Greetings Environmental Justice partners!

We are sending this update to share some announcements and funding opportunities with you. As always, we welcome your suggestions or inquiries about our work, programs, or policies. Please feel free to contact us at RA-EPOEJ@pa.gov.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Governor Wolf’s Day to Address Trans-Scholar and LGBTQ Students

Last week, Governor Wolf presented a $231 billion budget item totaling more than $1 billion to support reducing the risks to Pennsylvanians of lead and asbestos, and remediating the additional risks in schools, day care centers, homes, and public water systems. "Decades ago, well-intentioned Pennsylvanians constructed our homes, schools, waterways and other structures out of asbestos and lead because they were thought to be harmless, even superior materials," Governor Wolf said. "Now we know the serious harm both can cause. To build a better Pennsylvania, we need to fix our foundation, which is why the five lead and asbestos renovation initiatives I outlined today are so important." [1]

PA DEP to Unveil Draft Regulations to Cap CO2 Emissions using RGGI Model

On Thursday, February 13, the DEP will unveil preliminary draft regulations to allow Pennsylvania to participate in the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative (RGGI). RGGI is a data-driven, voluntary, cap-and-trade collaboration among 10 Northeast and Mid-Atlantic states to reduce greenhouse gas emissions while generating economic growth. [2]

Penn State Hosts EJ Pioneer Dr. Robert Bullard

Dr. Robert Bullard, known by some as the father of the environmental justice movement, will be the 2020 keynote speaker at Penn State’s annual Colloquium on the Environment at 7 p.m. on April 7 in 2020 in 118 Katz Building at University Park.

FUNDING AND GRANT OPPORTUNITIES:

PA DEP Food Recovery Infrastructure Grants

These grants of up to $200,000 provide assistance to eligible nonprofit organizations such as schools and food banks for proper food management, "Access to fresh food is undernourished communities in a public health and quality of life issue, but it’s also an environmental justice issue. While we need to feed the state, my staff and I often hear from undernourished communities that access to fresh food is a significant concern, so we now want to do part to address this issue in a meaningful, environmentally focused way," said DEP Secretary Patrick McDonnell. The grant application deadline is April 24, 2020.

PA DEP Small Business Advantage Grant

Grant funding for energy efficiency and pollution prevention projects for small business owners and farmers is still available through the Small-Business Advantage Grant program. Businesses can apply for up to $10,000 for matching funds to fund equipment or materials, up to $75,000, when adopting energy-efficient or pollution prevention equipment or processes. "This grant program was created with smallbusiness owners and farmers in mind. There are tremendous monetary savings available to Pennsylvania’s small businesses in installing energy-efficient equipment, such as LED lighting, and Energy Star rated HVAC and boilers," said Secretary Patrick McDonnell. Applications are now being accepted until 4 PM on Tuesday, March 24, 2020.

PA DEP Commonwealth Financing Authority Act 13 Grants

The Pennsylvania Commonwealth Financing Authority Act 13 Grants will be awarded to local community-based organizations, tribes, and tribal organizations seeking to address environmental and public health concerns in local underserved communities. "These grants are for communities, tribes, and organizations working together to address environmental and public health concerns in local underserved communities," said Secretary Patrick McDonnell. Applications are now being accepted until April 12, 2020.

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