



TEACHING GREEN

DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION



TOM WOLF, GOVERNOR • PATRICK MCDONNELL, DEP SECRETARY

Welcome, Educators!



The Department of Environmental Protection Environmental Education and Information Center supports the great work Pennsylvania's environmental educators do statewide. Whether your students are children, teens, or adults, we hope Teaching Green, our new quarterly e-newsletter, will help you discover workshops, online tools, curriculum materials, grants, and other resources that may be helpful. For easy access, we'll group the news in each issue by topic, such as air quality; climate; energy; grants; water; and of course falcons—the famous residents of the 15th floor ledge here at Rachel Carson State Office Building in Harrisburg.



If you have comments on or suggestions for content, please drop me a line at gimyers@pa.gov. And please share Teaching Green to anyone who might find it useful. Thank you for all you do to teach green in Pennsylvania!

-- Bert Myers, Director, [Environmental Education and Information Center](#)

Energy



Keystone Energy Education Program Workshops Offered in March in Eastern PA

Do you teach fifth to eighth graders or lead a middle school Eco-Team? Are you looking for curriculum, lesson plans, or guidance on how to get your students involved in energy "stuff"? If so, join DEP and our

partners for a free Keystone Energy Education Program Workshop. You'll learn ways to teach about renewable energy and fuels, including how to use your own building as a teaching tool. Upcoming workshops are scheduled for [March 20](#), [March 21](#), and [March 22](#) in Bucks, Delaware, and Northampton Counties. [Get more information and register by March 2.](#)

Grants



Up to \$3 Million in Federal Funding Available for Environmental Education Projects with Local Focus

The Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) 2018 [Environmental Education Local Grant Program](#) is now open, and will award up to \$3 million in total funding

for locally focused environmental education projects. In each of its 10 regions, EPA will award three to four grants of \$50,000 to \$100,000 each, for a total of 30 to 35 grants nationwide. Proposals are due March 15 for projects to start on or after September 1, 2018.

Harrisburg Falcons



The [Harrisburg falcons'](#) 18th courtship season has just begun, with a couple of newcomers and the elder resident pair vying for affections and eyeing the nest site on the 15th-floor ledge here at the Rachel Carson State Office Building. The nest is the most productive peregrine nest in Pennsylvania. The Environmental Education and Information Center provides many learning resources, including a [falcon educators workshop](#) on March 29; the [timeline of falcon history](#) in Pennsylvania; [lesson plans](#); a chart of the [stages of falcon life](#); and the popular [FalconCam](#), which livestreams the nesting site.

In addition, a new online tool at [Harrisburg falcons](#) enables FalconCam viewers to log the varieties of prey they see the falcons bringing to the ledge, contributing citizen science to DEP's educational material. A great new DEP video [recaps in a few minutes the entire 2017 season](#), from courtship to the growth of young falcons, preparing to fly.

How We Did It



Londonderry Township's Water Workshop Series a Big Hit



Londonderry Township, in Dauphin County, received an Environmental Education Mini-Grant from DEP in 2017. With this funding, we created educational workshops for the public on improving water quality and provided take-home materials so they could start practicing the techniques they learned.

Workshops covered several topics, including green cleaning, pesticide-free gardening, wildlife corridors and habitat restoration, and rain barrels, and each workshop tied into the others. The biggest hit with the community was the rain barrel workshop, which taught attendees the importance of properly dealing with stormwater on their property. The first 20 registrants were given a rain barrel, helping them get started in conserving stormwater and slowing the flow from rain to drain.

Water



Look Below the Surface with DEP to Learn about Water Quality in Pennsylvania



Learn how mayflies, midges, crayfish, and other bottom-dwelling macroinvertebrates help DEP monitor the health of Pennsylvania's streams, rivers and lakes. Check out [Looking Below the Surface](#) to see how DEP samples these underwater insects and animals to

assess the long-term effects of chemicals or other stressors on aquatic ecosystems. Budding scientists can click through maps with data sets to see measurements of water quality near them.



"Weathering the Storm" Stormwater Workshops Offered in June in Western PA

Everyone can help reduce the pollution that stormwater carries into Pennsylvania's streams and rivers. Attend the free "Weathering the Storm" workshop to learn and complete stormwater

management activities from WET: In the City. Afterward, take home a copy of this curriculum and activities guide. While informative to all educators, this workshop may also be useful to municipal staff looking for community education ideas. Act 48 credit available for teachers. To register, please email gimyers@pa.gov or call 717-705-3767.

- June 12: 8:30 am-3:30 pm, Alumni Room of the Waldron Campus Center, Gannon University, 109 University Square, Erie, PA 16541
- June 13: 8:30 am-3:30 pm, Winnie Palmer Nature Reserve, Saint Vincent College, 744 Walzer Way, Latrobe, PA 15650

Chesapeake Bay Meaningful Watershed Educational Experiences Take Water Programs Up Another Notch



If you're in one of Pennsylvania's 43 counties in the Chesapeake Bay Watershed and want to take your water education program up another notch, consider creating a Meaningful Watershed Educational Experience (MWEE) for your students. Find out how in the Chesapeake Bay Program's [MWEE educator's guide](#). Packed with hands-on learning experiences specific to the watershed, it's designed to spark in students a lifelong relationship with the watershed, incorporating the environmental stewardship essential to its sustainability. Educators outside the watershed may be interested in the guide as a helpful model.



Chesapeake Bay Watershed Education and Training Grants Available

Have an idea for locally relevant, authentic experiential learning for K-12 audiences through MWEEs in the

Chesapeake Bay watershed? Get funding to make it happen. [Chesapeake Bay Watershed Education and Training \(B-WET\) program funding](#) is now available for fiscal year 2018 from the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration. Approximately \$1 million, subject to appropriations, may be available to fund 8 to 10 new projects. Applications are due by March 9, 2018.

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