

# 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 Department of Environmental Protection (DEP).

### DEP Updates

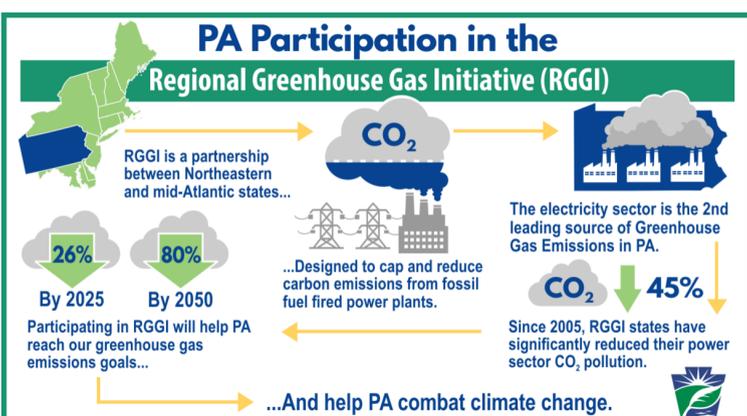
#### COVID-19

In order to prevent the further spread of COVID-19, all DEP offices continue to remain physically closed. DEP is committed to its mission of protecting public health and the environment and will continue to monitor permitted facilities. All environmental laws and regulations will continue to be enforced for the duration of the disaster declaration.

To report environmental emergencies, please call 1-800-541-2050. DEP staff that are capable of teleworking, including Office of Environmental Justice staff, are continuing to telework and fulfill the mission of the department. For the latest updates on the status of other DEP work functions, see our [COVID-19 update page](#). For general inquiries, please continue to [contact DEP](#). Please contact the [Office of Environmental Justice](#) with any environmental justice (EJ) inquiries.

#### EJAB Meeting

The next Environmental Justice Advisory Board (EJAB) meeting will be held virtually on Thursday, May 20 from 9:00 am to 3:00 pm. The meeting agenda and other materials are on the [EJAB webpage](#). The meeting will include an update on [RGGI](#) and RGGI public engagement, and a presentation from [Keep Pennsylvania Beautiful](#) on litter efforts.



#### 2021 Climate Impacts Report Released

DEP released the [2021 Climate Impacts Assessment](#) on Wednesday, May 5. According to the report, Pennsylvania's average temperature will be 5.9° F higher by midcentury, with significant consequences for the health and safety of Pennsylvanians, especially those living in Environmental Justice communities, and for ecosystems, agriculture and other areas. Pennsylvanians who live in [Environmental Justice Areas](#) are assessed to be at additional critical risk from rising average temperatures. Residents in Environmental Justice areas are nearly twice as likely to experience more days hotter than 90° F, compared to the state average, and constitute over half of all Pennsylvanians exposed to highly frequent heat days. "Pennsylvanians who have lived in communities with almost a century of disinvestment now also face disproportionate risk from climate change impacts," said DEP Environmental Justice Office Director Allison Acevedo. "People living in communities that have been disinvested and are ripe for resource development often face significant challenges that are exacerbated by climate change impacts. These challenges include living near industrial sites, living in older housing stock, often without air conditioning and facing limited transportation options. Heat and extreme weather events caused by climate change can aggravate health conditions stemming from poor air quality and heat exposure."

The departments of Environmental Protection (DEP), Conservation and Natural Resources (DCNR) and Agriculture held a virtual news conference on Wednesday, May 5. The event was recorded and can be viewed on [DEP's Facebook page](#). The impacts assessment, Pennsylvania Climate Action Plan, Local Climate Action Program, and other resources for climate leadership statewide are available at [dep.pa.gov/climate](#).



## Pennsylvania Climate Impacts Assessment 2021



Wednesday, May 5 | 3:00 PM



[Watch the virtual news conference on the Pennsylvania Climate Impacts Assessment 2021](#)

#### DEP Announces \$22.5 Million Available for Community Projects to Improve Water Quality and Watershed Health

DEP celebrated Earth Day and the 50th anniversary of the state Environmental Rights Amendment by [announcing the availability of \\$22.5 million to schools, local governments, and nonprofit organizations for projects to improve water quality in their communities or watersheds or statewide](#). Funding comes from the state Growing Greener Plus and federal fiscal year 2022 Section 319 Nonpoint Source Management grant programs. These grant programs support projects to reduce water pollution that comes not from one specific discharge point, such as a pipe, but from more than one source. "The state constitution identifies our natural resources as the common property of all Pennsylvanians," said DEP Secretary Patrick McDonnell.

Both grant programs give preference to projects in [Environmental Justice Areas](#). The application deadline for both programs is June 25, 2021. Guidelines and application instructions may be found at [Growing Greener Plus](#) and [Section 319 Nonpoint Source Management Grants](#).



*The state constitution identifies our natural resources as the common property of all Pennsylvanians. Thousands of organizations and residents value this responsibility, dedicating expertise, local knowledge, and time to projects that restore and protect our waters. The positive impact on their communities is immeasurable. DEP is committed to supporting this stewardship and encourages applications for funding.*



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PATRICK MCDONNELL

#### Environmental Education Grant Awards Announced

On Earth Day, [Governor Tom Wolf announced \\$459,823 in Environmental Education Grants awarded to 51 projects addressing environmental justice, climate change, and water quality](#). Eighty-eight percent of grant funds will support projects that engage youth and adults living and/or working within Environmental Justice Areas.



*These DEP-funded projects address issues such as climate change, water, and environmental justice that have a positive impact on the environment while improving environmental literacy across the Commonwealth for citizens of all ages.*

DEP SECRETARY PATRICK MCDONNELL



## DEP Grants, Loans, and Rebates

If your environmental improvement project needs funding, DEP can help. We offer [31 grant and rebate programs](#) to support a range of projects to improve or protect the water, land, and air in Pennsylvania.

- [319 Nonpoint Source Management Grant](#)
- [Growing Greener](#)
- [AMD Set Aside Grant](#)
- [Surface Mining Control and Reclamation Act Grant](#)
- [Alternative Fuel Vehicle Grants and Rebates](#)
- [Driving PA Forward Grants and Rebates](#)
- [Recycling and Waste Grants for Local Governments](#)

## Partner Opportunities and Updates

#### EPA to Hold Second National Environmental Justice Community Engagement Call

EPA invites EJ advocates to participate in the second National Environmental Justice Community Engagement Call taking place on May 19, 2021 from 2 p.m. to 4 p.m. These calls are free and open to the public. The purpose of these calls is to inform the community and other stakeholders about EPA's EJ work and enhance opportunities to maintain an open dialogue with EJ advocates. The calls first began in 2010 and were a valuable tool for EPA to learn about EJ needs in communities around the country. The first re-launched call was held on February 17, 2021 and had nearly 700 participants.

[Register Here](#)

For more information about the National Environmental Justice Community Engagement Calls, please email [Robinson.Victoria@epa.gov](mailto:Robinson.Victoria@epa.gov) or [Motilall.Christina@epa.gov](mailto:Motilall.Christina@epa.gov).

#### EPA EJ Grants and Funding Opportunities

EPA has several funding opportunities and resources available and open now supporting environmental justice communities. Please visit [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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