

Conservation Committee Report

Volume 18 Issue 4

Jack Walters—Conservation Chairman

June—July -2016



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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Brownfields grants to transform and uplift communities, leverage jobs

At an event at a former brownfield site in Burlington, Vermont, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Administrator Gina McCarthy announced today the selection of 218 new grant investments totaling \$55.2 million to 131 communities

across the U.S. Recipients will receive approximately \$200,000 - \$820,000 in funding toward EPA cooperative agreements. The Assessment, Revolving Loan Fund and Cleanup (ARC) grants go to communities that are underserved and economically disadvantaged, including neighborhoods where environmental cleanup and new jobs are

most needed. "These grants will empower communities to transform idle, languishing lands into vibrant hubs for business, jobs, and recreation," said EPA Administrator Gina McCarthy. "It's all about providing that initial funding, and sparking that first conversation to set (continued on page 2)

Wolf Administration Investing \$25.1 Million in Projects to Protect and Improve Pennsylvania Water Resources

Pennsylvania Governor Tom Wolf announced the selection of 114 projects to receive \$25,143,294 in funding from Department of Environmental Protection (DEP), for the protection of Pennsylvania's water resources. The

selected projects enhance watersheds, mitigate acid mine drainage, and support water pollution cleanup programs. "The Growing Greener program, and this year's funding, is an investment in our future and proof that when

state government works collaboratively, we achieve long-lasting results," said Governor Wolf. "The Environmental Stewardship Fund has helped spark (continued on page 4)

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Administrator McCarthy Announces \$55.2 Million to Assess and Clean Up Contaminated Sites, Promote Economic Redevelopment Nationwide

stalled sites on a path toward smart, safe redevelopment that directly benefits communities.”

Today’s event highlighted progress made in cleaning up and redeveloping a formerly contaminated site in Burlington, the Maiden Lane project. Public and private investment in the site, including by ARC grant recipient Chittenden County Regional Planning Commission (CCRPC), led to the development of 28 housing units, including four affordable housing units. The CCRPC invested \$38,000 in assessment funding from a previous assessment grant at the site, which leveraged private investment of more than \$5 million.

EPA’s Brownfields Program strives to expand the ability of communities to recycle vacant and abandoned properties for new, productive reuses. The investments will provide communities with the funding necessary to assess, clean up and redevelop contaminated properties, boost local economies and leverage jobs while protecting public health and the environment. Brownfields ARC grants provide resources early on, which is critical for the success of communities’ abilities to leverage additional partnerships and resources. Partnerships between neighborhoods, local developers and governments are essential for impacted communities to acquire the resources needed to meet their revitalization goals.

Approximately \$14 million of the assessment and cleanup funding will go to applicants who are also EPA Brownfields Area-Wide Planning grant recipients and Dept. of Housing and Urban Development (HUD)/Dept. of Transportation (DOT)/EPA partnership communities. Funding will help communities clean up and reuse brownfield sites to create community assets such as housing, recreation and open space, health facilities, employment, education, social services, transportation options, infrastructure and commerce opportunities. For example, Dubuque, Iowa’s new \$200,000 cleanup grant will address contamination at the Blum property, a former scrap yard and recycling facility, and will lead to the development of a pocket park for residents of the distressed Washington Neighborhood within Dubuque. In addition to the benefits gained by creating more community spaces, this funding will also build upon Dubuque’s 2010 DOT TIGER grant and 2015 EPA Brownfields Area-Wide Planning grant which support the revitalization of the Washington Neighborhood.

Studies have shown that residential property values near brownfields sites that are cleaned up increased between 5 and 15 percent. Data also shows that brownfields clean ups can increase overall property values within a one-mile radius. Preliminary analysis of 48 brownfields sites shows that an estimated \$29 million to \$97 million in additional tax revenue was generated for local governments in a single year after cleanup. This is two to seven times more than the \$12.4 million the EPA contributed to the cleanup of these brownfields.

