



PACD

PENNSYLVANIA ASSOCIATION OF
CONSERVATION DISTRICTS, INC.

Amy Brown
Executive Director

Conserving Natural Resources for Our Future

PACD Mission Statement

To be responsive to conservation districts so they can conserve natural resources for our future.



Leadership Development

- The Building for Tomorrow Leadership Development Program is funded through a grant from the PA State Conservation Commission (SCC).
- The program provides non-technical training and support to district board members, managers, and staff.
- Leadership Development programs had over 400 attendees in 2024, including the annual Management Summit, Fall Leadership Webinar Series, Employment Law Seminar, the Annual Conservation District Video Awards, and various staff workshops.



102/105 Technical Training Project

- Funded by PA Department of Environmental Protection (DEP)
- Trains conservation district and DEP staff on Chapters 102 and 105 (Erosion and Sediment Control & Dam Safety and Waterway Management)
- **Basic Technical Training**
 - Trains new technicians in person at Basic Technical Training every spring
 - Since its inception in 2011, the program has trained nearly 600 conservation district staff through Basic Technical Training alone. Fifty-three district and DEP staff attended the 2025 session.



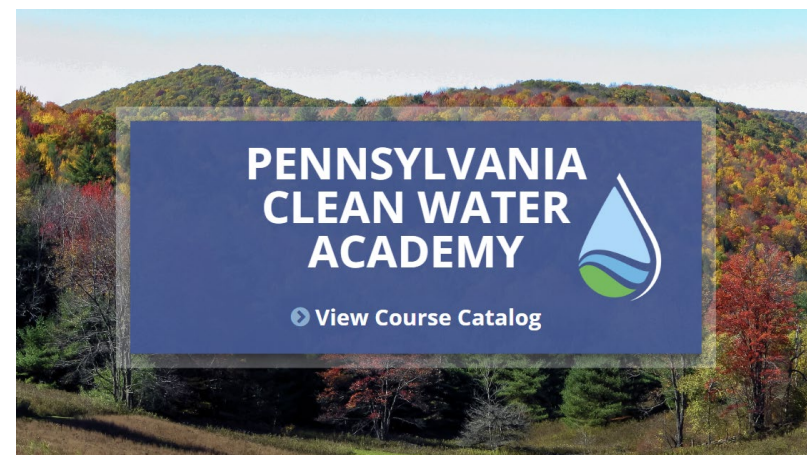
102/105 Technical Training Project

- **Clean Water Academy (CWA) Water Resource Trainer**

- Employed by PACD to help with in-person training and provide online learning through DEP's Clean Water Academy.
- Multiple DEP bureaus collaborate with the Bureau of Clean Water to host and manage training for conservation districts, sewage enforcement officers, DEP and the public.
- CWA contains several hundred courses and training programs.
- This spring, the CWA surpassed 50,000 course completions since its inception in 2018.

- **Other Training**

- PACD also works with DEP to put on other training for districts. For example, this year, PACD is helping to coordinate a series of six regional in-person E&S training sessions for small groups of district staff



Additional Training

- **DCNR Buffer Boot Camp**
 - Buffer bootcamp will take place Sept 23rd in Snyder County
- **Ag Boot Camp**
 - PACD helps facilitate an Agricultural Conservation Technical Training with the State Conservation Commission, USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service, and Penn State Extension.
 - There were 114 total participants in 2024-25



Legislative Advocacy and Lobbying



- PACD hired Versant Strategies to help represent conservation districts at the capitol



Mini-grant Programs for Conservation Districts

- **Ag Plan Reimbursement**
 - DEP Growing Greener and State Conservation Commission
- **Lawn Conversion**
 - DCNR, Community Conservation Partnerships Program, Environmental Stewardship Fund
- **Riparian Buffer Program**
 - PA Department of Conservation and Natural Resources (DCNR)
- **Partnerships for Regional Invasive Species Management (PRISM) Program**
 - USDA Forest Service, Landscape Scale Restoration Grant
- ***Discontinued Programs***
 - Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program Mini-Grants (DEP Growing Greener for over 20 years)
 - Nonpoint Source Mini-Grants (DEP 319 Grant for over 20 years)



Conservation Planner Program

PACD employs six conservation planners who are working toward conservation planning certification.

They will work to improve water quality by helping landowners across PA complete and update:

- Conservation Plans
- Volunteer Act 38 Nutrient Management Plans (excluding Concentrated Animal Operations and Concentrated Animal Feeding Operations)
- Manure Management Plans
- Agricultural Erosion & Sediment Control Plans



Conservation Planner Map



Erie County
Joshua Ferraro
814-796-5014

Indiana County
Nathan Edwards
724-446-3336

Franklin County
Daniel Hausman
717-446-8566

Susquehanna County
Kelsey Quinones
570-278-1197 x102

Dauphin County
Vacant

Bucks County
Vacant

PACD Engineering Assistance Program

- Funded through DEP (Growing Greener Grant) and the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service
- Provides statewide engineering and technical assistance to develop or implement a watershed assessment, watershed restoration plan, or watershed protection plan.
- PACD employs professional engineers and conservation technicians who follow professional engineering principles and ensure that projects are completed according to PA Technical Guide Standards.
- Staff are based out of four regional offices and cover all river basins in Pennsylvania.



Before



After



Questions?



Amy Brown

Pennsylvania Association of Conservation Districts

5925 Stevenson Ave., Suite A

Harrisburg, PA 17112

717-794-6104

abrown@pacd.org

www.pacd.org

