

News from the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection



Tom Wolf, Governor | John Quigley, Secretary



DEP Calendar of Events

Feb. 24

Cleanup Standards Scientific Advisory Board meeting, 9 a.m., Room 105, Rachel Carson State Office Building, 400 Market St., Harrisburg. Contact: Michael Maddigan, mmaddigan@pa.gov

March 8

Climate Change Advisory Committee (CCAC) meeting, 10 a.m., 10th Floor Conference Room, Rachel Carson State Office Building, 400 Market St., Harrisburg. Contact: Mark Brojakowski, mbrojakows@pa.gov

March 16

DEP public hearing on IESI Landfill's permit application to expand its existing facility on Applebutter Road in Bethlehem, Northampton County, 6-9 p.m., Saucon Valley High School, 2100 Polk Valley Rd., Hellertown. Contact Colleen Connelly, 570-826-2035.

March 22

Sewage Advisory Committee meeting, 10:30 a.m., Room 105, Rachel Carson State Office Building, 400 Market St., Harrisburg. Contact: John Diehl, jdiehl@pa.gov

March 23

Board of Coal Mine Safety meeting, 10 a.m., DEP Cambria Office, 286 Industrial Park Rd., Ebensburg. Contact: Allison D. Gaida, agaida@pa.gov

March 30

Conventional Oil and Gas

Pipeline Infrastructure Task Force Presents Report, Top 12 Recommendations to Governor Tom Wolf



The build-out of pipeline infrastructure over the next decade will impact every county in Pennsylvania.

HARRISBURG -- In its report to Gov. Tom Wolf, the Pipeline Infrastructure Task Force identified a dozen top recommendations, along with a broader set of 184 suggestions, to help Pennsylvania achieve responsible development of natural gas pipeline infrastructure in the Commonwealth.

The task force presented the recommendations in six major categories, designed to drive wider public discussion on the critical, complex, and interrelated environmental and community issues that Pennsylvania faces in the development of the infrastructure needed to transport gas to market.

The Governor created the task force to identify best practices for pipeline siting, permitting and safety. Pipeline infrastructure development is governed by a complicated matrix of federal and state laws and regulations, county plans, and local ordinances. Multiple agencies are involved in permitting and overseeing siting, construction, operation, and maintenance of infrastructure.

[Read more.](#)

DEP Offers Grants to Support Alternative Fuel Transportation Projects in Pennsylvania

Advisory Committee meeting, 10 a.m., Room 105, Rachel Carson State Office Building, 400 Market Street, Harrisburg. Contact: Kurt Klappkowski, kklappkowsk@pa.gov

March 31

Oil and Gas Technical Advisory Board meeting, 10 a.m., Room 105, Rachel Carson State Office Building, 400 Market St., Harrisburg. Contact: Kurt Klappkowski, kklappkowsk@pa.gov



Upcoming Webinars

March 7

Webinar on DEP's Alternative Fuels Incentive Grants, 1-2 p.m. Register [here](#).

March 8

Webinar on DEP's Alternative Fuels Incentive Grants, 11 am - noon. Register [here](#).



Speakers Bureau



Public Input

March 14

Deadline to comment on Nutrient Credit Trading Program; Certification Requests from the Borough of Chambersburg. Contact Jay Braund, 717-772-5636.

March 30

Deadline to comment on the draft Climate Change Action Plan. Contact Mark Brojakowski, mbrojakowsk@pa.gov



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DEP's Mission:

to protect Pennsylvania's air, land and water from pollution and to provide for health and safety of its citizens through a cleaner environment.



AFIG grants can be used to offset the costs of refueling equipment for bi-fuel, dual-fuel or hybrid vehicles.

HARRISBURG -- DEP is encouraging Pennsylvania business and community leaders to be better caretakers of the environment by offering incentives for the purchase and use of alternative fuels and alternative fuel vehicles. DEP's Alternative Fuels Incentive Grant (AFIG) Program offers funding for innovative, advanced fuel and vehicle technology projects for cleaner alternative transportation within the commonwealth.

"The use of alternative fuels and deployment of advanced alternative transportation technologies is a key component to making Pennsylvania the country's energy leader in the use of domestic alternative fuels – and in cleaning the air we breathe and protecting our climate," said DEP Secretary John Quigley.

