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## **Top DEP Stories**

PA Environment Digest: DEP Publishes Final Environmental Justice Permit Review And Public Participation Policy, Update To PennEnviroScreen EJ Tool  
<https://paenvironmentdaily.blogspot.com/2026/01/dep-publishes-final-environmental.html>

## **Train Derailment**

Butler Eagle: Train derails near Slippery Rock, spilling iron ore pellets  
<https://www.butlereagle.com/20260103/train-derails-near-slippery-rock-spilling-iron-ore-pellets/>

## **Climate Change**

Allegheny Front: Concrete is a big contributor to climate change. Penn researchers say they can shrink its footprint  
<https://www.alleghenyfront.org/university-pennsylvania-research-concrete-climate-change/>

Pittsburgh Post-Gazette: Parasites are at home in Western Pa. — in our food, water, soil and bodies  
<https://www.post-gazette.com/news/health/2026/01/03/parasites-health-risks/stories/202601040006>

Lancaster Online: With climate change, we must reject distractions of fatalism and denialism  
[https://lancasteronline.com/opinion/columnists/with-climate-change-we-must-reject-distractions-of-fatalism-and-denialism-column/article\\_e4bcc044-1907-4c8b-bd50-cfb875487f26.html](https://lancasteronline.com/opinion/columnists/with-climate-change-we-must-reject-distractions-of-fatalism-and-denialism-column/article_e4bcc044-1907-4c8b-bd50-cfb875487f26.html)

## **Conservation and Recreation**

Tribune-Review: Derry plans to spotlight Bigfoot at proposed new borough park  
<https://triblive.com/local/westmoreland/derry-plans-to-spotlight-bigfoot-at-proposed-new-borough-park/>

WFMZ: State grants \$150,000 for Iron Valley Trail land acquisition in Colebrookdale Township  
[https://www.wfmz.com/news/area/berks/state-grants-150-000-for-iron-valley-trail-land-acquisition-in-colebrookdale-township/article\\_0a10e003-81e6-4436-b8f0-26de9a609b1c.html](https://www.wfmz.com/news/area/berks/state-grants-150-000-for-iron-valley-trail-land-acquisition-in-colebrookdale-township/article_0a10e003-81e6-4436-b8f0-26de9a609b1c.html)

Bradford Era: Roadless Rule repeal won't affect Allegheny National Forest, Forest Service says  
<https://www.bradfordera.com/2026/01/02/roadless-rule-repeal-wont-affect-allegheny-national-forest-forest-service-says/>

Lehighvalleynews: New bridge slated for wildlife sanctuary, closed since April collapse

<https://www.lehighvalleynews.com/environment-science/monday-new-bridge-slated-for-lower-macungie-sanctuary-closed-since-april-bridge-collapse>

WNEP: Enjoying the chill at Frances Slocum State Park

<https://www.wnep.com/article/news/local/luzerne-county/enjoying-the-chill-at-frances-slocum-state-park-luzerne-county/523-e54b7ab6-e81e-48af-a959-a29ebf3214bc?tbref=hp>

Levittown Now.com: New Middletown Parks Plan Focuses On Accessibility & Neighborhood Connectivity

<https://levittownnow.com/2026/01/05/new-middletown-parks-plan-focuses-on-accessibility-neighborhood-connectivity/>

NorthcentralPA.com: Judge drops terrorism charge for alleged mink releasers

[https://www.northcentralpa.com/news/judge-drops-terrorism-charges-for-alleged-mink-releasers/article\\_e8db5757-4760-42dc-a0e0-8981cda69690.html](https://www.northcentralpa.com/news/judge-drops-terrorism-charges-for-alleged-mink-releasers/article_e8db5757-4760-42dc-a0e0-8981cda69690.html)

## **Data Centers**

Tribune-Review: Informational meeting scheduled for Upper Burrell data center

<https://triblive.com/local/valley-news-dispatch/informational-meeting-scheduled-for-upper-burrell-data-center/>

Record-Argus: Big Tech's fast-expanding plans for data centers are running into stiff community opposition

