

Conservation Committee Report

Volume 17 Issue 5

Jack Walters—Conservation Chairman

August—September 2015



Clean Power Plan Presents New Opportunities for Pennsylvania Energy

The Conservation Pledge

I give my pledge as an

American to save and faithfully defend from waste, the natural resources of my country; the soil, the water, the air, the minerals, the plant life and the wildlife.

This is my Pledge!

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The Environmental Protection Agency released the Clean Power Plan. Pennsylvania will use this as an opportunity to write a plan that could improve public health, address climate change, and improve our economy and power system. Pennsylvania's Department of Environmental Protection will give all stake-

holders every opportunity to provide input into drafting a Clean Power Plan that is tailored to fit Pennsylvania's economy.

"My administration is committed to making the Clean Power Plan work for Pennsylvania," said Governor Wolf. "Working with the legislature, industry leaders and citizens we will cre-

ate a plan to ensure these new rules are applied fairly, allow for adjustments, and that they create economic opportunities for the commonwealth's energy economy. Today's plan sets ambitious but achievable goals

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Carbon Emissions Continue To Decline In PA

The Department of Environmental Protection posted a new fact sheet on carbon emissions in Pennsylvania highlighting the fact that Pennsylvania is achieving emissions reductions through regula-

tory requirements and holistic decision making efforts, and those efforts have resulted in considerable emissions reductions in recent years.

For example:

— Pennsylvania's greenhouse gas

emissions are expected to be lower in 2020 than in 2000 with reductions in the residential, commercial, transportation, agriculture and waste sectors,

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Clean Power Plan Presents New Opportunities for Pennsylvania Energy (continued)

for reducing carbon emissions statewide and addressing climate change in fair and smart ways that takes into account legitimate concerns of all parties."

"Pennsylvania is a leader in energy, and we need to do everything in our power to advance the next generation of energy production while protecting jobs in Pennsylvania," continued Governor Wolf. "Clean coal is a part of our energy portfolio, as is natural gas, solar, wind, and other sources of power, and all of this has to be part of a comprehensive strategy. My administration looks forward to working with industry leaders and legislators as well as citizens to find the right balance and develop an effective and responsible state plan."

Pennsylvanians will have multiple options for input as the Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) formulates a state-specific plan to comply with the EPA rule. A public comment period on the EPA rule will begin in early September, with additional comment periods over the next three years as the Pennsylvania plan is drafted and finalized.

"We will make certain that we craft a Pennsylvania solution that protects the state's vital role as a net electricity exporter," said DEP Secretary John Quigley. "Our strategy must ensure we are protecting our diverse resources and creating economic opportunities. We'll explore different methods of reaching the required reductions, options of partnering with fellow states, and other considerations."

DEP staff have already begun assessing the implications of the Clean Power Plan through the National Governors Association Policy Academy, which is developing detailed economic modeling to find solutions that meet Pennsylvania's needs. These modeling exercises will continue now that the details of the plan have been released.

"Cutting pollution from power plants, utilizing natural gas, supporting nuclear power plants, increasing the amount of renewable energy in Pennsylvania, and improving energy efficiency statewide all can fight climate change and be an economic driver," said Sec. Quigley. "When our businesses upgrade power plants, install solar panels or improve energy efficiency, that's a win for the environment and a win for Pennsylvania's economy."

The Clean Power Plan sets a nationwide goal of cutting carbon emissions by 32% from 2005 levels by 2030, with progress towards those reductions by 2022.

"Pennsylvania is committed to achieving our target emission reductions, and we will develop the right tools and smart policies to do so," said Quigley.

The final EPA rule will be published in the Federal Register on September 4, 2015, and public comment will be available for the following 60 days. Public hearings will also be held across the state, with details to be released.

Source: The Environmental Protection Agency

Carbon Emissions Continue To Decline In PA (continued)

according to the 2013 Update to Pennsylvania's Climate Change Action Plan.

— Carbon dioxide emissions from the fossil fuel-fired electric generating fleet in Pennsylvania have declined by 12 percent from 2008 through 2013 and are projected to decline by 29 percent from 2005-2020.

— Since 2008, cumulative air contaminant emissions across the state have continued to decline. In particular, sulfur dioxide emissions from electric generating units (EGU) have been reduced by approximately 70 percent. The emissions of nitrogen oxides and particulate matter have also been reduced by approximately 23 percent and 46 percent, respectively, from this sector. These reductions represent between \$14 billion and \$37 billion of annual public health benefit, based on U.S. Environmental Protection Agency methodologies.

— Other notable reductions include:

-- Sulfur oxide emissions have gone down 70 percent since 2008.