The AFIG Program will assist school districts, municipal authorities, nonprofits, corporations, LLCs, and partnerships registered to do business in Pennsylvania in offsetting the costs of implementing alternative fuel using transportation projects. The Alternative Fuels Incentive Grant Program is funded by annual gross receipts tax on utilities.

[Read more.](#)

DEP to Host Public Hearing on Proposed Landfill Expansion in Northampton County

WILKES-BARRE -- DEP will host a public hearing to take comments from the public regarding IESI Landfill's permit application to expand its existing facility on Applebutter Road in Bethlehem, Northampton County. The hearing will take place from 6 to 9 pm, Wednesday, March 16 at Saucon Valley High School, 2100 Polk Valley Rd., Hellertown.

The company is requesting an expansion of 6 acres, with 22.5 acres overtopping existing landfilled areas.

[Read more.](#)

Pennsylvania Water Systems Not the Cause of Lead Exposure

HARRISBURG -- An analysis of public water systems in Pennsylvania cities with high lead exposure rates shows that drinking water is not the source of the lead. Out of the more than 150 public water systems reviewed by DEP none had exceeded EPA standards for lead in the drinking water. The water systems tested serve more than 6 million people – nearly half of the residents of the state.

"We can definitively say that none of these 159 water systems have exceeded EPA action levels for lead. This eliminates one of the possible sources for the exposure," said DEP Secretary John

Quigley. "DEP has regulations and programs in place to monitor lead levels in drinking water, and they are working."

[Read more.](#)

Two-Day Conference to Highlight Success of Green Schools



HARRISBURG -- For the first time, Pennsylvania will host the [Green Schools Conference & Expo](#) March 31-April 1 at the David L. Lawrence Convention Center in Pittsburgh. But what exactly is meant by a green school? The U.S. Department of Education's Green Ribbon School Program recognizes a green school as one that excels in the three "pillars" of reduced environmental impacts of buildings and grounds; improved health and wellness of students and staff; and increased environmental literacy.

Albert M. Greenfield Elementary School in the School District of Philadelphia was named a Green Ribbon School in 2013 for reducing its environmental impact by replacing outdated mechanical equipment with energy efficient models, reducing their energy use in one year by 52 percent. Greenfield also received a Growing Greener grant from DEP that enabled them to transform their impervious schoolyard to a vibrant green space.

Improvements included an indigenous Pennsylvania woodland forest garden, removal of impervious pavement, permeable recycled play surface, native plant rain gardens, and a storm water management system that captures runoff from 97 percent of the play yard. The renovated grounds manage most of the stormwater runoff produced at the site and mitigate problems with combined sewer overflows to the Schuylkill River.

This project was a shining example of how green schools partner with their local government and area nonprofits to accomplish their initiatives. Greenfield also served as a mentor to other schools after completing this highly-successful project by holding a workshop titled "Transforming Urban Schoolyards."

The [Green Schools Conference & Expo](#) features an opening plenary by Rick Fedrizzi, CEO and Founding Chair of the U.S. Green Building Council, a full schedule of breakout sessions as well as pre-conference sessions and tours.

New Website Features Year-Round Live Feed of Harrisburg's Famous Peregrine Falcons



The live feed of the falcons' nest is now streamed year-round.

HARRISBURG -- DEP has launched a redesigned website featuring Harrisburg's famous pair of peregrine falcons who recently returned to their nest on the 15th floor ledge of the Rachel Carson State Office Building. The [new website](#) features a high definition, three-camera live video feed of the nest that will now be streamed year-round. The site also provides more opportunities for people to interact through social media.

"Providing a live feed of the peregrine falcons has helped to teach a generation of Pennsylvania school students and the public about the connection between wildlife and our environment," DEP Secretary John Quigley said. "It underscores the effects we humans have on the natural world and how we can all be better stewards."

The redesigned falcon website includes new interactive features like [Instagram](#) and [Flickr](#) where users can upload their own wildlife photos and even retweet a falcon valentine on [Twitter](#). Visitors can learn about the falcons' history in Harrisburg, view a calendar of seasonal activity and link to other bird cams from around the state. The live video will now be streamed year-round instead of ending in June. Favorite website features like information and lesson plans for teachers and the Falcon Wire are still available.

[Read more.](#)



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