

EJ UPDATE

Your Environment, Your Voice



TOM WOLF, GOVERNOR • PATRICK MCDONNELL, DEP SECRETARY

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 Plan to Address Toxic Schools and Lead in PA](#)

Last week Governor Tom Wolf presented a series of proposed 2020-21 budget items totaling more than \$1.1 billion to support reducing the risks to Pennsylvanians of lead and asbestos, and remediating existing toxins 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 first need to fix our foundation, which is why the five lead and asbestos removal initiatives I'm outlining today are so important."

[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 market-based collaboration among 10 Northeast and Mid-Atlantic states to reduce greenhouse gas emissions while generating economic growth.

[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 1, 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 shelters and food banks for proper food management. "Access to fresh food in underserved communities is a public health and quality of life issue, but it's also an environmental justice issue. While traveling across the state, my staff and I often hear from underserved communities that access to fresh food is a significant concern, so we wanted to do our 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 50 percent matching funds for equipment or materials, up to \$7,000, when adopting energy-efficient or pollution prevention equipment or processes. "This grant program was created with small businesses and farmers in mind. There are tremendous monetary savings available to Pennsylvania's small business entrepreneurs by installing energy-efficient equipment, such as LED lighting, and Energy Star rated HVAC and boilers," said Secretary Patrick McDonnell. Applications are considered on a first-come, first-served basis, and will be accepted until fiscal year 2019-20 funds are exhausted, or April 12, 2020, whichever occurs first.

[PA DEP Driving PA Forward Program](#)

To help Pennsylvania meet its diesel emissions reduction goals, the Wolf Administration developed the Driving PA Forward grant and rebate programs to improve air quality in Pennsylvania and drive transformation from older, polluting diesel engines to clean technologies. Over \$118 million has been made available through the program as a result of the 2018 settlement with Volkswagen, relating to emissions cheating.

[FAST Act Corridor Infrastructure Grant](#)

The Pennsylvania FAST Act Alternative Fuel Corridor Infrastructure Grant is designed to support the installation of alternative fuel infrastructure along Pennsylvania Interstate Highway Corridors. Approximately \$1 million in grants is available to install public-use electric, hydrogen, propane, and compressed natural gas refueling infrastructure along the highway corridors in Pennsylvania. DEP will accept applications until 4 PM on Tuesday, March 24, 2020.

[EPA Environmental Justice Collaborative Problem-Solving Cooperative Agreement](#)

Cooperative agreements will be awarded to local community-based organizations, tribes, and tribal organizations seeking to address environmental and public health concerns in local underserved communities through collaboration with other stakeholders, such as local businesses and industry, local government, medical service providers, and academia. Applications will be accepted until 11:59 PM on February 7, 2020.

[Commonwealth Financing Authority Act 13 Grants](#)

The Marcellus Legacy Fund was created by Act 13 of 2012 to provide for the distribution of unconventional gas well impact fees to counties, municipalities and commonwealth agencies. A portion of the fee revenue generated is transferred to the Commonwealth Financing Authority for statewide initiatives that include abandoned mine drainage abatement; abandoned well plugging; sewage treatment; greenways, trails and recreation; baseline water quality data; watershed restoration; and flood control. Applications will be accepted between February 1 and May 31, 2020.

[DCNR Community Conservation Partnership Grants](#)

DCNR's Bureau of Recreation and Conservation (BRC) assists local governments and recreation and conservation organizations with funding for projects related to: Parks, Recreation, and Conservation. The application deadline is April 22, 2020.

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