-- Mercury, a hazardous air pollutant, emissions have gone down 37 percent since 2008. o Carbon monoxide emissions have gone down 16 percent since 2008.

DEP is committed to achieving emissions reductions while keeping the economy strong, and the holistic approach to managing environmental issues is the principal reason for the corresponding decline in GHG emissions and improved economic outlook.

A copy of the fact sheet is available online.

Source: PA Department of Environmental Protection

EPA Proposes Rules to Improve Hazardous Waste Management and Better Protect our Waterways

New Rules Also Reduce Regulatory Burden on Businesses

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is proposing two new hazardous waste rules to strengthen environmental protection while reducing regulatory burden on businesses. One of the proposed rules will protect waterways, including drinking and surface water, by preventing the flushing of hazardous waste pharmaceuticals and simplify the requirements for healthcare workers. The other rule will provide greater flexibility to industry while requiring new safeguards to protect the public from mismanagement of hazardous waste.

“These rules provide businesses with certainty and the flexibility they need to successfully operate in today’s marketplace,” said Mathy Stanislaus, assistant administrator of EPA’s Office of Solid Waste and Emergency Response. “The proposals will improve the safety and health of our communities by providing clear, flexible, and protective hazardous waste management standards.”

The proposed hazardous waste pharmaceuticals rule will make our drinking and surface water safer and healthier by reducing the amount of pharmaceuticals entering our waterways. EPA’s proposal is projected to prevent the flushing of more than 6,400 tons of hazardous waste pharmaceuticals annually by banning healthcare facilities from flushing hazardous waste pharmaceuticals down the sink and toilet.

The proposed rule will reduce the burden on healthcare workers and pharmacists working in healthcare facilities by creating a specific set of regulations for these facilities, including hospitals, clinics, and retail stores with pharmacies and reverse distributors that generate hazardous waste.

EPA’s proposed generator rule will enhance the safety of facilities, employees, and the general public by improving labeling of hazardous waste and emergency planning and preparedness. The proposal will also reduce burden by providing greater flexibility in how facilities and employees manage their hazardous waste and make the regulations easier to understand.

EPA solicited public comment on improving hazardous waste management from states, healthcare facilities, retailers, facilities generating hazardous waste, and other key stakeholders. Both proposals directly address the challenges raised by these stakeholders in implementing and complying with hazardous waste regulations.

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EPA Proposes Rules to Improve Hazardous Waste Management (continued)

The Agency will accept public comments on the proposal for 60 days following publication in the Federal Register.

Read Assistant Administrator Mathy Stanislaus' blog "Making Hazardous Waste Regulations Work for Today's Marketplace" here: <https://blog.epa.gov/blog/2015/08/making-hazardous-waste-regulations/>

For additional information on these proposed rules, including how to submit comments, visit: <http://www2.epa.gov/hwgenerators>

Source: The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)

1st Annual Pittsburgh Wild & Scenic Film Festival Oct. 29

Allegheny Cleanways and the PA Resources Council are partnering to host the 1st Annual Pittsburgh Wild & Scenic Film Festival on October 29.

Initially a project of the South Yuba River Citizens League, the Wild & Scenic Film Festival works to combine beautiful and moving filmmaking and environmental issues to inspire citizens across the nation to protect the environment and take action for our local and global communities.

Festival-goers can expect to see award-winning films about resource conservation, litter, watersheds, and more!

The Festival will be held from 6:00 to 9:30 p.m. at the Manchester Bidwell Corporation's Concert Hall, 1815 Metropolitan St., Pittsburgh.

Tickets will be \$15 and will be available mid-September. Stay tuned for details!

For more information, visit the [PRC's Wild & Scenic Film Festival webpage](#).

DEP Surveillance Program Shows Most Stores Complying With Lead Ban Act

DEP's Bureau of Safe Drinking Water recently completed its annual Lead Ban Surveillance Program to educate the plumbing supply industry about the requirements of the Lead Ban Act.

The Pennsylvania Plumbing System Lead Ban and Notification Act was enacted in 1989 and prohibits the sale or use of 50/50 or 85/15 tin-lead acid core or solid wire solders or any leaded solder that does not contain a warning statement on the label.

The Lead Ban Act also restricts the sale and use of all other leaded solders to non-plumbing use only.

This summer, DEP interns visited hardware stores, home centers and other retail facilities that sell solder to gather data used to determine whether banned solder is sold and whether restricted solder is properly labeled and is not sold in the plumbing section.

