

EJ UPDATE

Your Environment, Your Voice



TOM WOLF, GOVERNOR • PATRICK MCDONNELL, DEP SECRETARY

Greetings, Environmental Justice partners!

We hope you are staying safe and well. The Office of Environmental Justice (OEJ) team is writing to send you important updates and resources from the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection (DEP).

Governor's Office Update

[Governor Wolf, Lawmakers Announce Actions to Prioritize Environmental Justice!](#)

Governor Wolf joined members of the PA Legislative Black Caucus and environmental advocates on Thursday, October 28 to announce efforts to address environmental justice. Governor Wolf issued an [Executive Order](#) strengthening the Wolf Administration's efforts to address environmental justice and support low-income communities and communities of color that are adversely impacted by environmental issues and adverse health impacts. The executive order permanently establishes the DEP's Office of Environmental Justice, Environmental Justice Advisory Board (EJAB), and an Environmental Justice Interagency Council. "Many Pennsylvania communities have been disproportionately harmed by pollution, and today's executive order by Governor Wolf is a first step in making sure that we have some of the tools to mitigate and prevent it from happening in the future," said DEP Secretary Patrick McDonnell.

State Representatives Donna Bullock, Malcolm Kenyatta and Chris Rabb and state Senator Vincent Hughes have proposed bills to support the governor's executive actions. Their bills would require a more transparent and open process before certain facilities are built or expanded within areas defined as "burdened communities," codify the Office of Environmental Justice within DEP, and codify the Environmental Justice Interagency Council. These legislative actions would protect these executive actions from being unilaterally disbanded.

DEP Updates

Environmental Justice Advisory Board Meeting

The next EJAB meeting will be held virtually on Tuesday, November 16. The meeting will be held from 9:00 am – 12:00 pm and will include presentations on the Pennsylvania Climate Action Plan 2021, Zero Emission Vehicle (ZEV) Rulemaking, and an update on the EJ Policy and Executive Order. The meeting agenda and other documents for the meeting will be posted on the [EJAB webpage](#).

The EJAB will then host a joint meeting with the Citizens Advisory Council (CAC) in the afternoon on Tuesday, November 16 from 12:30 – 2:30 pm. The meeting will include an update from Secretary McDonnell and a presentation from the GreenGov Council. The agenda and other documents for the joint EJAB-CAC meeting are posted on the [CAC webpage](#).

EJ Policy Revision

DEP presented the first draft of the EJ Policy to the EJAB on Thursday, August 19. DEP and OEJ will host public hearings to gather feedback on the revised EJ Policy in early 2022. Please visit our [EJ Policy Revision webpage](#) to learn more and stay up-to-date on the revision process!

DEP Grants, Loans, and Rebates

DEP Grants 101

Live webinar | Thursday, December 2

11:00 am - 12:30 pm

For first-time applicants,
especially in Environmental Justice Areas

- Community organizations
- Outdoor groups
- Small business owners
- Farmers
- Municipal offices

Learn the basics of applying for DEP funding to help make your environmental project happen!

Learn more and register [dep.pa.gov/grants](#)



DEP Grants 101 Webinar

As part of our efforts to broaden the diversity of first-time applicants for grant funding, we're offering a live webinar, "DEP Grants 101," on Thursday, December 2 at 11:00 am. Drawing on the feedback many of you provided in our grants outreach survey, "DEP Grants 101" will cover topics helpful to those who've never applied for a DEP grant and may not know that DEP offers funding to help them improve the environment in their community or at their school or place of business. The webinar may also be useful for organizations that have applied for grants but would like a refresher on the basics of grants at DEP.

We hope to reach a diverse range of community groups, businesses, municipal offices, farmers, and other organizations, particularly those in [Environmental Justice Areas](#). Can you please help us spread the word by sharing this information widely via your networks? If you have any questions about the webinar, please contact Michele at (717) 705-3568 or mdevaney@pa.gov.

DEP Grants 101:

For First-Time Applicants Who Want to Make Their Environmental Project Happen

Live webinar | Thursday, December 2, 2021 | 11:00 am - 12:30 pm

[Register here](#)

If your environmental improvement project needs funding, DEP can help. We offer [40 grant and rebate programs](#) to support a range of projects to improve or protect the water, land, and air in Pennsylvania. Grant opportunities that are currently open include:

- [Environmental Education Grants](#)
- [Alternative Fuel Vehicle Grants and Rebates](#)
 - [Consumer Rebates for Electric and Plug-In Hybrid Vehicles](#)
- [Small Business Advantage Grant](#)
- [Agricultural Energy Efficiency Grants](#)
- [Driving PA Forward Grants and Rebates](#)
 - [Level 2 Electric Vehicle Charging Rebate](#)
- [Recycling and Waste Grants for Local Governments](#)

Partner Opportunities and Updates

DCNR Grants Workshop Webinar

Need funding for a recreation or conservation project? The Department of Conservation and Natural Resources (DCNR) will be hosting a series of webinars in November to explain eligibility and the application processes for their grants. Learn more about the 2022 grant cycle opportunities by viewing the [flyer](#) and then [registering for a webinar](#).

White House Environmental Justice Advisory Council Public Virtual Meeting

The EPA has confirmed the dates for the next White House Environmental Justice Advisory Council (WHEJAC) public meeting. This virtual two-day meeting will be held on November 17 and 18, 2021 from approximately 3:00 pm – 7:30 pm (EST). The meeting is free and open to the public. Members of the public are encouraged to provide comments relevant to the specific issues being considered by WHEJAC.

Individual registration is required by visiting the [WHEJAC webpage](#).

EPA EJ Grants and Funding Opportunities

EPA has several funding opportunities and resources available supporting environmental justice communities. Please go to EPA's [Environmental Justice Grants, Funding and Technical Assistance webpage](#) for more information.

Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection, 400 Market Street Harrisburg, PA 17101



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