[https://www.recordargusnews.com/ap/business/big-techs-fast-expanding-plans-for-data-centers-are-running-into-stiff-community-opposition/article\\_8623e4f5-24f1-5ba1-9204-23dc3e9ce276.html](https://www.recordargusnews.com/ap/business/big-techs-fast-expanding-plans-for-data-centers-are-running-into-stiff-community-opposition/article_8623e4f5-24f1-5ba1-9204-23dc3e9ce276.html)

Scranton Times: Olyphant prepares data center legislation

<https://www.thetimes-tribune.com/2026/01/02/olyphant-prepares-data-center-legislation/>

Standards Speaker: Concerns raised over proposed Sugarloaf data centers

<https://www.standardspeaker.com/2025/12/31/concerns-raised-over-proposed-sugarloaf-data-centers/>

Bucks County Beacon: Big Tech's Fast-Expanding Plans for Data Centers Are Running Into Stiff Community Opposition

<https://buckscountybeacon.com/2026/01/big-techs-fast-expanding-plans-for-data-centers-are-running-into-stiff-community-opposition/>

SpotlightPA: Map shows growing number of data centers planned across Pennsylvania

<https://www.spotlightpa.org/news/2025/12/data-centers-pennsylvania-map-emilia-doda-environment/>

Renovo Record: New year, old challenges as AI faces uncertain path to power

<https://therecord-online.com/site/archives/132806>

Renovo Record: Pennsylvania's power plan battles rage on in 2026

<https://therecord-online.com/site/archives/132800>

## Energy

Allegheny Front: EV chargers now available for PA Turnpike travelers

<https://www.alleghenyfront.org/pennsylvania-turnpike-ev-chargers-blue-mountain-new-stanton/>

Pittsburgh Post-Gazette: Solar installers pivot after 'mad rush' to claim residential tax credit ends

<https://www.post-gazette.com/business/powersource/2026/01/04/solar-residential-tax-credit-pittsburgh-pennsylvania/stories/202601010015>

Mon Valley Independent: LIHEAP funds available to help with heating bills

<https://www.monvalleyindependent.com/2026/01/05/liheap-funds-available-to-help-with-heating-bills/>

Altoona Mirror: AI faces uncertain path as demand exceeds power supply

<https://www.altoonamirror.com/news/local-news/2026/01/pa-ai-demand-exceeds-power-path-uncertain/>

Bradford Era: New year, old challenges as AI faces uncertain path to power

<https://www.bradfordera.com/2026/01/02/new-year-old-challenges-ai-faces-uncertain-path-power/>

NorthcentralPA.com: State Sen. Gene Yaw reflects on 2025, looks ahead to 2026

[https://www.northcentralpa.com/news/state-sen-gene-yaw-reflects-on-2025-looks-ahead-to-2026/article\\_407a6a6a-8192-43ff-a153-d9ba92e68edd.html](https://www.northcentralpa.com/news/state-sen-gene-yaw-reflects-on-2025-looks-ahead-to-2026/article_407a6a6a-8192-43ff-a153-d9ba92e68edd.html)

Williamsport Sun-Gazette: Tesla loses title as world's biggest electric vehicle maker as sales fall for second year in a row

<https://www.sungazette.com/news/business/2026/01/tesla-loses-title-as-worlds-biggest-electric-vehicle-maker-as-sales-fall-for-second-year-in-a-row/>

## PFAS

Daily Local: EPA says it will propose drinking water limit for perchlorate, but only because court ordered it

<https://www.dailylocal.com/2026/01/05/epa-drinking-water-rule/>

## Waste

Observer-Reporter: Two Washington County parks accepting Christmas trees for fish habitats

<https://www.observer-reporter.com/news/local-news/2026/jan/05/two-washington-county-parks-accepting-christmas-trees-for-fish-habitats/>

Republican Herald: 4 ways to deal with the plastic problem in 2026

<https://www.republicanherald.com/2026/01/03/4-ways-to-deal-with-the-plastic-problem-in-2026/>

My Chesco.com: Trash Bills Jump 50% in Downingtown as Borough Warns of Rising Hauler Costs

<https://www.mychesco.com/a/communities/downingtown/trash-bills-jump-50-in-downingtown-as-borough-warns-of-rising-hauler-costs/>