Of the 392 stores visited, 323 sell solder. Most of the 323 stores were selling lead-free solder and 57 percent sell only lead free solder. In 2015, only 7 i of the stores selling solder were in violation of the Lead Ban Act: 5 percent were selling banned solder and 2 percent were selling restricted solder in the plumbing section with no stores selling both banned and restricted solder in the plumbing section.

The final report for 2015 is available online. Copies of previous annual reports are available on DEP's Bureau of Safe Drinking Water Program Activities Reports webpage.

Source: PA DEP

Keep PA Beautiful Encourages Colleges, Universities To Participate In RecycleMania



Keep Pennsylvania Beautiful is encouraging colleges and universities in Pennsylvania to participate in the RecycleMania competition sponsored by Keep America Beautiful, The Alcoa Foundation and the Coca-Cola Company.

RecycleMania is a friendly competition and benchmarking tool for college and university recycling programs to promote waste reduction activities to their campus communities.

Over an 8-week period each spring, colleges across the United States and Canada report the amount of recycling and trash collected each week.

Schools are ranked in various categories based on who recycles the most on a per capita basis, which schools have the best recycling rate as a percentage of total waste and which schools generate the least amount of combined trash and recycling.

With each week's updated ranking, participating schools follow their performance against other colleges and use the results to rally their campus to reduce and recycle more.

"RecycleMania offers a fun incentive to improve efforts on college campuses to reduce waste generation. It is a way to build school spirit and engage and motivate student bodies to be responsible about the amount of waste that is being generated and how that waste is handled," said Shannon Reiter, President of Keep PA Beautiful. "We encourage campus recycling coordinators to join the competition!"

Program management for RecycleMania is provided by Keep America Beautiful. Program support is provided by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's WasteWise Program and the College & University Recycling Coalition.

Registration opens in September and competition runs from February 7 through April 2. Final results are announced April 15.

To register or for more information, visit the [RecycleMania](#) website.

Source: PA Environment Digest

Earth now facing sixth mass extinction as Hawaii's "extinction crisis" accelerates

Hawaii is known for its amazing biodiversity, but in recent years it has also become known as the "extinction capital of the world." A groundbreaking study has just been published that focused on the ecosystem's invertebrates as well as its bird and mammal populations in an effort to determine just how quickly species are disappearing across the whole spectrum of indigenous fauna.

The results of the research indicated that the loss of species to extinction has been far more serious than previously thought. In fact, Hawaii's wildlife diversity is being decimated so quickly that scientists now believe that we are seeing the beginnings of a "sixth mass extinction" cycle across the globe.

As much as seven percent of the world's animal species may have been lost in recent years, according to researchers.

The Washington Post.com reports:

On Hawaii alone, scores of brightly colored, tropical birds have been crossed off the islands' list of extant fauna over the past two centuries. The same fate came to a number of moths and insects, and as a result, other species relying on those animals are now threatened. One of the islands' plants, the stout Brighamia, known for growing on Hawaiian sea cliffs, now must be pollinated by hand because the insects that would do it naturally are gone.

By including the loss of invertebrates in Hawaii - specifically the land snail species - the scientists were able to gain a better picture of how quickly the planet is losing species to extinction. The loss of land snail species belonging to the *Amastridae* family could be as high as 14 percent per decade, according to the researchers.

This time, it's our fault

Mass extinctions have occurred five times so far during the Earth's history. The last one was triggered by the asteroid that hit the Yucatan. This time, however, it's not due to natural forces; it's because of us. That's according to yet another recent study conducted by a different group of researchers.

From The Washington Post.com:

In a study published [June 19, 2015] in the journal Science Advances, biologists found that the Earth is losing mammal species 20 to 100 times the rate of the past. Extinctions are happening so fast, they could rival the event that killed the dinosaurs in as little as 250 years.

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Earth now facing sixth mass extinction as Hawaii's "extinction crisis" accelerates (continued)

Given the timing, the unprecedented speed of the losses and decades of research on the effects of pollution, hunting and habitat loss, they assert that human activity is responsible.

The scientists involved in this study say they can "confidently conclude" that extinction rates are now "exceptionally high" compared to the past and that they are on the increase, indicating that a sixth mass extinction is indeed under way.

If the trend continues, they say, "humans will soon (in as little as three human lifetimes) be deprived of many biodiversity benefits."

Consensus among experts

If you're tempted to believe this is the mere opinion of a small group of alarmist researchers who are exaggerating the dangers, perhaps you should think again.

A number of other respected individuals and groups are saying essentially the same thing.

