible entities to review the complete [program guidance documents available on EPA's website](#) to learn more about these planning grants, details about eligibility criteria and allocation formulas, important deadlines, and other requirements.

This funding for climate planning will be followed later this year by \$4.6 billion in implementation grant funding that will support the expeditious implementation of investment-ready policies created by the CPRG planning grants, programs, and projects to reduce greenhouse gas emissions in the near term. Through the CPRG program,

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Biden-Harris Administration Announces Over \$250 Million to Fund Innovative Projects That Tackle Climate Pollution (continued)

EPA will support the development and deployment of technologies and solutions that will reduce greenhouse gas emissions and harmful air pollution, as well as transition America to a clean energy economy that benefits all Americans.

Key Program Dates

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States and metropolitan areas have different deadlines to notify EPA that they intend to opt-in to the climate planning grants.

- **States** will have until **March 31, 2023**, to opt in to this grant by submitting a notice of intent to participate. The lead organization for the state will then need to submit an application, which will include a workplan and budget for the planning grant, by **April 28, 2023**. States can work with EPA regional offices during this time.
- **Metropolitan areas** have until **April 28, 2023**, to opt in. The lead organization for the metropolitan area will then need to submit an application, which will include a workplan and budget for the planning grant, by **May 31, 2023**. Metropolitan areas can work with EPA regional offices during this time.
- **Tribes and territories** have a separate program guidance, process and deadlines with applications and workplans due by June 15, 2023. EPA's regional offices will work closely with Tribes and territories to support their successful application. They should work closely with their EPA region toward submitting an application and workplan by **June 15, 2023**.

By summer 2023, EPA Regional Offices expect to award and administer the funding agreements.

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

EPA News: Biden-Harris administration announces \$11.3 million to Delaware for Water Infrastructure upgrades through the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency is awarding \$11.3 million to Delaware from President Biden's Bipartisan Infrastructure Law that communities can use to upgrade essential water, wastewater, and stormwater infrastructure that protects public health and treasured water bodies.

Nearly half of the funding, which comes through this year's Clean Water State Revolving Fund (CWSRF), will be available as grants or principal forgiveness loans helping underserved communities across America invest in water infrastructure, while creating good-paying jobs.

"President Biden's Bipartisan Infrastructure Law is delivering an unprecedented investment in America that will revitalize essential water and wastewater infrastructure across the country," said **EPA Administrator Michael S. Regan**. "Not only will these funds expand access to clean water and safeguard the environment, but more underserved communities that have been left behind for far too long will be able to access them."

"The Clean Water State Revolving Fund program is a powerful partnership between EPA and the states," said **EPA Mid-Atlantic Regional Administrator Adam Ortiz**. "Delaware communities can use this additional funding to make a difference with water infrastructure projects that protect public health, ecosystems and waterways throughout the state."

Today's announcement is part of the \$2.4 billion announced as part of the second wave of funding made possible by the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law and builds on the Biden-Harris Administration's commitment to invest in America. In May 2022, EPA announced the initial allotment of \$1.9 billion from the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law to states, Tribes and territories through the CWSRF. That money is supporting hundreds of critical water infrastructure projects around the country.

President Biden's Bipartisan Infrastructure Law makes over \$50 billion available for [water and wastewater infrastructure improvements](#) across the country between FY2022 and FY2026. EPA is committed to ensuring every community has access to this historic investment and has centralized increasing investment in disadvantaged communities within its implementation. This investment in water infrastructure is creating jobs while addressing key challenges, including climate change and emerging contaminants like per- and poly-fluoroalkyl substances (PFAS). The implementation of the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law calls for strong collaboration, and EPA continues to work in partnership with states, Tribes, and territories to ensure that communities see the full benefits of this investment.

In addition to today's announcement, the 2023 Drinking Water State Revolving Fund allocations and program updates are forthcoming, pending the release of the seventh Drinking Water Infrastructure Needs Survey and Assessment. EPA anticipates releasing the information in the coming weeks.

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EPA News: Biden-Harris administration announces \$11.3 million to Delaware for Water Infrastructure upgrades through the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (continued)

The CWSRFs have been the foundation of water infrastructure investments for more than 30 years, providing low-cost financing for local projects across America. For more information, including state-by-state allocation of 2023 funding, and a breakdown of EPA CWSRF funding available through the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law, please visit: <http://www.epa.gov/cwsrf>.

