

Conservation Committee Report

Volume 8 Issue 9

By Jack Walters, ACSL Conservation Chair

September 2006



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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GOVERNOR RENDELL ANNOUNCES MAJOR INVESTMENT IN ALLEGHENY COUNTY RECREATION, CONSERVATION

Governor Edward G. Rendell today said visitors and residents will benefit from a \$2.8 million investment in recreation and conservation projects designed to help revitalize communities and protect natural resources in Allegheny County.

“This money will fund 19 projects to help us preserve and enhance parks, greenways, trails, rivers and open space in Allegheny County,” Governor Rendell said. “Investing in these natural assets is what keep families healthy and make our communities economically vibrant and great places to live, work and play.”

“The Community Conservation Partnership Program grants allow us to partner with communities so that they can expand and improve their wonderful natural

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DEP HELPS LAUNCH TRUCK-IDLING ALTERNATIVE TO CUT POLLUTION, SAVE FUEL

New Technology Installed at Four Pennsylvania Truck Stops

Environmental Protection Secretary Kathleen A. McGinty today officially flipped the switch to inaugurate anti-idling technology at a truck stop near Carlisle, Cumberland County. The secretary also presented IdleAir Inc. with a \$40,000 grant to support the implementation of the pollution control equipment at other sites in Pennsylvania.

“This technology not only has measurable effects on pollution reduction and energy security, but it also provides significant economic advantages,” McGinty said while showcasing the equipment at the Petro truck stop along

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GOVERNOR RENDELL ANNOUNCES MAJOR INVESTMENT IN ALLEGHENY COUNTY RECREATION, CONSERVATION

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resources,” Department of Conservation and Natural Resources Secretary Michael DiBerardinis said at the first day of the Three Rivers Sojourn at the Riverfront Park in Millvale Borough. “Communities in Allegheny County are redefining themselves by re-establishing their connections to their tremendous rivers and, in the process, spurring economic growth, shaping Pittsburgh’s urban renewal, and providing more water-based recreation for all.”

The grants will provide support for strategic community planning and infrastructure improvements, including trails, parks and river access points such as the Riverfront Park. Funding for the grants comes from Growing Greener II, a voter-approved \$625 million bond issue, and Keystone ’93, a DCNR fund generated from a portion of the realty transfer tax.

Millvale Borough is receiving a \$40,000 grant for the Riverfront Trail Back Channel Pedestrian Bridge development. The park is the lunch stop on the first day of the Three Rivers Sojourn, where dozens of paddlers are traveling the Allegheny River from Harmar Township to Heinz Field as part of a three-day celebration of Pennsylvania’s Rivers of the Year.

Some other examples of projects benefiting from the DCNR grants include a skate park in Liberty Borough, a watershed conservation plan for the Pine Creek watershed, further development of the Riverview Chapel Shelter in Pittsburgh, a green-engineered riverboat for the Pittsburgh Voyager, further work on Riverfront Park at the Convention Center, and a new African Dog exhibit at the Pittsburgh Zoo.

Growing Greener II funding is used to clean up rivers and streams; protect natural areas, open spaces and working farms; and shore up key programs to improve quality of life and revitalize communities across the Commonwealth. For more information about Growing Greener II, visit ww.growinggreener2.com.

For more information about DCNR’s Community Conservation Partnerships Grant program visit www.dcnr.state.pa.us and click on “Recreation and Conservation.” For more sojourn details, log on to www.pawatersheds.org.

Source: DCNR

DEP HELPS LAUNCH TRUCK-IDLING ALTERNATIVE
TO CUT POLLUTION, SAVE FUEL

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busy U.S. Route 11. "Reducing truck idling helps to improve air quality and conserve fuel, saving money for long-haulers already faced with rising diesel prices."

IdleAire's Advanced Truckstop Electrification (ATE®) technology provides heating, cooling and electricity to truckers who are resting. The system eliminates the need to keep rigs idling for hours at a time. The technology can be connected to the cab of a tractor-trailer using a simple \$10 window adapter.

Estimates show one truck hooked up to IdleAire equipment for 10 hours --- which is the federally mandated rest period for every 11 hours a trucker spends behind the wheel --- would eliminate 234 pounds of diesel emissions. If all 72 IdleAire spaces at the Petro truck stop were in use for a 10-hour period, the system would eliminate 16,848 pounds of diesel emissions that day.