As far back as 1998, scientists were warning that a mass extinction event was beginning to occur. In that year, a poll conducted by the American Museum of Natural History found that 70 percent of 400 biology experts believed that "the Earth is in the midst of one of its fastest mass extinctions, one that threatens the existence of humans as well as the millions of species we rely on."

In 2003, Harvard biologist E.O. Wilson published his book, *The Future of Life*, in which he calculated that half of the higher life forms now inhabiting the Earth will be gone by 2100 if we continue with the current rate of "human disruption."

There are many other studies and scientific opinions corroborating Wilson's predictions.

It remains to be seen whether or not we will be able to collectively recognize the threat to our planet and our own race and then actually manage to do something about it.

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How to rid the body of Lyme disease naturally

The bacteria that cause Lyme can be found in the skin, heart, joints, and nervous system. On top of that, Lyme disease specialists are finding that what we call Lyme disease may be caused by several different infectious organisms and may even be caused by a combination of different infectious pathogens. Some speculate that Lyme disease is an infection from the bacteria along with an overabundance of fungi (like Candida) or a parasite.

Everyone plays host to countless viruses, infectious bacteria, fungi, toxins, and cancer cells in their body. Many may be carrying Lyme, along with or many other scary diseases, and not know it.

Those with stronger immune systems often pass on infections they didn't even know they have to others with weakened immunity. Currently, specialists are saying Lyme cannot be passed from person to person. Some are challenging this belief, especially in regards to sexual transmission. Regardless, those infected can carry the disease for years without knowing it.

The good news is that a holistic approach to fixing the body's immune system and ridding it of infectious agents can cure almost any disease. The approach to Lyme should be similar to the approach to curing HIV, fibromyalgia, chronic strep, lupus, Chlamydia, and many other diseases. The first step is to heal the gut, balance the gut flora, and rebuild the immune system.

Your Gut and Your immune System

Chronic infection is an underlying factor in most chronic illnesses. Our sugar-laden diet, GMO foods that kill beneficial bacteria, antibiotics, other antibacterial products, and many of the chemicals in our food supply deplete our beneficial bacteria, which wreaks havoc on our immune systems. This sets the stage for systemic, chronic fungal and parasitical infections to permeate the gut, enter the body's bloodstream, and spread infection throughout the body.

The immune system is only as healthy as the gut.

Conventional doctors are very bad at finding and diagnosing parasitical and fungal infections that cannot easily be seen on the surface of the body. The average person is dealing with Candida overgrowth at the very least (the most common fungal infection in our bodies) due to the aforementioned modern diet and lifestyle.

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How to rid the body of Lyme disease naturally (continued)

Obviously, to treat a difficult bacterial infection such as Lyme (or whatever combination of bacteria, viruses, and parasites causing Lyme symptoms) the immune system needs to be as strong as possible. The immune system is only as healthy as the gut. The body's intestinal tract mirrors the body's health and dictates the power of the immune system. Step one is to balance the gut flora and eliminate most of the harmful pathogens in the body.

Diet

A healthy diet relies on a foundation of on raw, fresh, organic (when possible), whole foods and herbs. Salads are one of the best ways to do this. Not your typical iceberg lettuce salads with a few carrots shreds and some ranch dressing, but a salad with a wide variety of at least 10 different vegetables along with fresh garlic, turmeric, ginger, unrefined sea salt, and healthy fats. This is the best way to get a wide array of the best nutrients that will repair the gut and rebuild the body's immune system. Don't underestimate this; a large salad every day, done right, will do more for the body than any supplement regimen, and when followed long enough, the right diet with these kinds of daily salads can completely heal the body from disease, in most cases. But the right supplement protocol can radically speed things up and is often necessary for the very ill.

A perfect diet would not be complete without lots of clean drinking water. For detoxification, cranberry stevia lemonade is very good for rejuvenating the kidneys, cleaning the liver, purifying blood, and flushing out the whole system. For most people, a gallon a day will yield remarkable results, but for smaller people, or those who have rare conditions that make this dangerous, use common sense and don't ever drink too much water (or any fluid). And for everyone else, a gallon of cranberry lemonade every day will have amazing benefits, second only to salads and cutting out other junk food. But again, use common sense. Drinking that much water in a very short period of time can kill people, believe it or not.

To learn about the history, symptoms, and why antibiotics do not always cure Lyme disease and a step-by-step protocol to treat it naturally, read the full article, [*How To Cure Lyme Disease, and Virtually Any Other Bacterial Infection, Naturally.*](#) and check out [*Gluten Candida Leaky Gut Syndrome and Autoimmune Diseases.*](#)

Sources:

by: Michael Edwards

<http://lymeconnection.org>

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