

Conservation Committee Report

Volume 20 Issue 3

Jack Walters—Conservation Chairman

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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!

Inside this issue:

EPA announces \$2.7 million in Brownfields Grants for Pennsylvania	6
EPA announces \$300,000 Brownfields Grants for Norristown, Pa.	9
EPA Awards \$1.9 Million to Virginia Tech to Research Lead in Drinking Water	11
EPA Honors Four Pennsylvania ENERGY STAR® Partners of the Year	13
Wolf Administration Announces 19 Alternative Fuel Projects for	15
Wolf Administration Honors 23 Organizations and Individuals with Environmental	21

Carbon County Mine Fire on Track to Being Fully Extinguished in Coming Months

Isolation trenches key to bring fire under control

The Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) announced that the Jeansville Mine Fire in Banks Township, Carbon County, is close to being fully extinguished. DEP has determined that the

fire has been contained in the affected area and does not appear to have spread beyond its original boundaries of 29 acres.

The fire is being addressed through active mining operations and an isolation trench project. Hazleton Shaft, Inc. is the contractor for the project, which began

in 2015 and is overseen by DEP.

The isolation trench project is designed to separate the mine fire from the rest of the site and excavate material from the trench and douse that material with water. The isolation trench has been constructed near the

(continued on page 2)

Conservation In A Changing Climate

One of our biggest challenges is how to respond and adapt to a changing climate. We need to act.

For the past year, staff members from across all of DCNR's bureaus participated in a rigorous pro-

cess to determine and prioritize the department's greatest climate change vulnerabilities and identify strategies to address them.

In the next several months, DCNR will be finalizing a plan that includes objectives to prepare for and mitigate the

risks associated with climate impacts.

Here's where we're going, with some ideas about how you can join us.

Trees Are The Answer

Very heavy precipitation

(continued on page 3)

Carbon County Mine Fire on Track to Being Fully Extinguished in Coming Months (continued)

southern end of the mine fire site and should be completed later this year.

“The work plan has proved successful in getting rid of this dangerous public nuisance,” said John Stefanko, Deputy Secretary for Active and Abandoned Mining Operations. “With tremendous cooperation from the township and nearby residents, DEP has been able to carry out a work plan that has brought us closer to a fully extinguished fire and soon, reclaimed land for future use.”

Approximately 3 million cubic yards of material have been excavated and about 44 million gallons of water were used to quench hot material. Additionally, approximately one million cubic yards of material has been excavated within the active mining area for the mine fire abatement.

In the Spring of 2016, at the request of residents, DEP Air Quality Program monitored the air around the fire during the day and night. The monitoring showed no dangerous gases were present in the air.

After the mine fire is fully extinguished, a project to mitigate for the loss of bat habitat on the site will be initiated based on the guidance from the United States Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS).

Source: The Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection (DEP)

Conservation In A Changing Climate (continued)

and flooding have increased significantly in Pennsylvania, and that is expected to continue. Trails, roads and bridges, historical and cultural resources, and more are at risk during flooding.

Extreme rain events also can affect groundwater supply and reduce water quality below public thresholds for recreational use.

Turns out, planting trees, especially along streams, are a big part of the solution. DCNR is leading the effort to protect and restore buffers along streams (known as riparian areas) to control stormwater, and also to keep the water cool for fish, filter pollutants from the land, and provide habitat for wildlife.

Do One Thing

If you can do one thing for the environment during Earth Month, plant a tree! (Especially along a stream, but in your backyard or community is great, too.) Find information to help in [Common Trees of Pennsylvania \(PDF\)](#), through the [riparian buffer initiative](#), or from [TreeVitalize](#).

Check out some of the upcoming [Chesapeake Bay Foundation](#) tree planting events.

Corridors For Wildlife

Climate impacts are expected to vary across the landscape in Pennsylvania. Some areas will see significant impacts, while more resistant habitats will become increasingly important for wildlife and conservation planning.

DCNR will work with partners to set conservation priorities through land acquisitions, easements, and stewardship plans to create an interconnected system of habitats that allow species to move north and to higher elevations in response to climate change.

Plant Smart

What we plant, how we plant, and where we plant can affect wildlife. Check [iConservePA](#) for information on wise planting decisions that can provide benefits to wildlife.

DCNR's [Wild Plant Sanctuary Program](#) is a good idea for larger landowners to participate in a voluntary statewide network of habitat managed to conserve rare native plants.

Changing Forests

Forest ecosystems absorb and sequester a significant portion of U.S. carbon emissions. Our forests are expected to change due to the decline of some species, increases in others, hybridization, and immigration of southern species.

As the climate changes, new invasive species are expected to move into the commonwealth, and those already here will increase in abundance.

(continued on page 4)

Conservation In A Changing Climate (continued)

DCNR will be adjusting its forest management practices to distribute risks, encourage diverse age classes, and work with other state agencies responsible for land management to develop and adopt statewide invasive species best management practices, and decrease forest carbon loss.

Wood Products

Learn more about the [DCNR Bureau of Forestry's commitment](#) to manage state forests in an environmentally responsible manner. Use durable wood products harvested from properly managed forests in construction projects to help sequester carbon permanently, and support local jobs in the Pennsylvania forest products industry.

Science-Minded

Populations of rare, threatened, and endangered species, especially those near the edge of their range in Pennsylvania, are expected to decline faster and possibly disappear because of climate change and other stressors.

There will be an increased demand for data due to the impacts increased flooding, drought, dry wells, sinkholes, and other climate change impacts.

DCNR will be working with partners to review and expand monitoring to ensure that changes in natural communities, species distribution, and populations are detected. The department will look to develop research projects that look for relationships between the timing and intensity of weather events and sinkholes and landslides.