Over the course of a year, the 72 spaces used just 10 hours a day would reduce diesel emissions by 6.2 million pounds, which is equivalent to eliminating almost 2 million truck-miles from Pennsylvania each year. The spaces are available 24 hours a day.

A 2004 study estimated as many as 13,000 trucks rest long-duration in Pennsylvania per day. Eliminating this idling would reduce nitrogen oxide, or NOx, by about 12 tons per day, or about 600 pounds per truck per year. NOx is a component of both ground-level ozone and fine particle pollution, each of which are associated with respiratory ailments.

"The health benefits of this technology are significant --- and so are the fuel savings," McGinty said. "Every gallon of fuel that isn't used because of anti-idling technology, at a time when goods aren't being moved, saves the trucker money and makes our country just a little less dependent on foreign energy sources."

Average big rigs use about one gallon of fuel per hour when idling. At a cost of about \$2.95 per gallon, a trucker can save more than \$3,700 per year on fuel costs alone by eliminating down-time idling. If the 72 spaces at the Petro truck stop near Carlisle are used 10 hours a day, that saves 262,800 gallons of diesel fuel each year.

The Rendell administration has provided \$900,000 in grants to assist in the overall \$5 million IdleAire installations at four locations in Pennsylvania. This funding includes \$540,000 in Alternative Fuels Incentive Grants and \$360,000 from the Pennsylvania Energy Harvest Grant Program. The federal Environmental Protection Agency also provided \$100,000 from its SmartWay Transport grant program.

IdleAire provides filtered central heating and air conditioning, and a range of communications and entertainment options to the cab of a truck by a concentric hose with a service module that snap-locks into the vehicle's passenger window. Installation takes just a couple of minutes, and an IdleAire representative can show a new driver how to access various services via a color touch-screen interface in another few minutes.

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DEP HELPS LAUNCH TRUCK-IDLING ALTERNATIVE
TO CUT POLLUTION, SAVE FUEL

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The \$40,000 Air Pollution Control Program grant awarded by DEP will help IdleAire cover the cost of window adapters, the only equipment needed to connect the units to truck cabs, and training for first-time users.

Aside from the 72 Petro units in Carlisle, Tennessee-based IdleAire also has installed 222 spaces at four other Pennsylvania facilities: TA facility in Harborcreek, Erie County (72 spaces); Frystown All-American, Frystown, Berks County (72 spaces); and a TA facility in Greencastle, Franklin County (87 spaces).

IdleAire is looking to install units at four other Pennsylvania locations this year.

“We are very pleased that the Rendell administration and Secretary McGinty recognized the benefits of IdleAire’s technology to industry and the Pennsylvania community, and chose to help deliver those benefits more quickly and widely than would have occurred otherwise,” IdleAire Chief Executive Officer Mike Crabtree said.

“Three of the four Pennsylvania grant sites are open and the fourth should open by Aug. 14,” Crabtree said. “At all our locations across the country, IdleAire is providing an immediate reduction in diesel emissions, an immediate decrease in fuel consumption, lower costs for the trucking industry and better rested drivers.”

IdleAire’s technology is especially important in the Carlisle area. Carlisle sits at the crossroads of Interstate 81 and the Pennsylvania Turnpike, a location that has led to a concentration of trucking industry and warehousing facilities along the Route 11 stretch that connects the two limited-access highways. Statistics show that nearly 12,000 people work in the trucking, warehousing and supporting industries at more than 160 different locations in Cumberland County.

Working in partnership with area residents and community groups, DEP is conducting a one-year ambient air quality study, now under way, focusing on fine particulate matter in the Carlisle area. The department is dedicating as much as \$75,000 in services, including equipment, labor, lab work, analysis, evaluation and site preparation, toward the effort.

For more information, visit www.depweb.state.pa.us, Keyword: “Air Quality.”

Source: DEP

CREEK SWEEP TARGETS POTENTIAL SOURCES OF POLLUTION AFFECTING PRESQUE ISLE BEACHES

Biologists Swarm Erie County Streams Looking for Contamination Sources

ERIE -- A team of 18 environmental scientists from state and local agencies fanned out across northwestern Erie County today to track down potential sources of pollution that could be factors in beach closings at Presque Isle State Park.