This latest funding advances EPA’s broader commitment to making a visible difference in communities by focusing on coordinating federal investments to help environmentally overburdened, underserved, and economically distressed communities address local priorities. The Brownfields Program invests in communities where there are multiple federal agency partnerships at work.

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Administrator McCarthy Announces \$55.2 Million to Assess and Clean Up Contaminated Sites, Promote Economic Redevelopment Nationwide

Aligning federal resources allows agencies to better meet communities' needs and for communities to more effectively reap the benefits of collaborative investments. ARC grantees demonstrate a high level of preparedness to undertake specific projects, as they have firm commitments of leveraged funds to move projects forward. An impressive 70 percent of recipients have secured public and private resources which will directly align and further the efforts of proposed projects.

There are an estimated 450,000 abandoned and contaminated waste sites in America. Since the inception of the EPA's Brownfields Program in 1995, cumulative brownfields program investments have leveraged more than \$20 billion from a variety of public and private sources for cleanup and redevelopment activities. This equates to an average of \$17.79 leveraged per EPA brownfields dollar expended. These investments have resulted in approximately 108,924 jobs nationwide. EPA's Brownfields Program empowers states, communities and other stakeholders to work together to prevent, assess, safely clean up, and sustainably reuse brownfields sites.

List of the FY 2016 Applicants Selected for Funding:

<https://www.epa.gov/brownfields/brownfields-fy16-arc-grants-selected-funding>

More on ARC grants: <https://www.epa.gov/brownfields/types-brownfields-grant-funding>

More on EPA's Brownfields Program: <https://www.epa.gov/brownfields>

More on successful Brownfields stories: <https://www.epa.gov/brownfields/brownfields-success-stories>

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

Wolf Administration Investing \$25.1 Million in Projects to Protect and Improve Pennsylvania Water Resources

innovation and coordinate partnerships to tackle some of the most challenging environmental issues in our state.”

The 114 selected projects range from a wetland basin restoration in Chester County to sustainable outreach programs in Erie County. Projects focus on both statewide initiatives, like improving the health of the Susquehanna River and the Chesapeake Bay, and local projects, such as riparian buffer enhancement and erosion prevention in Four Mile Run, Westmoreland County. Every project supports DEP’s mission of protecting Pennsylvania’s waters.

“DEP is proud to support local and regional water quality projects throughout the state,” said Secretary John Quigley. “These investments are essential to protecting and conserving the rivers, streams, and watersheds of Pennsylvania.”

The grant awards are made possible by the Growing Greener Grant Program, the largest single investment of state funds that address Pennsylvania’s environmental concerns. Growing Greener encourages partnerships between counties, municipalities, county conservation districts, watershed organizations, and other organizations to restore and protect the environment.

The Growing Greener program is supported by the Environmental Stewardship Fund, which receives its funding from landfill tipping fees. Twelve projects this year received their funding from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency’s 319 Nonpoint Source Grant Program, created by the Clean Water Act to reduce water pollution. Four projects received funding from the Acid Mine Drainage (AMD) Set Aside Program, funded by the Surface Mining Conservation and Reclamation Act and designed to abate AMD pollution. Of the 208 grant applications received for consideration this year, more than half of the proposed projects were awarded grant funding.

For more information on the Growing Greener Grant Program, [click here](#) or email Growing-Greener@pa.gov.

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The organizations that were awarded are listed below, by grant type and alphabetically by county, with the project name and funding amount.