Additional Supporting Quotes

“Every Delawarean—no matter their zip code—deserves access to clean water,” said **Senator Tom Carper (D-Del.), Chairman of the Environment and Public Works Committee**. “Thanks to our historic investments secured as part of the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law, Delaware is receiving more than \$11,000,000 to upgrade our wastewater systems, create good-paying jobs, and enhance the health and well-being of families in our state. Importantly, this robust funding will benefit those communities with the greatest need, helping ensure that clean water is a reality for more Delawareans.”

“These crucial funds from President Biden’s EPA will help ensure all Delawareans have access to clean water and healthy waterways, including communities in our state that have too often been neglected, said **Senator Chris Coons (D-Del.)**. “Climate-resilient stormwater and wastewater infrastructure will create public health, environmental justice, and economic benefits – just one more way the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law is making a difference in the First State.”

“Since coming to Congress, one of my primary commitments has been ensuring the Delawareans have access to clean drinking water up and down our state. We know that one of the best tools we have at our disposal is the Clean Water State Revolving Fund,” said **U.S. Representative Lisa Blunt Rochester (D-DE-At Large)**. “It was among the many reasons I was so proud to vote for the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law, as today we announce over \$11 million coming to Delaware to help deliver safe and clean water to our communities. I look forward to continuing to work with the Biden Administration to deliver on the promise of these monumental pieces of legislation.”

Source: The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency

Senate Committee Votes 9-1 To Issue A Subpoena To Compel CEO Of Norfolk Southern To Appear At March 8 Hearing On Train Derailment; 2nd Subpoena Expected Next Week For Documents

On March 1, the [Senate Veterans Affairs and Emergency Preparedness Committee](#), voted 8 to 1 to issue a subpoena to Alan Shaw, CEO of Norfolk Southern, to compel his attendance at a March 8 hearing at 9:00 a.m. on the Ohio/PA train derailment and “to remain until excused.”

[Click Here to watch live.](#)

The lone vote against the subpoena was Committee Vice Chair Sen. Tracy Pennycuick (R-Berks). She also made a motion that was defeated to Table the subpoena until there is a list of documents the Committee would like to request from the company.

In addition, Sen. Wayne Langerholc (R-Cambria) recused himself from the votes on the subpoena because the law firm he is of-counsel with has represented Norfolk Southern, although he personally did not do any legal work directly or indirectly for the company he said.

Sen. Doug Mastriano (R-Adams), Majority Chair of the Committee, said, “Additionally, our cover letter will be requesting documents, videos, correspondence, emails, texts related to the decision that triggered this emergency response.

“We will follow up to proceed next week with additional subpoenas for those documents should Mr. Alan Shaw not be forthcoming in providing all the documents we need in our capacity for constitutional oversight,” said Sen. Mastriano.

Sen. Katie Muth (D-Montgomery) made a motion that was Tabled to require the production of documents be part of the first subpoena since “Mr. Shaw could simply show up and decline to comment on the ongoing investigation. I’m sure legal counsel will advise him in that fashion.”

“In the absence of him bringing forward meaningful testimony, I think we need to also simultaneously be asking for documentation of all testing done-- derailment day to current-- all the documentation on how modeling was done relative to the controlled burn [of toxic contents of several rail cars] and put that in the actual language of the subpoena and not the cover letter. If it’s not in the subpoena, no one has to respond to it,” said Sen. Muth.

“To wait longer for that information I feel is detrimental to the health and wellbeing of these impacted residents that certainly are waiting for us to take significant action and make sure they are actually able to get to a place that is healthy,” explained Sen. Muth.

Sen. Muth said Democrats on the Committee did offer language to amend the subpoena to include the document requests.

Sen. Mastriano said, “I move that we Table the [Sen. Muth’s] amendment in light of the fact that we will be subpoenaing the same data not only in the initial request but it will be in a subpoena we anticipate next week.”

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Senate Committee Votes 9-1 To Issue A Subpoena To Compel CEO Of Norfolk Southern To Appear At March 8 Hearing On Train Derailment; 2nd Subpoena Expected Next Week For Documents (continued)

Sen. Muth's motion was Tabled.

Sen. Tracy Pennycuick (R-Berks) then made a motion to Table consideration of the subpoena itself until there is a list of documents the Committee would like to request from the company was produced. The motion was seconded by Sen. Muth (D-Montgomery).

Sen. Mastriano said, "The reason for expeditious call of Alan Shaw is the production of documents as we know in the subpoena could take a month or longer and I do believe we need him before the Committee to answer some of the basic questions that many of us here [and] out in Beaver County needed addressed.

"Sen. Muth, he may plead the 5th [amendment against self-incrimination], I'm hopeful, we don't know, he will be transparent and responsive," said Sen. Mastriano.