The one-day "Creek Sweep" survey, which began at 7:30 in the morning, included all streams and other tributary sources to Lake Erie from Kelso Run in Millcreek Township to Raccoon Creek in Springfield Township.

"This sampling blitz will serve as a snapshot of conditions that exist along the Lake Erie shoreline west of Presque Isle State Park," Environmental Protection Northwest Regional Director Kelly Burch said during a news conference with participating agencies at Presque Isle's Beach One.

"It is suspected that runoff and improperly treated sewage in these waterways are contributors to recent beach closings," Burch said. "We are out today taking water samples, looking for pipes protruding from creek banks and searching for any evidence that will give us the scientific data we need to pinpoint potential causes."

DEP, the state Department of Conservation and Natural Resources, the Erie County Department of Health, the Erie County Conservation District, and the Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission provided personnel for the identification and sampling event.

"Samples collected in the 'Creek Sweep' will be checked for the presence of bacteria that might be linked to the beach closings," Erie County Department of Health Director Andrew J. Glass said. "Areas that look unusual or suspicious are being recorded using handheld geographic information systems. This mapping technology will allow us to return to specific areas for follow-up investigation and action, including discussions with municipalities and property owners."

Of particular interest are levels of E.coli bacteria found in the waters along the park's beaches, resulting in the recent closings. E.coli is a naturally occurring bacteria that comes from the digestive tract of warm-blooded animals, including humans, domestic animals and wildlife.

"Creek Sweep" was developed by members of a task force of state and local government agencies and research programs that have been meeting this summer in an effort to track down contamination sources that are impacting Presque Isle beaches.

Task force members include DEP, DCNR, the Erie County Department of Health, the Regional Science Consortium at the Tom Ridge Environmental Center at Presque Isle, Pennsylvania Sea Grant, the Erie

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**CREEK SWEEP TARGETS POTENTIAL SOURCES OF POLLUTION
AFFECTING PRESQUE ISLE BEACHES**

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County Conservation District and the Erie Area Convention and Visitors Bureau. The members are working jointly and separately on a wide variety of projects to determine what factors could be influencing water quality along the Lake Erie shoreline.

DCNR operates Presque Isle State Park. Park Operations Manager Harry Leslie said task force members will continue their work after the beaches close for the season.

“We will review the beach sampling protocol used at Presque Isle this fall to consider possible revisions,” Leslie said. “The review will allow us to consider the possibility of incorporating updates that reflect new technologies, standards and processes.”

Task force members also will pursue grant opportunities in the coming months, coordinating their grant requests with the emerging priorities of the task force.

These new grants would continue stream assessment programs already in progress and support new lab protocols to shorten the incubation period for water sampling and refine testing to determine if the source of detected E.coli is human or animal.

Other grants will be sought to explore the potential affect of climate and weather conditions on beach closings.

This winter, members of the task force also will review existing beach contamination studies looking for other potential avenues to explore.

For more information, visit DEP’s Web site at www.depweb.state.pa.us, Keyword: “Water Quality.” For more information on Presque Isle State Park, visit www.dcnr.state.pa.us and choose “Find a Park.”

Source: DEP

GOVERNOR RENDELL: PENNSYLVANIA REDOUBLING IT'S PURCHASE OF GREEN ELECTRICITY

Commonwealth Becomes Largest State Purchaser of Green Electricity

Governor Edward G. Rendell today announced the commonwealth has redoubled its green electricity purchase to 20 percent from 10 percent, harnessing state resources to further develop markets for sustainable energy sources that will create jobs, enhance homeland security and provide significant environmental improvements in Pennsylvania.

“By leading the way to clean, renewable sources of energy produced from indigenous resources, Pennsylvania is providing solutions to some of our nation’s most compelling problems: creating reliable sources of affordable energy; cleaning our air and waterways and cutting down on greenhouse gas emissions; improving our homeland security; and putting thousands of our citizens to work in family-supporting jobs,” Governor Rendell said.

Through modifying its existing contract with Community Energy Inc., the commonwealth will purchase 200,000 megawatt hours a year, or 20 percent of state government’s electricity, from renewable sources such as wind and hydroelectric energy, all at a premium rate of only 0.34 cents per kilowatt hour.