Citizen Science

Become a citizen scientist to help monitor and take care of Pennsylvania's wildlife, trees, plants, and water. Start by contacting [your local state park](#) to see what opportunities are available or check the [DCNR calendar](#).

To Your Health

Human health and safety concerns such as tick and mosquito-borne diseases, severe storms, heat-related illness, and air quality are becoming more of a concern.

The number, geographic distribution, and length of time during the year that ticks and mosquitoes are active have been increasing, which also increases exposure to diseases such as Lyme disease.

Preparedness plans to minimize exposure to risks and educate state park and forest visitors will be reviewed and updated by DCNR.

(continued on page 5)

Conservation In A Changing Climate (continued)

Tick Awareness

Enjoy the outdoors, but remember to [prevent tick bites \(PDF\)](#). When outdoors, always wear light-colored clothing (ticks stand out better), spray tick repellents on your clothes, tuck pants into socks, and do a “tick check” upon returning home.

Showering also is recommended after a day afield, as well laundering, then drying clothes in an electric dryer on high heat setting.

Energy Smart

With 121 state parks and 2.2 million acres of state forests, DCNR maintains a lot of buildings, bridges, roads, and more. Infrastructure will be significantly challenged by higher temperatures, increased flooding, and periodic drought.

The department will continue its significant work throughout the past several years on energy conservation and renewable energy in our hundreds of buildings and vehicle fleet, including high-performance buildings, solar panels, and electric vehicles.

Be Efficient

[iConservePA](#) reminds us of the many ways we can make strategic improvements and use efficient practices to save energy, water, and money. You can learn about the department’s [sustainable practices](#), such as high-performance buildings, or [watch a video](#) about DCNR’s green efforts for inspiration.

Let’s Talk

As part of its climate change adaptation efforts, DCNR will emphasize the importance of public engagement and place-based citizen science, and incorporate climate change into the daily conversations staff have with visitors.

Staff will need more training and expertise on topics related to climate science, adaptation, and mitigation.

Stay Connected

Implementing solutions requires learning and talking about the problems. We’ll be talking about climate change impacts and solutions as we roll out our adaptation practices.

Stay connected with DCNR on our [social media accounts](#), through the [Good Natured blog](#), and by attending programs and volunteer opportunities noted on [our calendar of events](#).

Source: PA DCNR

EPA announces \$2.7 million in Brownfields Grants for Pennsylvania

EPA designates a total of \$54.5 million for Brownfields nationwide

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) awarded 144 communities that will receive Brownfields grants for environmental assessment, revolving loan funds, and cleanups. The 221 grants totaling \$54.3 million will provide communities with funding to assess, clean up and redevelop underutilized properties while protecting public health and the environment. The grants include \$2.7 million to support seven Brownfields projects in Pennsylvania.

"EPA's Brownfields Program expands the ability of communities to recycle vacant and abandoned properties for new, productive reuses, using existing infrastructure" said **EPA Administrator Scott Pruitt**. "These grants leverage other public and private investments, and improve local economies through property cleanup and redevelopment."

"EPA's Brownfields grants provide a boost to communities by helping to put people back to work while also creating cleaner, healthier and economically stronger neighborhoods," said **EPA Region 3 Administrator Cosmo Servidio**. "Pennsylvania communities will use this funding to explore ideas on how properties can be cleaned up and returned to productive use."

The seven Brownfields projects in Pennsylvania include the following:

Lycoming County will receive an \$800,000 revolving loan fund grant to support cleanup activities for Brownfields sites contaminated with hazardous substances. The county will focus much of this funding to support City of Williamsport and Muncy Borough, both of which have supported industry since the early 19th century due to their proximity to rail lines.

"Lycoming County is pleased and honored to be the recipient of this grant and thankful to continue our partnership with the EPA and our community partners," said **Community Development/Lead Planner of the County Department of Planning & Community Development Jenny Picciano**. "Grant funds will allow the county to clean up Brownfields sites identified in prior assessment grants, leverage public and private funding for economic redevelopment, and ultimately reinvest in our communities."

Butler County will receive \$600,000 to conduct site assessments on properties that could be contaminated with petroleum or hazardous substances, and determine the feasibility for cleanup and redevelopment. Assessments will focus on the City of Butler and Petrolia Borough. Funds will also support community outreach activities.

"This grant will provide the Butler County coalition with the opportunity to assess industrial legacy Brownfields properties throughout the county, with the ultimate goal of repurpose and beneficial use," said **Chief of Economic Development and Planning, Butler County Mark S Gordon**. "This collaborative initiative is one of many aimed at creating opportunities for economic growth."

(continued on page 7)

EPA announces \$2.7 million in Brownfields Grants for Pennsylvania **(continued)**

The Clearfield County Economic Development Corp. will receive \$300,000 to conduct site assessments on properties that could be contaminated with petroleum or hazardous substances, and determine the feasibility for cleanup and redevelopment. Assessments will focus on mine-scarred properties in DuBois and Clearfield boroughs. Funds will also support community outreach activities.

A statement from the **Clearfield County Commissioners** said the grant: "...will enable Clearfield County to take land previously thought unusable and turn the same into springboards for economic and community growth. It will enable future generations to also reap the benefit of land once believed to have outlived its usefulness."

The Greene County Industrial Development Authority will receive \$300,000 to conduct site assessments on properties that may be contaminated with petroleum or hazardous substances, and determine the feasibility for cleanup and redevelopment. Assessments will target the municipalities of Monongahela, Waynesburg, and Cumberland. Funds will also support community outreach activities.

"This grant will be used for the assessment of unknown potentially hazardous or contaminated sites that resulted from past industrial use," said **Chairman of the Green County Board of Commissioners Blair Zimmerman**. "We are hopeful that these sites will be able to be utilized to attract future development to Greene County."