Sen. Muth commented, "If Norfolk Southern could clean up the tracks and put down new tracks in a very timely fashion in less than a week, then they could produce the documents we're asking for. I certainly urge you [Sen. Mastriano] to send a simultaneous subpoena."

On the subpoena, Sen. Pennycuick (R-Berks) said, "I think the timing of this subpoena is a little premature. The NTSB [National Transportation Safety Board] investigation is ongoing. We have a preliminary report out. I don't believe Norfolk Southern is in a position with 12 lawsuits from local citizens as well as the NTSB investigation ongoing to produce anything more than we could access from them now.

"I think our focus needs to be getting Beaver County residents back and made whole. Back to work, back to school. Making sure their water and their soil is safe. I would like to not proceed with the subpoena. I would like to ask [for] whatever documents you want from Norfolk Southern, let's ask for the documents. Let's work together to make Beaver County whole," said Sen. Pennycuick.

"We all know they [Norfolk Southern] are at fault. We all know they are in a position to start writing some checks and they're doing that. But right now I think our focus needs to be on restoring Beaver County to 100% of what they had before this incident and this tragedy," said Sen. Pennycuick.

After Sen. Pennycuick's motion to Table the subpoena was defeated, Sen. Muth (D-Montgomery) added, "I also want to remind everyone on this Committee we also did not receive documentation from the [Shapiro] Administration. I sent a multitude of emails requesting that information that they spoke of, but not in writing, during the hearing [in Beaver County].

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Senate Committee Votes 9-1 To Issue A Subpoena To Compel CEO Of Norfolk Southern To Appear At March 8 Hearing On Train Derailment; 2nd Subpoena Expected Next Week For Documents (continued)

“If we’re not able as a Committee to get data and information, that’s really troubling. In the absence of that information, I don’t want to hear from anyone that people aren’t in harm’s way, that everything’s fine, the water’s fine. Our state websites say there’s no contamination.

“There is now a PA Department of Health powerpoint for [medical] providers that states to not trust for-profit labs and to stick with calling the labs that are affiliated with Ohio and Pennsylvania and Norfolk Southern,” said Sen. Muth.

“It is incredibly frustrating knowing that people are sitting in their homes right now exposed to toxins with no remedy, no answers and they know they’re sick. They need to see the real data, not the ‘sham’ testing that doesn’t accurately test for all the things that could be harming them,” said Sen. Muth.

“I refuse to believe the government if they’re going to say everything is fine and not provide a piece of documentation. That is just obscene,” said Sen. Muth. “Maybe we should think about expanding the subpoena to all involved entities to give us some sort of documentation on how they came to these conclusions, how they determined the plan and how this modeling came to be, because clearly there was a last-minute change in the plan and the evacuation [area] was shrunk dramatically.

“There are far more Pennsylvanians impacted by this than originally stated or anyone’s willing to state,” said Sen. Muth.

Sen. Mastriano responded, “We’re going to get this right. I’m going to work with each of you [members of the Committee] on your concerns and requests.

“Sen. Muth, I’d be honored if you could help craft or craft a subpoena for the [Shapiro] Administration in any other areas we discuss-- the decisions on the plume, the evacuation area, that random one mile zone times two, on and on.

“I do believe it would be good for Alan Shaw to finally be before the people of Pennsylvania or anywhere in this country for that matter, instead of ducking and hiding and showing in a hand-picked panel or what-have-you,” said Sen. Mastriano.

“The people of Western Pennsylvania want answers, they feel forgotten-- they have been forgotten. I think this is going to get worse as it goes on,” said Sen. Mastriano.

[Click Here for a video of the Committee meeting.](#)

[Sen. Doug Mastriano \(R-Adams\), Majority Chair of the Senate Veterans Affairs and Emergency Preparedness Committee](#), and can be contacted by calling 717-787-4651 or sending email to: dmastriano@pasen.gov. Sen. Katie Muth (D-Montgomery) serves as Minority Chair and can be contacted by calling 717-787-1398 or sending email to senatormuth@pasenate.com.