GROWING GREENER:

Adams

- Adams County Conservation District, Beaverdam Creek Stream Bank Stabilization: \$16,878

Allegheny

- Allegheny County Conservation District, Montour Run Watershed Assessment and Implementation Plan: \$94,065
- Allegheny County Parks Foundation, South Park Green Parking Solution: \$77,130
- Pittsburgh Botanic Gardens, Kentucky Hollow AMD Treatment System: \$369,007

Armstrong

- Armstrong Conservation District, Garretts Run BMP Grant: \$245,000

Beaver

- Allegheny County Conservation District, Raccoon Creek Streambank Remediation: \$54,395
- Beaver County Conservation District, North Fork Little Beaver Stabilization / Habitat Project II: \$25,667
- Stream Restoration Incorporated, Raccoon Creek Bank & Buffer Project: \$99,785

Berks

- Berks County Conservation District, Establishing a Berks County Mushroom Environmental Initiative: \$111,350

- The Trust for Tomorrow, The Maiden Creek Tributary Stream Restoration Project: \$116,000

Blair

- Blair County Conservation District, Blair County - Priority Streambank Restoration Projects: \$82,000

Bradford

- Wysox Creek Watershed Association, Inc., Comprehensive Watershed Conservation in Parks and Bullard Creeks: \$758,452

Bucks

- Heritage Conservancy, Hart's Woods Preserve Riparian Buffer Restoration: \$17,048
- Lower Southampton Township, Brookside and Pennsylvania Boulevard Basin Naturalization Projects: \$103,777
- Township of Bensalem, Cornwells Basin and Constructed Wetland: \$173,170

Butler

- Butler County Conservation District, Little Buffalo AG BMP Grant: \$220,500

Cambria

- Cambria County Conservation District, Emeigh Run Streambank Stabilization Project: \$4,505
- Stream Restoration Incorporated, Puritan AMD Full Treatment: \$538,944

Centre

- Penns Valley Conservation Association, Upper Penns Creek Watershed Stream Restoration: \$172,600

Chester

- Chester County Conservation District, Restoration of an Unnamed Headwater Tributary to Leech Run: \$105,500
- Valley Forge Chapter of Trout Unlimited, Installation of Infiltration Trench on Dayleview Road: \$150,000
- West Goshen Township, Extended Detention Wetland Basin Retrofit-Restoration & Demonstration: \$296,400

Clearfield

- Trout Unlimited, Inc., MR Tuff/MR Frog Rehabilitation & Improvement Project: \$91,385
- Western Pennsylvania Conservancy, Knisley Land Restoration-AMD Reduction: \$211,778

Crawford

- Borough of Cochranon, Cochranon Borough Stormwater BMP and Demonstration: \$22,840
- Crawford County Conservation District, Response to Hydrilla Infestation in Pymatuning Reservoir: \$191,833

Delaware

- Pennsylvania Resources Council, Inc., Darby-Cobbs Stormwater Initiative: \$89,883
- Rose Valley Borough, Ridley Creek Stabilization and Restoration: \$39,046

Erie

- Environment Erie, Service Learning Projects : \$31,050
- Environment Erie, BeginANEW Stormwater Education and Management: \$48,285
- Erie County Conservation District, VinNES Sustainable Outreach and BMP Program: \$364,610

Fayette

- Fayette County Conservation District, Stony Fork Ag BMPs Project: \$13,373
- Fayette County Conservation District, Meadow Run Nonpoint Source Pollution Grant: \$27,864
- Trout Unlimited, Chestnut Ridge Chapter, Glade Run Alkaline Sand Addition Project: \$64,115

Franklin

- Franklin County Conservation District, Agriculture Planning in UNT Muddy Run: \$50,323

Greene

- Western Pennsylvania Conservancy, SGL 223: Whiteley Creek Riparian Planting: \$27,800

Huntingdon

- Huntingdon County Conservation District, Warriors Mark Run Agricultural BMPs (Cox and Conrad Farms): \$237,205
- Huntingdon County Conservation District, Little Juniata River Agricultural BMPs (Ormsby Farm): \$225,352
- Huntingdon County Conservation District, Saddler Creek Agricultural BMPs (Metz Farm): \$133,403
- The Trust for Tomorrow, The Brown Farm at Sadler Creek Stream Restoration Project: \$33,000

Indiana

- Stream Restoration Incorporated, Neal Run Restoration Project - Phase II: \$100,000