Norristown will receive \$300,000 to conduct site assessments on properties that could be contaminated with petroleum or hazardous substances, and determine the feasibility for cleanup and redevelopment. Funds will also support community outreach activities.

"This funding will allow Norristown to continue on the road of redevelopment and revitalization that we have been working towards," said **Norristown Municipal Administrator Crandall O. Jones**. "We have felt the impacts of former industrial sites sitting idle and loss of jobs and our workforce. However, with the assistance of EPA funding, we have been able to step in front of the problem of historic environmental legacy issues and remove the obstacle of unknown and uncontained impacts."

Earth Conservancy will receive \$200,000 to clean up a 400-foot segment of Espy Run that runs through the City of Nanticoke and Hanover Township. Espy Run travels through mine-scarred lands once used for anthracite mining. The stream is impacted by sedimentation and acid mine drainage. Grant funds will also support community outreach activities and monitoring.

"The EPA's continued support of Earth Conservancy is a testament to partnerships working to improve the environment from past damages," said **Earth Conservancy President and CEO Mike Dziak**. "The generous support we are receiving for this third segment in the ongoing restoration of Espy Run – which was destroyed decades ago by anthracite mining – will repair the streamway and mitigate the production of acid mine drainage downstream. When complete, the restored Espy Run will create habitat for wildlife and enhance quality of life for those nearby."

(continued on page 8)

EPA announces \$2.7 million in Brownfields Grants for Pennsylvania **(continued)**

Lawrence County will receive \$200,000 to conduct site assessments on properties that could be contaminated with hazardous substances, and determine the feasibility for cleanup and redevelopment. Assessment activities will target the City of New Castle's gateway corridors. Funds will also support community outreach activities.

"Having been the recipient of \$600,000 of EPA funds in the past, the Lawrence County Economic Development Corporation has successfully utilized the funds to benefit both economic development and community development projects," said **Director of Economic Business Development for LCEDC Linda D. Nitch**. "We look forward to utilizing this new grant award to further develop activities in New Castle."

The Brownfields Program targets communities that are economically disadvantaged and provides funding and assistance to transform contaminated sites into assets that can generate jobs and spur economic growth. A study analyzing 48 Brownfields sites found that an estimated \$29 million to \$97 million in additional tax revenue was generated for local governments in a single year after cleanup. This is two-to-seven times more than the \$12.4 million EPA contributed to the cleanup of these Brownfield sites. Another study found that property values of homes located near Brownfields sites that are cleaned up increased between 5 and 15 percent post cleanup.

Communities can use Brownfields funding to leverage considerable infrastructure and other financial resources. For example, EPA's Clean Water State Revolving Fund (SRF) and Drinking Water State Revolving Fund can be used to address the water quality aspects of Brownfield sites and the assessment and construction of drinking water infrastructure on Brownfields, respectively. EPA's Water Infrastructure Finance and Innovation Act (WIFIA) program may also serve as a potential source of long-term, low-cost supplemental financing to fund Brownfields project development and implementation activities to address water quality aspects of Brownfields.

List of the FY 2018 Applicants Selected for Funding:

<https://www.epa.gov/brownfields/applicants-selected-fy18-brownfields-assessment-revolving-loan-fund-and-cleanup-grants>.

For more information on the ARC grants: <https://www.epa.gov/brownfields/types-brownfields-grant-funding>.

For more information on EPA's Brownfields Program: <https://www.epa.gov/brownfields>.

For more information on how Brownfields restoration has positively impacted local economies and the quality of life for neighboring communities:

<https://www.epa.gov/brownfields/brownfields-success-stories>.

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

EPA announces \$300,000 Brownfields Grants for Norristown, Pa.

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) awarded Norristown, Pennsylvania a \$300,000 Brownfields grant to conduct site assessments of potentially contaminated properties, and determine the feasibility for cleanup and redevelopment.

“EPA’s Brownfields Program expands the ability of communities to recycle vacant and abandoned properties for new, productive reuses, using existing infrastructure” **said EPA Administrator Scott Pruitt.** “These grants leverage other public and private investments, and improve local economies through property cleanup and redevelopment.”

“EPA’s Brownfields grants provide a boost to communities by helping to put people back to work while also creating cleaner, healthier and economically stronger neighborhoods,” **said EPA Region 3 Administrator Cosmo Servidio.** “The city of Norristown will use this funding to evaluate vacant unused industrial properties and explore ideas on how these properties can be cleaned up and returned to productive use.”

EPA has previously awarded \$800,000 in Brownfields grants to Norristown and they have identified more than 60 sites for potential redevelopment including 17 properties that have been assessed to date with those funds.

“This funding will allow Norristown to continue on the road of redevelopment and revitalization that we have been working towards,” **said Norristown Municipal Administrator Crandall O. Jones.** “We have felt the impacts of former industrial sites sitting idle and loss of jobs and our workforce. However, with the assistance of EPA funding, we have been able to step in front of the problem of historic environmental legacy issues and remove the obstacle of unknown and uncontained impacts.”

Norristown is one of 144 communities nationwide that will receive Brownfields grants this year for environmental assessment, revolving loan funds, and cleanups. The 221 grants totaling \$54.3 million will provide communities with funding to assess, clean up and redevelop underutilized properties while protecting public health and the environment.

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EPA announces \$300,000 Brownfields Grants for Norristown, Pa.
(continued)

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For more information on how brownfields restoration has positively impacted local economies and the quality of life for neighboring communities:

<https://www.epa.gov/brownfields/brownfields-success-stories>.

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

EPA Awards \$1.9 Million to Virginia Tech to Research Lead in Drinking Water

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) announced \$1,981,500 in funding to Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University (Virginia Tech) in Blacksburg, Va., to research strategies to detect and control lead exposure in drinking water.