Source: PA Environment Digest

Shapiro Administration Awards \$1.5 Million To Help Municipalities, Schools, And Businesses Switch To Clean Transportation

Small Business Owners, The City Of Pittsburgh Among Those Receiving Funding For Electric Vehicles And Renewable Natural Gas Vehicles, Improving Air Quality In Communities Across The Commonwealth

The Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) awarded \$1.5 million in 2022 Alternative Fuels Incentive Grant funding to help municipalities, schools, and businesses around the state switch to clean transportation and improve air quality in their communities. The [DEP Alternative Fuels Incentive Grant program](#) helps municipalities, businesses, and non-profit organizations replace older gasoline or diesel fueled vehicles with clean fuel transportation. This funding builds on Governor Shapiro's agenda to create a bold, comprehensive climate and energy plan that will grow Pennsylvania's economy, protect and create jobs, and address climate change.

The grant recipients, ranging from a small borough to rental car, garbage truck, and school bus companies, will replace 88 old gasoline or diesel vehicles with 78 electric and 10 renewable natural gas vehicles and install 36 chargers for electric vehicles.

"The Shapiro Administration is committed to growing the Commonwealth's economy while protecting Pennsylvanians' constitutional right to clean air and pure water," **said DEP Acting Secretary Rich Negrin**. "A growing number of organizations and businesses in Pennsylvania want to lower their transportation emissions. Today's announcement demonstrates a shared commitment between the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection and our local communities and businesses to improve air quality, address climate change, and increase the use of renewable energy across the Commonwealth."

The funded projects are as follows:

Allegheny County

- **City of Pittsburgh:** \$272,152 for 30 electric cars, 15 electric transit vans, and 10 dual-plug level 2 chargers for use by staff in the Departments of Public Works and Permits, Licenses and Inspections.
- **Flyspace Productions LLC:** \$13,500 for an electric pickup truck and electric cargo van to make deliveries and tow event equipment.

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Shapiro Administration Awards \$1.5 Million To Help Municipalities, Schools, And Businesses Switch To Clean Transportation (continued)

Beaver County

- **Borough of Ambridge:** \$15,000 for two electric pickup trucks for the police department.

Cambria County

- **Pro Disposal, Inc.:** \$300,000 for three electric garbage trucks to be used in the City of Johnstown.

Dauphin County

- **Aero Corp.:** \$300,000 for six DC fast chargers at Harrisburg International Airport for Aero's fleet of rental electric vehicles. The chargers will also be available to other car rental companies.

Lackawanna and Westmoreland Counties

- **Waste Management of Pennsylvania, Inc.:** \$200,000 for 10 renewable natural gas garbage trucks to be used in North Huntingdon Township and Dunmore Borough.

Northampton County

- **Bethlehem Parking Authority:** \$15,000 for two electric cars for parking enforcement.

Potter County

- **Protektor Model Company:** \$15,000 for two electric pickup trucks for deliveries and travel to trade shows and competitions for this manufacturer of rifle shooting accessories.

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Shapiro Administration Awards \$1.5 Million To Help Municipalities, Schools, And Businesses Switch To Clean Transportation (continued)

Philadelphia County

- **Philadelphia Gas Works:** \$28,125 for three electric cars and two electric pickup trucks for customer service and field work, as part of the utility's Green Fleet project.
- **University of Pennsylvania:** \$52,500 for seven electric transit vans for student transport, as part of the university's Fleet Electrification Initiative.

State

- **Highland Electric Fleets:** \$75,000 for 10 electric vans and \$225,000 for 20 DC fast chargers for a school district in Pennsylvania

"We greatly appreciate this AFIG funding from DEP," **said Michael Bellvia, president of Pro Disposal, Inc.** "We're a family-owned local business, and committed to providing the best services for our customers. This investment will enable us to begin transitioning our fleet from burning fossil fuels to using renewable resources to reduce our carbon footprint, which will benefit both our company and our community."

"Aero Corporation is committed to the adoption of electric vehicles," **said Tom Troxell, Director of Electrification.** "This DEP grant will allow us to expand access to convenient and reliable fast charging for both our community and visitors to the keystone state."

Getting more zero- and low-emission vehicles on the road in Pennsylvania helps reduce harmful air pollutants, including nitrogen oxides, carbon monoxide, particulate matter, and volatile organic compounds. It also helps lower the level of carbon dioxide, one of the greenhouse gases heating up the climate, in the air.

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Gasoline and diesel vehicles generate 47 percent of nitrogen oxides emissions in Pennsylvania, contributing to ground-level ozone. This affects the health of children, older people, people who work or are active outdoors, and people with asthma, emphysema, or other lung conditions.

The transportation sector makes up 22 percent of Pennsylvania's total greenhouse gas emissions.