Jefferson

- Headwaters Charitable Trust, Howe Creek Coalition of Clarion and Jefferson: \$95,587

- Headwaters Charitable Trust, Filson 1/2 & Glenn 17 Passive Treatment Systems-Operation, Maintenance & Replacement: \$258,217

Lackawanna

- Congregation of the Sisters Servants of the Immaculate Heart of Mary, IHM Center Meadow Brook Watershed Protection Project: \$262,158

Lancaster

- City of Lancaster, Intermunicipal Watershed Action Plan: \$40,000
- Lancaster Farmland Trust, Pequea Creek Watershed Agricultural BMP's: \$482,592
- Octoraro Watershed Association, Bells Run Conservation Plan and BMP Assistance: \$64,500

Lawrence

- Lawrence County Conservation District, Slippery Rock Watershed Agricultural Restoration: \$810,283

Lebanon

- Lebanon Valley Conservancy Inc., Quittapahilla Creek EPA 319 Watershed Implementation Plan: \$26,250

Lehigh

- City of Allentown, Livingston Watershed Green Stormwater Infrastructure: \$300,000

Luzerne

- Butler Township, The Wash Sediment Abatement Project: \$170,000
- Earth Conservancy, Bliss Bank Reclamation Phase II: \$734,600

- Luzerne Conservation District, Luzerne County 2015 Ag and Stream Protection Projects: \$504,542

Lycoming

- Lycoming County Conservation District, Agricultural Stormwater BMPs: \$150,000

McKean

- McKean County Conservation District, Upper Allegheny Ag BMP's Project: \$278,986

Monroe

- Paradise Township, Paradise Creek Restoration Project: \$693,596

Montgomery

- Abington Township, Sandy Run TMDL Projects: \$186,000
- Lower Gwynedd Township, Lower Gwynedd Basins and Dam Naturalization: \$60,850
- Upper Gwynedd Township, Wissahickon Headwaters Green Stormwater Infrastructure: \$305,000
- Wissahickon Valley Watershed Association, Wissahickon Headwaters Stream and Riparian Restoration Project: \$369,600

Montour

- Montour County Conservation District, Mahoning Creek Restoration Project: \$611,037
- Montour County Conservation District, Sitler Roof and Manure Storage Project: \$139,165

Northampton

- Wildlands Conservancy, Inc., Oughoughton Creek Watershed Restoration Project: \$106,000

Northumberland

- Northumberland County Conservation District, Chillisquaque Creek Streambank Stabilization Project: \$20,055
- Point Township: Kapp Heights Stormwater Management Project - Phase 1: \$611,703

Philadelphia

- Philadelphia City Treasurer, City of Philadelphia Water Department, Germantown Green Bowls on Park Sites: \$300,000

Schuylkill

- Mahanoy Creek Watershed Association, Packer 5 AMD Treatment Design: \$85,581
- Schuylkill Conservation District, Good Spring Creek Floodplain Restoration Phase 1: \$459,445
- Schuylkill Conservation District, Mill Creek AMD Watershed Restoration Plan Development: \$64,857
- Schuylkill Conservation District, Delaware Watershed Agricultural Planning Initiative: \$30,000
- Schuylkill Conservation District, Animal Heavy Use Area Protection Project: \$321,817

Snyder

- Snyder County Conservation District, Snook Barnyard Improvement Project: \$275,000

Tioga

- Mill Cove Incorporated, Mill Cove Streambank Stabilization Project: \$93,000

Union

- Union County Conservation District, Buffalo Creek Stream Corridor and Wetland Improvement Project: \$33,500

Warren

- Western Pennsylvania Conservancy, Brokenstraw Creek Watershed Improvement Project: \$95,770

Washington

- Washington County Conservation District, Raccoon Creek Watershed Agricultural BMPs: \$81,608
- Western Pennsylvania Conservancy, Blaine Township Park Restoration: \$113,200