“Lead exposure is one of the greatest environmental threats we face as a country, and it’s especially dangerous for our children,” **said EPA Administrator Scott Pruitt.** “This research will move us one step closer to advancing our work to eradicate lead in drinking water.”

Virginia Tech will use this funding to create a consumer-based framework to detect and control lead in drinking water. Researchers will work collaboratively with the public, encouraging citizen scientists to participate in the research. By involving consumers directly in research, this community science project is designed to increase public awareness of lead in water and plumbing at a national scale. This research expands the capacity of the most vulnerable communities to actively participate in identifying risks and evaluating opportunities to mitigate those risks.

“Our team will establish one of the largest citizen science engineering projects in U.S. history to help individuals and communities deal with our shared responsibility for controlling exposure to lead in drinking water through a combination of low-cost sampling, outreach, direct collaboration, and modeling,” **said Principal Investigator on the Project Dr. Marc Edwards.** “We will tap a growing ‘crowd’ of consumers who want to learn how to better protect themselves from lead, and in the process, also create new knowledge to protect others. Whether from wells or municipalities, we all consume water, and we can collectively work to reduce health risks.”

Administrator Pruitt has made it a priority to reduce lead exposure and address associated health impacts, while also protecting America’s waters. The grant awarded to Virginia Tech is one of two grants totaling almost four million dollars to detect and control lead in America’s drinking water announced today. EPA also awarded \$1.9 million to the Water Research Center in Denver, Colo., to create a risk-based model to identify opportunities to mitigate lead exposure from drinking water including at home and among children and pregnant women.

For more information about these grants: <https://www.epa.gov/research-grants/water-research-grants>.

Background:

On [February 16](#), Administrator Pruitt hosted key members of the Trump Administration to collaborate on the development and implementation of a new *Federal Strategy to Reduce Childhood Lead Exposures and Eliminate Associated Health Impacts*. The President’s Task Force aims to make addressing childhood lead exposure a priority for their respective departments and agencies. Lead exposure, particularly at higher doses, continues to pose a significant health and safety threat to children, preventing them from reaching the fullest potential of their health, their intellect, and their future. No blood lead level is safe for children. EPA and our

EPA Awards \$1.9 Million to Virginia Tech to Research Lead in Drinking Water (continued)

federal partners are committed to a collaborative approach to address this threat, and improve health outcomes for our nation's most vulnerable citizens – our children.

Unlike most drinking water contaminants, lead is rarely found in the source water used for public water supplies. Instead, lead can enter tap water when plumbing materials containing lead corrode. Exposure to lead causes health problems ranging from stomach problems to brain damage and studies consistently demonstrate the harmful effects of lead exposure on children, including cognitive function and decreased academic performance. It is particularly dangerous to children because their growing bodies absorb more lead than adults and their brains and nervous systems are more sensitive to the damaging effects of lead.

More information about lead: www.epa.gov/lead.

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

EPA Honors Four Pennsylvania ENERGY STAR® Partners of the Year

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) will honor four Pennsylvania ENERGY STAR Partners of the Year including: Air King America LLC of West Chester, Pa.; Bimbo Bakeries of Hazleton, Pa.; PECO Energy of Philadelphia, Pa.; and Ricoh USA Inc. of Malvern, Pa.

The four were among 63 ENERGY STAR Partners of the Year nationally – including Fortune 500 companies, schools, hospitals, retailers, manufacturers, home builders, and commercial building owners and operators — who will be named ENERGY STAR Partners of the Year for their outstanding contributions to public health and the environment by demonstrating national leadership in cost-saving energy efficient solutions.

“The 2018 ENERGY STAR Partners of the Year have demonstrated real leadership, showing how American families and businesses can save energy, save money, and reduce air emissions,” **said EPA Assistant Administrator for Air and Radiation Bill Wehrum.**

The awards will be presented in Washington, D.C. at the Washington Hilton Hotel on April 20. EPA Assistant Administrator for Air and Radiation Bill Wehrum, together with CMS Energy CEO Patti Poppe, will deliver keynote presentations.

Air King America, LLC has been manufacturing ventilation products for almost 50 years and is dedicated to providing affordable and efficient ventilation solutions. Air King is receiving ENERGY STAR® Partner of the Year recognition for designing ENERGY STAR certified exhaust fans and range hoods with real world applications in mind, and for promoting ENERGY STAR as a key marker of efficiency.

Bimbo Bakeries USA is a baking company whose brands include Thomas', Sara Lee, Oroweat, Arnold, Nature's Harvest, and more. The company has used ENERGY STAR® tools and guidance to build its energy management program. Bimbo Bakeries is receiving the ENERGY STAR Partner of the Year recognition for the growth of its energy management program and leadership in the baking sector.

PECO is an electric and natural gas utility subsidiary of Exelon Corporation serving 1.6 million electric and 518,000 natural gas customers. Since 2009, PECO has leveraged ENERGY STAR® in its Smart Ideas program, encouraging businesses and residents to look to ENERGY STAR to save energy, money and protect natural resources. PECO is receiving ENERGY STAR Partner of the Year–Sustained Excellence recognition for notable support of the ENERGY STAR Certified Products and Certified Homes programs.

Ricoh USA, Inc. is a leading provider of document management solutions, information technology (IT) services, and digital cameras that is fully committed to sustainability. Ricoh is receiving ENERGY STAR® Partner of the Year–Sustained Excellence recognition for its outstanding efforts in training, education, and promotion of ENERGY STAR certified products.

[Read more about each of the award winner's achievements](#)

For more than 25 years, EPA's ENERGY STAR program has been America's resource for saving energy and protecting the environment. In 2016 alone, ENERGY STAR certified products, homes, buildings, and plants helped Americans save over \$30 billion in energy costs and ap-

EPA Honors Four Pennsylvania ENERGY STAR® Partners of the Year (continued)

proximately 400 billion kilowatt-hours of electricity while achieving broad emissions reductions.