Source: The Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection (DEP)

EPA and Justice Department File Complaint Alleging Public Health Endangerment Caused by Denka Performance Elastomer's Carcinogenic Air Pollution

On behalf of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and in coordination with the U.S. Attorney's Office for the Eastern District of Louisiana, the U.S. Department of Justice filed a complaint under Section 303 of the Clean Air Act against Denka Performance Elastomer LLC (Denka) to compel Denka to significantly reduce hazardous chloroprene emissions from its neoprene manufacturing facility in LaPlace, Louisiana. The complaint asserts that the LaPlace plant's operations present an imminent and substantial endangerment to public health and welfare due to the cancer risks from Denka's chloroprene emissions.

"When I visited Saint John the Baptist Parish during my first Journey to Justice tour, I pledged to the community that EPA would take strong action to protect the health and safety of families from harmful chloroprene pollution from the Denka facility," **said EPA Administrator Michael S. Regan**. "This complaint filed against Denka delivers on that promise. The company has not moved far enough or fast enough to reduce emissions or ensure the safety of the surrounding community. This action is not the first step we have taken to reduce risks to the people living in Saint John the Baptist Parish, and it will not be the last."

"We allege that Denka's emissions have led to unsafe concentrations of carcinogenic chloroprene near homes and schools in St. John the Baptist Parish, Louisiana," **said Associate Attorney General Vanita Gupta**. "The Justice Department's environmental justice efforts require ensuring that every community, no matter its demographics, can breathe clean air and drink clean water. Our suit aims to stop Denka's dangerous pollution."

"Emissions reductions at Denka has been one of our top priorities at LDEQ, and EPA is now building on the steps LDEQ took five years ago and our continuing efforts to reduce chloroprene emissions from the Denka facility," **said LDEQ Secretary Dr. Chuck Carr Brown**.

Denka's facility manufactures neoprene, a flexible, synthetic rubber used to produce common goods like wetsuits, beverage cozies, laptop sleeves, orthopedic braces, and automotive belts and hoses. Chloroprene is a liquid raw material used to produce neoprene and is emitted into the air from various areas at the facility.

According to the complaint, filed today in the U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of Louisiana, air monitoring – conducted by both the EPA and Denka over the past several years – consistently shows long-term chloroprene concentrations in the air near Denka's LaPlace facility that are as high as 14 times the levels recommended for a 70-year lifetime of exposure. This complaint seeks to compel Denka to eliminate the public health endangerment caused by its emissions by greatly reducing the levels of chloroprene to which this community is being exposed.

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EPA and Justice Department File Complaint Alleging Public Health Endangerment Caused by Denka Performance Elastomer's Carcinogenic Air Pollution (continued)

The complaint also names DuPont Specialty Products USA LLC – the owner of the land beneath Denka's facility and Denka's landlord. DuPont is a necessary party to ensure there are no delays in any actions that Denka is ordered to take to reduce its chloroprene emissions as a result of the rights DuPont holds under its lease agreement with Denka.

In 2010, EPA published its peer-reviewed assessment of chloroprene that concluded that chloroprene is "likely to be carcinogenic to humans." Approximately 20% of the total population living within two-and-a-half miles of Denka are children under the age of 18, and between about 800-1,000 are children under the age of five. Children under the age of 16 are particularly vulnerable to mutagenic carcinogens like chloroprene. Denka's chloroprene's emissions reach more than 300 young children who attend the 5th Ward Elementary School, located within approximately 450 feet of Denka's facility. Approximately 1,200 children who attend East St. John High School, located roughly a mile-and-a-half north of Denka, are also exposed to the facility's chloroprene emissions.

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

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

EPA Announces Enforcement Actions to Control Hydrofluorocarbon Imports

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) announced several enforcement actions that support national and international goals to reduce the use of hydrofluorocarbons (HFCs) in our fight against climate change. These civil penalty actions include three landmark settlements with HFC importers who failed to report their imported quantities in violation of the Clean Air Act's (CAA) Greenhouse Gas Reporting Program: Artsen Chemical America, LLC (\$247,601 penalty), Harp USA, Inc. (\$275,000 penalty), and the IGas Companies (\$382,473 penalty). EPA is aggressively pursuing similar actions against several other importers that failed to report their HFCs.

EPA also recently issued the first notices of violation (NOVs) under the American Innovation and Manufacturing Act of 2020 (AIM Act) to alleged violators who imported regulated substances without required allowances. Under the AIM Act, importers are required to expend allowances to import HFCs. Compliance with the allowance system is critical to assuring the success of the United States' HFC phasedown program. Illegal imports undermine the phasedown, disadvantage companies who follow the rules, and contribute to global warming.