Westmoreland

- Loyalhanna Watershed Association, Inc., Fourmile Run Restoration Project: \$328,000
- Westmoreland County Conservation District, Turtle Creek Ag BMPs - Steel's Run: \$22,965
- Westmoreland County Conservation District, First Presbyterian Church of Murrysville, Murrysville Volunteer Fire Company: \$102,893
- Westmoreland County Conservation District, Beaver Run AG BMPs #2 - Rebitch Farm: \$15,655
- Westmoreland County Conservation District, Sloan Elementary School: \$129,085

Wyoming

- Mehoopany Creek Watershed Association, Inc., Rogers Hollow Stream Restoration - Phase 1 Construction: \$397,998

Multiple Counties

- Bucktail Watershed Association, Defending Native Plants in the First Fork: \$24,130
- Northcentral Pennsylvania Conservancy, Stream Restoration and BMP Implementation: \$354,972
- Northwest Pennsylvania Eminent Community Institute, Management & Continuation of the Northwest PA Greenways Implementation Block Grants: \$400,000

- Pennsylvania Association of Conservation Districts, Inc., PACD Engineering Technical Assistance Program: \$1,528,516
- Pennsylvania Horticultural Society, TreeVitalize XII: \$250,000
- Pennsylvania State University, PaOneStop Manure Management & Nutrient Balance Modules: \$168,208
- Pocono Northeast Resource Conservation & Development Council, C-SAW-Consortium for Scientific Assistance to Watersheds (1X): \$820,000
- Stream Restoration Incorporated, Datashed 3: \$105,718
- Stream Restoration Incorporated: Passive Treatment O&M Technical Assistance 3: \$180,000
- Stroud Water Research Center, Inc., Delivering the Berks-Chester RCPP: \$249,922
- Trout Unlimited, Inc., West Branch Susquehanna Recovery Benchmark II: \$128,515
- Trout Unlimited, Inc., AMD Technical Assistance Program: \$225,000
- Western Pennsylvania Conservancy, Community Riparian Restoration Education Project: \$57,635
- Western Pennsylvania Conservancy, Driftwood Branch Sinnemahoning Creek Riparian Restoration: \$65,458
- Wildlands Conservancy, Inc., Black Creek Watershed AMD Restoration Plan: \$70,191

TOTAL: \$20,694,678

319 NONPOINT SOURCE GRANTS RECIPIENTS:

Allegheny

- Pine Creek Land Conservation Trust, Crouse Run Stream Restoration: \$13,800

Bedford

- Broad Top Township, Sandy Run SA0-D10 AMD Remediation: \$400,000

Berks

- Berks County Conservation District, Surface Water Assessment in the Maiden & Saco-ny Creek Watersheds: \$60,080

Clearfield

- Clearfield County Conservation District, Deer Creek AMD Treatment Construction: \$883,174

Cumberland

- Cumberland County Conservation District, Middle Spring Creek WIP Implementation Phase II: \$62,912

Delaware

- Villanova University: VUSP - PaDEP - Stormwater Best Management Practice National Monitoring Site: \$323,366

Indiana

- Indiana County Conservation District, WIP SW Region Ag Initiative: \$285,092

Lancaster

- West Lampeter Township, Groff Property Floodplain Restoration: \$198,950

Mifflin

- Mifflin County Conservation District, Upper Kishacoquillas Creek and Hungry Run Surface Water Assessment: \$72,692

Schuylkill

- Schuylkill Headwaters Association, Inc., Reevesdale #2 AMD Restoration Project Phase 2 – Optimization: \$485,722

Westmoreland

- Jacobs Creek Watershed Association, Mt. Pleasant Plaza Storm Water Retrofit (Green Infrastructure): \$233,299
- Jacobs Creek Watershed Association, Mt. Pleasant Shop N Save: \$235,926

TOTAL: \$3,255,013

ACID MINE DRAINAGE (AMD) SET-ASIDE GRANTS RECIPIENTS:**Elk**

- Headwaters Charitable Trust, Kyler Hollow AMD Passive Treatment System - ALD 1 & ALD 2 Rehabilitation: \$618,118
- Headwaters Charitable Trust, Hayes Run & Backside Hayes AMD Passive Treatment Systems - Modifications/Improvements: \$384,918