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 more than 40 percent of the Fortune 500®—rely on their partnership with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to deliver cost-saving energy efficiency solutions. Together, since 1992, ENERGY STAR and its partners have helped save American families and businesses over \$450 billion and over 3.5 trillion kilowatt-hours of electricity while also achieving broad emissions reductions – all through voluntary action.

Join the millions already making a difference at energystar.gov. More background information about ENERGY STAR can be found at energystar.gov/about and energystar.gov/numbers.

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

Wolf Administration Announces 19 Alternative Fuel Projects for Pennsylvania Schools, Businesses, and Municipalities

Projects will reduce air pollution and reduce fuel consumption and costs

The Wolf Administration today announced the approval of funding through the Alternative Fuel Incentive Grants (AFIG) program to support 19 alternative fuel projects that will save hundreds of thousands of gallons of fuel and reduce air pollution in Pennsylvania. The program is administered by the Department of Environmental Protection (DEP).

“These grants will not only help put more alternative fuel vehicles on the road, but also expand the infrastructure needed to drive Pennsylvania forward by reducing air pollution from cars, trucks, and buses,” said Governor Wolf. “With rollbacks on fuel efficiency coming from the federal government, grants like AFIG to encourage smarter and cleaner fuels are critical to reducing air pollution from transportation in Pennsylvania.”

More than \$1.6 million in grants were awarded across three categories: Vehicle Projects, Refueling Infrastructure Projects, and Innovative Technology Projects. The awards for vehicles will save approximately 180,000 gallons of gasoline and diesel fuel annually, while the refueling infrastructure and technology awards will help pave the way towards a cleaner future for transportation in Pennsylvania.

A full list of awardees is below.

Vehicle Projects:

Awardee: AAA Club Alliance

Project: AAA Propane Vehicle Project

County: Philadelphia

Award Total: \$14,800

Estimated Gallons of Gasoline Estimated (GGE) saved per year: 9,000

Project Description: AAA Mid-Atlantic seeks \$14,800 in AFIG funds to purchase 2 vehicles that run on propane to be used in their towing service. These vehicles will help them make a company-wide decision as to the use of further alternative fueled vehicles within their Mid-Atlantic fleet.

Awardee: Armstrong Conservation District

Project: Mobile Education Display CNG Retrofit

County: Armstrong

Award Total: \$5,957

Estimated GGE saved per year: 818

(continued on page 16)

Wolf Administration Announces 19 Alternative Fuel Projects for Pennsylvania Schools, Businesses, and Municipalities (continued)

Project Description: The Armstrong Conservation District is requesting \$5,957 in AFIG funding for the purchase and CNG retrofit of one 2017 GMC Sierra 3500 HD pickup truck to be used in a new education & outreach program.

Awardee: Bucu Transportation Incorporated

Project: Slippery Rock Area Alternative Fuel School Bus Initiative

County: Butler

Award Total: \$15,000

Estimated GGE saved per year: 8,571

Project Description: Bucu Transportation is requesting \$15,000 for the purchase of 3 propane powered Blue Bird Vision school buses.

Awardee: Centre County Recycling and Refuse Authority

Project: CNG Commercial Recycling Trucks

County: Centre

Award Total: \$36,424

Estimated GGE saved per year: 2,286

Project Description: The CCRRA is requesting \$36,424.50 for the purchase of 2 CNG commercial recycling trucks as part of a fleet overhaul to replace all diesel recycling collection equipment to CNG powered vehicles.

Awardee: Chatham University

Project: Chatham University Vehicle Replacements

County: Allegheny

Award Total: \$14,881

Estimated GGE saved per year: 600

Project Description: Chatham University is requesting \$14,881.42 in AFIG funds to purchase a 2017 Toyota Camry LE and two 2017 Chrysler Pacifica hybrid vehicles for use within the university community. The Toyota Camry would be used by the Chatham Police Department and the other vehicles would be used to transport students between campuses and for other transportation needs.

Awardee: Jerome H. Rhoads, Inc. DBA Rhoads Energy

Project: Rhoads Energy Autogas Fleet Project

County: Lancaster

Award Total: \$50,977

Estimated GGE saved per year: 6,247

Project Description: Rhoads is requesting \$50,977.60 in AFIG funds to retrofit 8 leased new

(continued on page 17)

Wolf Administration Announces 19 Alternative Fuel Projects for Pennsylvania Schools, Businesses, and Municipalities (continued)

vehicles (7 Ford Transits for service and 1 Ford Explorer for staff) to replace aging vehicles in their fleet. All 8 will be retrofitted as propane/dual fuel vehicles. Once completed, total propane fleet will number 25.

Awardee: Mlaker, LLC

Project: Propane 2017

County: Somerset

Award Total: \$45,000

Estimated GGE saved per year: 31,500

Project Description: Mlaker is requesting \$45,000 in AFIG funding for the purchase of 9 new, environmentally friendly propane powered school buses.

Awardee: New Oxford Municipal Authority

County: Adams

Award Total: \$12,450

Estimated GGE saved per year: 191

Project Description: New Oxford Municipal Authority (NOMA) is requesting \$12,450 in AFIG funds for the purchase of 2 CNG BI-Fuel vehicles. Submitted in conjunction with a Refueling Infrastructure application.

Awardee: Peoples Natural Gas Company LLC

Project: Peoples Vehicle Retrofit and/or Purchase Project

County: Washington, Allegheny

Award Total: \$129,771

Estimated GGE saved per year: 6,201

Project Description: Peoples Natural Gas is requesting \$129,771.03 in AFIG funds to purchase and convert 17 new bi-fuel natural gas vehicles (NGV) that will expand their current NGV fleet. Submitted in conjunction with a Refueling Infrastructure application.