"These NOVs demonstrate EPA's commitment to enforcing the American Innovation and Manufacturing Act of 2020," **said Larry Starfield, Acting Assistant Administrator for EPA's Office of Enforcement and Compliance Assurance.** "In addition, our Greenhouse Gas Reporting Program settlements with HFC importers recognize that accurate data is essential for setting sound climate change policy."

Stopping illegal HFC imports is a top priority of a federal interagency task force that includes EPA and U.S. Customs and Border Protection. In fiscal year 2022, the task force prevented illegal HFC imports equal to more than 889,000 metric tons of carbon dioxide. This equates to the carbon dioxide released from powering 173,000 homes with electricity for a year.

HFCs are commonly used in refrigeration and air conditioning equipment. Released to the atmosphere, HFCs can have a climate impact thousands of times stronger than carbon dioxide. Enforcement of the Greenhouse Gas Reporting Program demonstrates the Biden Administration's commitment to address HFCs and protect our climate. The United States agreed under the bipartisan AIM Act to phasedown HFC production and consumption by 85% by 2036, consistent with the international HFC phasedown laid out in the Kigali Amendment to the Montreal Protocol. Global efforts to phase down HFCs are expected to avoid up to 0.5 °C of global warming by 2100. Accurate reporting of HFCs helps set sound policy and going forward under the HFC phasedown will allow the United States to verify we are meeting the limits under the AIM Act.

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EPA Announces Enforcement Actions to Control Hydrofluorocarbon Imports (continued)

More information on the settlements and outstanding NOV's can be found at: Enforcement of the Greenhouse Gas Reporting Program: [HFC Importers](#) | US EPA. More information on the AIM Act NOV's can be found at: [Enforcement of the American Innovation and Manufacturing Act of 2020 | US EPA](#).

Learn more about the [Greenhouse Gas Reporting Program](#) here: Greenhouse Gas Reporting Program. For more information on the EPA's actions to address HFCs, visit: Protecting Our Climate by Reducing Use of HFCs.

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

EPA Announces Most Energy-Efficient Manufacturing Plants of 2022

America's most energy-efficient manufacturing plants show the way for a lower carbon future.

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is announcing that 86 U.S. manufacturing plants earned the agency's ENERGY STAR certification in 2022, a designation reserved for manufacturing plants in the top 25% of energy efficiency in their sector. Together, these plants saved over 105 trillion British thermal units (Btus) of energy and prevented more than 6 million metric tons of carbon dioxide emissions, equivalent to the emissions from the electricity use of more than 1.1 million American homes.

"Industrial leadership in energy efficiency is critical to achieving our nation's climate goals," **said EPA Administrator Michael S. Regan.** "The savings from ENERGY STAR certified plants demonstrate how energy efficiency is both helping our manufacturing sector reduce costs and propelling America's transition to a clean energy future."

The industrial sector accounts for 30% of U.S. greenhouse emissions, primarily from energy use in manufacturing plants. ENERGY STAR certified plants have reduced their energy consumption through a variety of energy efficiency projects and management practices. For example:

- **Primient's** Loudon, Tenn., and Lafayette, Ind., wet corn mills reduced their CO₂e emissions by installing and optimizing combined heat and power systems.
- **Ash Grove's** Seattle, Wash., cement plant automated the support equipment in their grinding mills to cease operation when the mills do.
- **Astra Zeneca's** Newark, Del., pharmaceutical plant installed a heat recovery system that reduced natural gas usage by approximately 20% and a heat exchanger that provides free chilled water during winter months.
- **General Motors'** Fort Wayne, Ind., auto assembly plant recovered waste heat from the engine jackets and exhausts ducts of its landfill gas cogeneration units, reducing the plant's winter natural gas consumption. Additionally, the company's Flint, Mich., assembly plant updated more than 90% of its lighting, installed light emitting diodes (LEDs) with motion sensors to decrease light levels after a period of inactivity, and continued to focus on reducing energy during non-production periods.
- **Nissan North America's** Canton, Miss., vehicle assembly plant formed a team to track compressed air leaks, leading to an annual reduction of approximately

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EPA Announces Most Energy-Efficient Manufacturing Plants of 2022 (continued)

1,700 cubic feet per minute of compressed air. The company's Decherd, Tenn., power-train assembly plant created scorecards to benchmark the shutdown performance of facilities, assigned countermeasures to shops not meeting targets, and provided recognition to top performers.