My Chesco.com: Why Your Holiday Lights Don't Belong in Recycling—and Where Easttown Wants Them  
<https://www.mychesco.com/a/communities/easttown/why-your-holiday-lights-dont-belong-in-recycling-and-where-easttown-wants-them/>

Williamsport Sun-Gazette: Move forward with the future in sight regarding landfill, waste (LTE)  
<https://www.sungazette.com/opinion/letters/2025/12/the-future-in-sight/>

## **Water**

WPXI: Water main break closes intersection in Bethel Park  
<https://www.wpxi.com/news/local/water-main-break-closes-intersection-bethel-park/IGPDOEGGMZA4HFGDOPMNDIVL7M/>

WTAE: Bethel Park intersection closed until further notice after water main break  
<https://www.wtae.com/article/bethel-park-intersection-closure-water-main-break/69912686>

Gettysburg Times: Sewer, water rates rising  
[https://www.gettysburgtimes.com/news/local/article\\_bc90b5b5-bf6a-44e1-8c45-0cc8b1fd10c1.html](https://www.gettysburgtimes.com/news/local/article_bc90b5b5-bf6a-44e1-8c45-0cc8b1fd10c1.html)

The Derrick: Perry Township proposes municipal water authority  
[https://www.thederrick.com/news/front\\_page/perry-township-proposes-municipal-water-authority/article\\_ce101768-ad65-478e-b51c-53156a2d155a.html](https://www.thederrick.com/news/front_page/perry-township-proposes-municipal-water-authority/article_ce101768-ad65-478e-b51c-53156a2d155a.html)

WBRE: Water boil advisory announced, warming center opens  
<https://www.2822news.com/top-news/water-boil-advisory-announced-warming-center-opens/>

Standard Speaker: Boil advisory in place for part of Freeland  
<https://www.standardspeaker.com/2026/01/04/boil-advisory-in-place-for-part-of-freeland/>

Philly Voice: New Jersey's strict wetland protections could be a model as Trump administration rolls back rules  
<https://www.phillyvoice.com/new-jersey-wetlands-protections-trump-rollback-clean-water-act/>

Philly Voice: Girard Point Bridge to get \$261 million in repairs over the next five years  
<https://www.phillyvoice.com/girard-point-bridge-i-95-pennndot-repairs-schuylkill/>

## **Miscellaneous**

Lancaster Farming: From Saving Time to Building Soil: Why This York County Farmer Switched to No-Till  
[https://www.lancasterfarming.com/farming-news/conservation/from-saving-time-to-building-soil-why-this-york-county-farmer-switched-to-no-till/article\\_0f7a26d6-5b61-4bfd-a5f1-900a24203854.html](https://www.lancasterfarming.com/farming-news/conservation/from-saving-time-to-building-soil-why-this-york-county-farmer-switched-to-no-till/article_0f7a26d6-5b61-4bfd-a5f1-900a24203854.html)

New Castle News: Proposed warehouse 'once-in-a-generation project'

[https://www.ncnewsonline.com/news/local\\_news/proposed-warehouse-once-in-a-generation-project/article\\_ac85dc2a-7979-5f9e-b2e3-aff9ab0b9fb2.html](https://www.ncnewsonline.com/news/local_news/proposed-warehouse-once-in-a-generation-project/article_ac85dc2a-7979-5f9e-b2e3-aff9ab0b9fb2.html)

The Philadelphia Inquirer: Survivors recount persistent gas smell, lack of concern by staff and a smoke break before explosion rocked Bristol nursing home

<https://www.inquirer.com/news/nursing-home-explosion-bristol-township-gas-leak-survivors-20260105.html>

WHYY: How nature is fostering kids' creativity in Philadelphia

<https://whyy.org/articles/nature-philadelphia-schyukill-center-environmental-education/>

PA Environment Digest: PA Resources Council Suggests 5 Green New Year's Resolutions For 2026

<https://paenvironmentdaily.blogspot.com/2026/01/pa-resources-council-suggests-5-green.html>

Williamsport Sun-Gazette: Family attacked by rabid cat falls through gaps in animal control system

<https://www.sungazette.com/news/top-news/2026/01/family-attacked-by-rabid-cat-falls-through-gaps-in-animal-control-system/>