Awardee: Rose Tree Media School District

Project: Rose Tree Media School District Natural Gas Project Phase 4

County: Delaware

Award Total: \$38,480

Estimated GGE saved per year: 4,452

Project Description: Rose Tree Media School District is requesting \$38,480 in AFIG funding for the purchase of 2 CNG buses. This project will increase the number of CNG buses used by the District to 37 and will make the fleet 50 percent CNG fueled buses.

(continued on page 18)

Wolf Administration Announces 19 Alternative Fuel Projects for Pennsylvania Schools, Businesses, and Municipalities (continued)

Awardee: Schwan's Home Service, Inc.

Project: Propane Powered Frozen Food Delivery

County: Butler, Cumberland, Lancaster, Washington, Westmoreland

Award Total: \$290,605

Estimated GGE saved per year: 95,000

Project Description: Schwan's Home Service is requesting \$290,605 in AFIG funds for the lease of 38 propane powered, Class 4 frozen food delivery trucks. These vehicles will be deployed across six Schwan's operated depots within Pennsylvania and all six of these locations will have on site refueling provided by Schwan's Home Service.

Awardee: UPMC

Project: UPMC Gas Migration Project, Phase III

County: Allegheny

Award Total: \$61,925

Estimated GGE saved per year: 15,300

Project Description: UPMC is requesting \$61,925 in AFIG funds for the purchase of 6 new dedicated Compressed Natural Gas buses to replace 6 diesel buses in the UPMC Employee Transit operation.

Refueling Infrastructure Projects:

Awardee: A.J. Blosenski, Inc.

Project: Honey Brook Biodiesel Fleet Refueling Station

County: Chester

Award Total: \$446,749

Project Description: A.J. Blosenski, Inc., is requesting \$446,749 in AFIG funding to develop and construct a fleet refueling station to dispense biodiesel fuel to an existing fleet of more than 100 light duty and heavy-duty trucks at their facility in Honey Brook, Chester County, Pennsylvania. The fueling station would serve the applicant's existing fleet, which provides waste and recycling collection services in Southeastern Pennsylvania to more than 100,000 Pennsylvanians.

Awardee: Einstein Medical Center Montgomery

Project: Hospital EV Charging Station for Staff & Public

County: Montgomery

Award Total: \$42,105

Project Description: Einstein Medical Center is requesting \$42,105 in AFIG funding for the installation of 10 wireless network-controlled EV Charging stations for visitor, employee and

(continued on page 19)

Wolf Administration Announces 19 Alternative Fuel Projects for Pennsylvania Schools, Businesses, and Municipalities (continued)

community electric vehicle charging in the parking lot of their non-profit community hospital in East Norriton, Pennsylvania.

Awardee: Jerome H. Rhoads, Inc. DBA Rhoads Energy

Project: Rhoads Energy Autogas Refueling Station Project

County: Lancaster

Award Total: \$19,709

Project Description: Rhoads Energy is requesting \$19,709.50 in AFIG funds for the installation of a propane fueling station at their bulk plant. They currently have 17 propane vehicles and plan on adding 8 more. At least 10 of these vehicles would use the new station. This project was submitted in conjunction with a Vehicle application.

Awardee: New Oxford Municipal Authority

Project: NOMA CNG Fueling Station

County: Adams

Award Total: \$5,500

Project Description: The New Oxford Municipal Authority is requesting \$5,500 in AFIG funding for the installation of CNG fueling infrastructure to be located at the water/sewer treatment facility owned by the Authority. This grant request is a companion to the Vehicle Purchase Grant request for the purchase of two CNG BI-fuel vehicles submitted under a separate application to the AFIG program.

Awardee: Peoples Natural Gas Company LLC

Project: Peoples Refueling Infrastructure Project

County: Washington, Allegheny

Award Total: \$272,500

Project Description: Peoples Natural Gas Company is requesting \$272,500 in AFIG funding to upgrade two of Peoples compressed natural gas (CNG) fueling stations. This project was submitted in conjunction with a Vehicle application.

Awardee: Sharp Energy

Project: Philadelphia Propane Fueling Infrastructure Project

County: Philadelphia

Award Total: \$24,800

Project Description: Sharp energy is requesting \$24,800 in AFIG funding for the Philadelphia Propane Fueling Infrastructure Project. This project will help the delivery company DHL fuel its vehicles with propane/autogas.

(continued on page 20)

Wolf Administration Announces 19 Alternative Fuel Projects for Pennsylvania Schools, Businesses, and Municipalities (continued)

Innovative Technology Projects:

Awardee: CP Manufacturing

Project: Innovative High-Pressure Hydrogen Storage

County: Allegheny

Award Total: \$140,050

Project Description: CP Industries Holdings, Inc. is requesting \$140,050 in AFIG funding for the design and testing of pressure vessels used for the storage and transportation of alternative fuel gases such as hydrogen and CNG. The vessels manufactured as a result of this project would primarily be used to transport hydrogen to refueling stations.

Source: Department of Environmental Protection (DEP).

Wolf Administration Honors 23 Organizations and Individuals with Environmental Excellence Awards

Repurposing tons of scrap auto carpet. Making streams healthier by planting native trees on the family farm. Greatly reducing city lighting expenses with energy efficiency changes. Training a volunteer stormwater pollution reduction workforce. These are just some of the 23 innovative and impassioned initiatives in Pennsylvania chosen by the Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) to receive the prestigious 2018 Governor's Award for Environmental Excellence.

"Just as important as Pennsylvania's abundant natural resources are the Pennsylvanians who invest their time, labor, and ingenuity to protect them," said Governor Tom Wolf. "Their dedication results in public health and safety, environmental, economic, and recreation benefits across the commonwealth."