- **Titan America's** Troutville, Va., and Medley, Fla., cement plants have completely converted production to Portland Limestone (Type IL) cement, with up to 15% less embodied carbon than standard Portland Cement. Since 2015 the two plants also have achieved a 12% reduction in electricity use and an 18% reduction in CO₂, respectively, from improved energy management.
- **Cemex's** Miami, Fla., cement plant increased its energy performance in 2022 by modifying a finish mill, optimizing the ball charge on the largest mill, and identifying and correcting potential energy losses while also increasing the production of Portland Limestone (Type IL) cement.

Manufacturing plants use EPA's ENERGY STAR energy performance indicators or, in the case of petroleum refineries, the Solomon Associates Energy Intensity Index scoring system to assess their energy performance. Plants that score a 75 out of 100 or higher — indicating that they are more energy efficient than 75% of similar facilities nationwide — are eligible to earn ENERGY STAR certification. ENERGY STAR certification is available for 20 manufacturing sectors, from cement and steel to glass and commercial bakeries.

All ENERGY STAR certified manufacturing plants in 2022:

Alabama:

Georgia-Pacific, Brewton (integrated paper mill)
 Honda Development & Manufacturing of America, Lincoln (automobile engine)
 Tuscaloosa Organic Baking Co (commercial bread and roll baking)

Arizona:

Bimbo Bakeries USA, Inc., Phoenix (commercial bread and roll baking)
 Drake Cement, LLC, Paulden (cement manufacturing)
 Holsum Bakery of Tolleson (commercial bread and roll baking)
 Mesa Organic Baking Co. (commercial bread and roll baking)
 Salt River Materials Group, Clarkdale (cement manufacturing)

Arkansas:

Flowers Baking Co of Batesville (commercial bread and roll baking)

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EPA Announces Most Energy-Efficient Manufacturing Plants of 2022 (continued)**California:**

Ardagh Glass Inc., Madera (container glass manufacturing)
Bimbo Bakeries USA, Inc., San Luis Obispo (commercial bread and roll baking)
Bimbo Bakeries USA, Inc., Escondido (commercial bread and roll baking)
J.R. Simplot Company, Helm (nitrogenous fertilizer)

Colorado:

GCC, Pueblo (cement manufacturing)
Rocky Mountain Bottle Company, Wheat Ridge (container glass manufacturing)

Delaware:

AstraZeneca Pharmaceuticals, Newark (pharmaceutical)

Florida:

CEMEX USA, Miami (cement manufacturing)
Titan America, Medley (cement manufacturing)

Georgia:

Honda Development & Manufacturing of America, Tallapoosa (automobile transmission)

Illinois:

Marathon Petroleum Corporation, Robinson (petroleum refining)
TreeHouse Foods, Inc., South Beloit (cookie & cracker baking)

Indiana:

General Motors Company, Roanoke (automobile assembly)
Honda Development & Manufacturing of America, Greensburg (automobile assembly)
Klosterman Baking Company, Morristown (commercial bread and roll baking)
New Horizons, Fremont (commercial bread and roll baking)
Primient, Lafayette (corn refining)

Iowa:

Bimbo Bakeries USA, Inc., Dubuque (commercial bread and roll baking)
Iowa Fertilizer Company, LLC, Wever (nitrogenous fertilizer)

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EPA Announces Most Energy-Efficient Manufacturing Plants of 2022 (continued)

Kentucky:

Bimbo Bakeries USA, Inc., London (commercial bread and roll baking)
TreeHouse Foods, Inc., Princeton (cookie & cracker baking)

Louisiana:

Flowers Baking Co of New Orleans (commercial bread and roll baking)
Marathon Petroleum Corporation, Garyville (petroleum refining)

Maine:

Lepage Bakeries Park Street, LLC (commercial bread and roll baking)

Michigan:

AbbVie, Wyandotte (pharmaceutical)
General Motors Company, Flint (automobile assembly)
Marathon Petroleum Corporation, Detroit (petroleum refining)

Minnesota:

Bimbo Bakeries USA, Inc., Fergus Falls (commercial bread and roll baking)
Flint Hills Resources, Pine Bend (petroleum refining)
Lamb Weston/RDO Frozen, Park Rapids (frozen fried potato processing)
Marathon Petroleum Corporation, Saint Paul Park (petroleum refining)

Mississippi:

Nissan North America, Canton (automobile assembly)

North Carolina:

Bimbo Bakeries USA, Inc., Gastonia (commercial bread and roll baking)

Nebraska:

Koch Ag & Energy Solutions, Beatrice (nitrogenous fertilizer)

New Jersey:

AbbVie, Branchburg (pharmaceutical)

Nevada:

Flowers Baking Co of Henderson (commercial bread and roll baking)