The enhanced purchase makes Pennsylvania the largest state purchaser of green electricity and ranks Pennsylvania number 12 on the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency’s Top 25 Green Power Partners list.

“Pennsylvania is taking the initiative to develop an energy management plan that will help to save taxpayers money,” said Department of General Services Secretary James P. Creedon, who also serves as co-chairman of the Governor’s Green Government Council (GGGC). “By increasing our investment in green power, we can broaden the market for clean energy providers and work to reduce energy costs for the commonwealth, rather than increasing our reliance on traditional energy sources and narrowing our options for competitive rates.”

“Pennsylvania is meeting its energy challenge head on and using it as a historic opportunity to foster clean sources of energy and create new economic opportunities,” said Environmental Protection Secretary Kathleen A. McGinty, also co-chairman of the Governor’s Green Government Council. “By leveraging our purchasing power and strategic investments, Pennsylvania is aggressively pushing the boundaries of clean energy production.”

Wayne, Delaware County-based Community Energy is a marketer and developer of wind energy generation founded in 1999. CEI this year became a wholly owned subsidiary of IBERDROLA, the largest owner and operator of renewable energy facilities in the world. IBERDROLA is also largest shareholder in the Spanish wind company, Gamesa Corp., which chose to base its North American headquarters in Pennsylvania following a campaign spearheaded by Governor Rendell. Gamesa, the second largest wind energy company in the world, earlier this year increased its investment in the commonwealth to more than \$84 million, with its U.S. headquarters in Philadelphia and the launch of manufacturing facilities in Bucks and Cambria counties. Gamesa will create as many as 1,000 jobs in Pennsylvania over five years.

“Pennsylvania’s leadership on energy is unmatched,” said Brent Alderfer, Community Energy’s chief executive officer. “The latest purchase of clean energy continues to drive progress and sets the benchmark for other states. Pennsylvania’s commitment to action points the way to a secure, clean energy future nationally.”

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The contract calls for electricity that is generated 40 percent from wind power and 60 percent from hydroelectric sources. Both produce electricity with zero emissions of air pollution. The 200,000 megawatt hours of renewable energy represent avoided emissions of 951 tons of sulfur dioxide, 271 tons of nitrogen oxide and 123,410 tons of carbon dioxide. Sulfur dioxide and nitrogen oxide contribute to acid rain, fine particulate pollution and regional haze, and nitrogen oxide is also a key component of smog. Carbon dioxide is one of the most potent greenhouse gases.

Shortly after taking office in 2003, the Rendell administration doubled the state's commitment to its Green Power program, requiring state facilities to meet 10 percent of their energy needs through renewable energy sources. The Governor has launched other major initiatives to build a clean, indigenous, diversified energy industry in the state.

Pennsylvania's Alternative Energy Portfolio Standard, one of the most progressive in the nation, ensures that 18 percent of all retail energy generated by 2020 comes from clean, efficient and advanced resources. Clean energy builds substantially on the state's leadership in wind production east of the Mississippi, with wind sources providing enough clean energy to power some 70,000 homes.

The commonwealth is leading in other areas of advanced energy development and energy efficiency. Governor Rendell's "PennSecurity Fuels Initiative" will produce and use 900 million gallons annually of clean, domestic fuel --- an amount equivalent to what the state is expected to import from the Persian Gulf 10 years from now. The Governor is investing \$30 million over the next five years to build re-fueling and production infrastructure to support wide distribution of the alternative fuels.

Pennsylvanians now spend some \$30 billion per year on imported energy fuels. Instead of spending overseas, Governor Rendell is investing at home and putting Pennsylvanians to work.

Brought back to life after years of inactivity, the Pennsylvania Energy Development Authority has awarded \$15 million in grants and loans for 41 clean energy projects that will leverage \$200 million in private investment. The projects will create 1,558 permanent and construction jobs.

The Pennsylvania Energy Harvest Grant Program has awarded \$15.9 million and leveraged another \$43.7 million in private funds since its inception in May 2003 for projects using sources such as wind, solar, biomass, waste coal and recycled energy.

Pennsylvania is among the national leaders in energy efficiency with more than three dozen buildings certified by the U.S. Green Building Council under the internationally recognized Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design program. Eight of the certified buildings are state facilities. Another 129 Pennsylvania buildings are registered for LEED certification.

Source: DEP