Any individual, business, school, government agency, or community organization in Pennsylvania was eligible to apply for the award.

"DEP received more than 60 applications, which we evaluated for their degree of environmental protection, innovation, partnership efforts, economic impact, consideration of climate change and sustainability, and results achieved," said DEP Secretary Patrick McDonnell. "It's an honor to recognize the tremendous impact many Pennsylvanians have in protecting our air, land, and water."

The award-winning projects accomplished the following results:

- enlisted 16,000 volunteers,
- prevented 258 million tons of greenhouse gases from entering the atmosphere,
- saved over \$42 million in operation and maintenance costs,
- conserved 37 million gallons of water annually,
- diverted 29 million tons of waste and 57 million bottles from landfill disposal,
- created 98,500 acres of riparian buffers,
- planted 35,090 native trees and shrubs, and

(continued on page 22)

Wolf Administration Honors 23 Organizations and Individuals with Environmental Excellence Awards (continued)

- installed 350 rooftop solar tubes.

2018 Environmental Excellence Award recipients include:

Statewide

- Pennsylvania Parks and Forests Foundation: Graffiti: No Place in Nature—Using drones and geographic information mapping systems, the foundation linked volunteers with opportunities to clean up graffiti at trail heads, boat launches, rock outcroppings, and vistas. More than 170 volunteers scrubbed clean 37 graffiti sites and picked up 80 bags of trash, seven boxes of glass and nails, and other debris items in this labor- and time-intensive process.

Allegheny County

- Western Pennsylvania Conservancy: TreeVitalize Pittsburgh—By increasing street tree population, TreeVitalize Pittsburgh will increase environmental, economic, health, and aesthetic benefits. With the assistance of over 12,000 volunteers, this project has planted over 28,000 trees in Pittsburgh and Allegheny County, resulting in a 10 percent increase in city street trees and a 45 percent increase in street tree diversity.

Allegheny, Armstrong, Butler, Fayette, Greene, Indiana, Lawrence, Washington, and Westmoreland Counties

- Southwestern Pennsylvania Commission, Water Resource Center: Municipal Stormwater Workshop Series—The center developed a collaborative regional initiative to address municipal separate storm sewer management across counties. More than 780 participants attended 15 workshops at no cost, learning stormwater management methods. Participants included local governments, elected officials, county planning departments, conservation districts, engineering firms, and environmental nonprofits.

Allegheny, Berks, Bucks, Chester, Delaware, Lackawanna, Lehigh, Luzerne, Monroe, Montgomery, Northampton, Wyoming, and York Counties

- Penn State Extension: Master Watershed Steward Program—The program trains citizen volunteers into an educated, organized workforce to partner with local and state

(continued on page 23)

Wolf Administration Honors 23 Organizations and Individuals with Environmental Excellence Awards (continued)

governments and organizations on water conservation projects. Last year, 194 master watershed stewards volunteered 7,582 hours of service, including educating the public at community events, monitoring 15 streams, planting 915 trees, and building 118 rain barrels.

Berks County

- **Berks County Water and Sewer Association: Berks County Source Water Protection Program**—Incorporating new and existing protection zones to maintain safe drinking water in Berks County, this program identifies possible sources of contamination for both surface water and groundwater. The program combines education and water quality improvements to the Chesapeake Bay and Schuylkill River watersheds and covers 266,000 people in Berks County.

Blair County

- **American Eagle Paper Mills: Project Phoenix**—American Eagle Paper Mills transforms 300 tons of waste paper into recycled paper every day. Recent retrofits reduced fresh water withdrawal by 83 percent, reduced greenhouse gas emissions by 68 percent, and ceased transportation of 10,000 tons of coal ash.

Butler County

- **Slippery Rock University: Healthy Planet, Healthy People Environmental Summer Camp and Community Project Incubator**—To help high school teachers and students create environmental stewardship projects, Slippery Rock University hosted a camp for educators that included classroom instruction, leadership training, and immersive field experience. In partnership with the EPA, the camp provided \$1,700 in seed money for participating school districts to kickstart their community projects. Thirteen projects completed in eight counties have the potential to raise environmental awareness among 2 million Pennsylvanians.

Columbia County

- **Autoneum Bloomsburg: Carpet Trim and Waste Recycling**—Autoneum Bloomsburg
(continued on page 24)

Wolf Administration Honors 23 Organizations and Individuals with Environmental Excellence Awards (continued)

repurposes automotive carpet and trim products, keeping 12,000 tons of virgin material from the landfill and saving 25 Olympic-sized pools' worth of water annually. Recycling has made operations more cost-effective and price competitive, enabling the company to obtain more customers.

Delaware County

- **AeroAggregates: Bottle to Building—**AeroAggregates uses 13,000–26,000 tons of 100 percent postconsumer recycled glass annually to produce lightweight construction materials for road and building projects. Not only do they repurpose the equivalent of about 55 million glass bottles per year, but construction vehicle traffic decreases from five trucks to one because weight is reduced.

Lancaster County

- **Pequea Creek Watershed Association: Big Beaver–Esh Farm Stream Restoration—**To eliminate erosion from Big Beaver Creek and reconnect the creek to the natural floodplain, the association regraded high streambanks, installed stream flow structures, planted streambank stabilizing vegetation, and constructed livestock fencing. The improvements prevented the loss of valuable land and reduced sediment levels by 121,000 pounds, nitrogen levels by 202 pounds, and phosphorous levels by 183 pounds annually.

Lackawanna County

- **City of Scranton: LED Street Lighting Conversion—**Through investing in infrastructure improvement projects, converting to LED lights, and installing lighting controls, the City of Scranton has decreased its energy consumption and maintenance, improved visibility, increased safety, and reduced hazardous waste output. The city will save nearly \$400,000 annually.