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EPA Announces Most Energy-Efficient Manufacturing Plants of 2022 (continued)

New York:

Bimbo Bakeries USA, Inc., Olean (commercial bread and roll baking)
Bimbo Bakeries USA, Inc., Auburn (commercial bread and roll baking)
TreeHouse Foods, Inc., Tonawanda (cookie & cracker baking)

Ohio:

AstraZeneca, West Chester (pharmaceutical)
Bimbo QSR Ohio, Airport, Zanesville (commercial bread and roll baking)
Bimbo QSR Ohio, Eastpointe, Zanesville (commercial bread and roll baking)
Honda Development & Manufacturing of America, Marysville (automobile assembly)
Honda Development & Manufacturing of America, East Liberty (automobile assembly)
Honda Development & Manufacturing of America, Russells Point (automobile transmission)
Honda Development & Manufacturing of America, Anna (automobile engine)
Klosterman Baking Company, Springboro (commercial bread and roll baking)
Klosterman Baking Company, Cincinnati (commercial bread and roll baking)
Marathon Petroleum Corporation, Canton (petroleum refining)

Oklahoma:

Koch Ag & Energy Solutions, Enid (nitrogenous fertilizer)

Oregon:

Dave's Killer Bread, Milwaukie (commercial bread and roll baking)

Pennsylvania:

Bimbo Bakeries USA, Inc., Sayre (commercial bread and roll baking)
Bimbo Bakeries USA, Inc., Reading (commercial bread and roll baking)

Puerto Rico:

Merck & Co., Inc., Las Piedras (pharmaceutical)

South Carolina:

Argos USA, Harleyville (cement manufacturing)

South Dakota:

GCC, Rapid City (cement manufacturing)

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EPA Announces Most Energy-Efficient Manufacturing Plants of 2022 (continued)

Tennessee:

Buzzi Unicem USA, Chattanooga (cement manufacturing)
Crown Bakeries, Nashville (commercial bread and roll baking)
Crown Bakeries, Dickson (commercial bread and roll baking)
Nissan North America, Decherd (automobile engine)
Primient, Loudon (corn refining)

Texas:

AbbVie, Waco (pharmaceutical)
Barcel USA, Coppell (cookie & cracker baking)
ExxonMobil Product Solutions, Beaumont (petroleum refining)
Flowers Baking Co of El Paso (commercial bread and roll baking)
Flowers Baking Co of Houston (commercial bread and roll baking)
Flowers Baking Co of Tyler (commercial bread and roll baking)

Utah:

Bimbo Bakeries USA, Inc., Salt Lake City (commercial bread and roll baking)
TreeHouse Foods, Inc., Odgen (cookie & cracker baking)

Virginia:

Lynchburg Organic Baking Co. (commercial bread and roll baking)
Flowers Baking Co of Norfolk (commercial bread and roll baking)
Titan America, Troutville (cement manufacturing)

Washington:

Ash Grove Cement, Seattle (cement manufacturing)
Marathon Petroleum Corporation, Anacortes (petroleum refining)

Wisconsin:

Bimbo Bakeries USA, Inc., Milwaukee (commercial bread and roll baking)
Bimbo Bakeries USA, Inc., La Crosse (commercial bread and roll baking)

Wyoming:

J.R. Simplot Company, Rock Springs (nitrogenous fertilizer)

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EPA Announces Most Energy-Efficient Manufacturing Plants of 2022 (continued)

About the ENERGY STAR Industrial Program

Since 2006, the ENERGY STAR Industrial Program has annually certified manufacturing plants for performing within the top 25% of energy performance in their industries nationwide. ENERGY STAR certification is available for 20 manufacturing sectors. More than 250 plants have achieved this distinction since 2006. For more information, see: [ENERGY STAR plant certification](#). For a list of all certified plants, see: [ENERGY STAR Certified Building and Plant Locator](#). To learn more about how EPA and industry work together, see: [Industrial Energy Management](#).

About ENERGY STAR

ENERGY STAR® is the government-backed symbol for energy efficiency, providing simple, credible, and unbiased information that consumers and businesses rely on to make well-informed decisions. Thousands of industrial, commercial, utility, state, and local organizations — including nearly 40% of the Fortune 500® — rely on their partnership with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to deliver cost-saving energy efficiency solutions. Since 1992, ENERGY STAR and its partners helped American families and businesses avoid more than \$500 billion in energy costs and achieve 4 billion metric tons of greenhouse gas reductions. More background information about ENERGY STAR's impacts can be found at www.energystar.gov/impacts.

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

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