Lehigh County

- **Wildlands Conservancy: Building Partnerships and Restoring Riparian Buffers in the**

(continued on page 25)

Wolf Administration Honors 23 Organizations and Individuals with Environmental Excellence Awards (continued)

Lehigh Valley—The conservancy led a significant effort to restore riparian buffers along streams in the Lehigh Valley. Managing invasive species, planting native plants, installing deer protection, and monitoring the buffers were key to success. This project will improve water quality by shading the stream, prevent erosion and sediment loading, filter nutrients and pollutants from runoff, and provide vegetation and habitat to support aquatic life.

Luzerne County

- Wyoming Valley Sanitary Authority: Regional Stormwater Management Plan and MS4 Permit Compliance—A collaborative effort by 31 municipalities in Luzerne County resulted in a municipal separate storm and sewer system (MS4) plan to reduce pollution and address aging infrastructure in an affordable way. The collaboration allows for a regional Pollutant Reduction Plan and enables more strategic, cost-effective implementation of stormwater best management practices. The municipalities will save \$200 million over the next 20 years while ensuring the long-term sustainability of their stormwater systems.

Northumberland County

- Dr. Blair T. Carbaugh: Dr. Blair T. Carbaugh Conservation Area—Dr. Carbaugh led a project that reclaimed an abandoned coal mine site and turned it into the Anthracite Outdoor Adventure Area for ATV use, along with a 100-acre conservation area with 500 American Chestnut trees, planted by volunteers. Almost 19,000 passes to the park were sold in 2017.

Luzerne County

- Earth Conservancy: Askam Borehole Acid Mine Drainage (AMD) Treatment System Wayside Exhibit—Earth Conservancy installed two AMD treatment systems to prevent pollution from flowing into Nanticoke Creek and reduce the contamination of local watersheds. A walking path with signage teaches students about science and the community, enhances accessibility and safety of the site, and educates visitors about the region's mining history and the environment.

(continued on page 26)

Wolf Administration Honors 23 Organizations and Individuals with Environmental Excellence Awards (continued)

Montgomery County

- **Merck & Co.:** Merck Pennsylvania West Point Regional Waste Diversion and Recycling Initiative—Merck standardized its facility services and established various waste reduction services to improve waste diversion. In one year, the company recycled 1,896 tons of non-hazardous materials; reused 190 tons of nonhazardous materials; sent 1,417 tons of non-hazardous waste for energy recovery; and diverted 204 tons of compost from the landfill.
- **Tookany/Tacony-Frankford Watershed Partnership:** Jenkintown Creek Restoration—The collaborative partnership aims to improve water quality along the 3.7-mile Jenkintown Creek. The restoration project resulted in four raingardens, a 75-foot bioretention feature, bioswale and wetland enhancements, streambank stabilization, and 3,775 herbaceous plants and 1,260 trees planted. More than 1,000 volunteers and students participated in learning about stormwater runoff and the benefits of green infrastructure.
- **Upper Moreland School District:** Alternative Fuel Propane Infrastructure and Bus Fleet—The school district converted its school bus fleet to propane and installed fueling infrastructure to support not only its own use, but also the use of neighboring government organizations. The total buses will displace 50,000 gallons of diesel and 10,000 gallons of gasoline annually. This fuel source switch will save taxpayers \$256,766 annually and will prevent 596 metric tons of carbon dioxide from polluting the atmosphere.

Monroe County

- **Tobyhanna Army Depot:** Sustainability at Tobyhanna Army Depot—Through a focused environmental review, the depot developed a sustainability plan with innovative solutions to minimize waste, conserve energy, and reduce water consumption. LED lighting, solar walls, carports, energy-efficient heating, non-potable water reuse tanks, waste disposal plans, and a robust recycling program are the key elements to achieving a strong sustainability plan. The depot expects to save \$532,042 in operating costs annually.

(continued on page 27)

Wolf Administration Honors 23 Organizations and Individuals with Environmental Excellence Awards (continued)

Philadelphia County

- School District of Philadelphia: GreenFutures Sustainability Program—The GreenFutures program seeks to reduce energy consumption, increase waste diversion from landfills, increase school green space, and create healthy environments and living habits for students and communities district-wide. In one year the district saved over 1 million plastic water bottles by installing 786 hydration stations, implemented a student-led energy education program, completed a student summer solar installation program, constructed nine green schoolyards, provided recycling services, launched a compost program, and conducted indoor environmental quality assessments.

Potter County

- Potter County Conservation District: Water Quality Protection and Education Initiative at Ludington Run and Beyond—The conservation district developed a comprehensive plan to improve water quality and habitat restoration to Ludington Run. Stream bedding materials are enhancing successful fish spawning, runoff carrying sediment and pollutants is discharging in a safe manner, and stream plantings are stabilizing the soil and reversing the trend of thermal pollution.

Westmoreland County

- Loyalhanna Watershed Association: Integrating STEM and Environmental Education Programming at the Watershed Farm—Combining environmental education with STEM (science, technology, engineering, and math) courses, this program focuses on agriculture, soils, building design, water systems, and art in nature. In four months, more than 500 students have been educated and 60 teachers employed. The farm has more than 40 cattle, 1,700 native trees and shrubs, pollinator-friendly gardens, and honeybee hives

York County

- Happy Hollow Farm: Riparian Buffer Project—The English family have applied their agricultural skills to installing riparian buffers along a creek on four acres of their farm.

(continued on page 28)

Wolf Administration Honors 23 Organizations and Individuals with Environmental Excellence Awards (continued)

They've planted more than 80 species of native trees and shrubs, becoming a model for other landowners. The riparian buffer filters pollutants; provides food and habitat for wildlife; and produces nuts, berries, and syrup, which can provide \$6,000 per acre in economic opportunities annually.

Source: Department of Environmental Protection (DEP)