Fayette

- Mountain Watershed Association, Inc., Rondell-Correal AMD Treatment System: \$123,543

Schuylkill

- Schuylkill Conservation District, Upper Swatara Creek QHUP AMD Monitoring Project: \$67,024

TOTAL: \$1,193,603

GRAND TOTAL: \$25,143,294

Source: Department of Environmental Protection (DEP),

\$1 Million Available for Tribes to Clean Up Diesel Engines

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency announced the availability of \$1 million in grant funding for tribal applicants to establish clean diesel projects. Under this grant competition, applicants may request up to \$800,000 in federal funding.

EPA anticipates awarding up to five tribal assistance agreements, and projects may include replacing, upgrading or retrofitting school buses, transit buses, heavy-duty diesel trucks, marine engines, locomotives, energy production generators or other diesel engines. Proposals from tribal applicants must be received by August 23, 2016.

This competition is part of the Diesel Emission Reduction (DERA) program, which funds projects to clean up the nation's legacy fleet of diesel engines. Older diesel engines emit air pollutants such as nitrogen oxides and particulate matter. These pollutants are linked to a range of serious health problems including asthma, lung and heart disease, other respiratory ailments, and premature death.

Since 2008, DERA grants have significantly improved air quality and provided critical health benefits by reducing hundreds of thousands of tons of air pollution and saving millions of gallons of fuel. This is the third tribes-only competition for clean diesel funding. In 2014, EPA awarded over \$925,000 to three tribes in Washington State to replace older marine engines with newer, more efficient ones, and in 2015 over \$1.5M was awarded to six tribes in EPA Regions 6, 9, and 10 for engine repowers and replacement, and truck stop electrification to reduce truck idling.

The Tribal Clean Diesel Funding Assistance Program gives priority to projects which achieve significant reductions in diesel emissions and exposure in areas designated as having poor air quality and areas which receive a disproportionate quantity of air pollution from diesel fleets. Further, priority for funding may be given to projects which address the needs and concerns of local communities, those that use partnerships to leverage additional resources and expertise to advance the goals of the project, and those which can demonstrate the ability to promote and continue efforts to reduce emissions after the project has ended.

For more information on the Tribal Request for Proposals and related documents, visit <https://www.epa.gov/cleandiesel/clean-diesel-tribal-grants#rfp>.

For more information on the National Clean Diesel campaign, visit www.epa.gov/cleandiesel.

Source: The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency

EPA Proposes Increase in Renewable Fuel Levels

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) proposed increases in renewable fuel volume requirements across all types of biofuels under the Renewable Fuel Standard (RFS) program. The proposed increases would boost renewable fuel production and provide for ambitious yet achievable growth.

“The Renewable Fuel Standards program is a success story that has driven biofuel production and use in the U.S. to levels higher than any other nation,” said Janet McCabe, acting assistant administrator for EPA’s Office of Air and Radiation. “This administration is committed to keeping the RFS program on track, spurring continued growth in biofuel production and use, and achieving the climate and energy independence benefits that Congress envisioned from this program.”

The proposed volumes would represent growth over historic levels:

- Total renewable fuel volumes would grow by nearly 700 million gallons between 2016 and 2017.
- Advanced renewable fuel — which requires 50 percent lifecycle carbon emissions reductions — would grow by nearly 400 million gallons between 2016 and 2017.
- The non-advanced or “conventional” fuels portion of total renewable fuels — which requires a minimum of 20 percent lifecycle carbon emissions reductions — would increase by 300 million gallons between 2016 and 2017 and achieve 99 percent of the Congressional target of 15 billion gallons.
- Biomass-based biodiesel — which must achieve at least 50 percent lifecycle emissions reductions — would grow by 100 million gallons between 2017 and 2018.
- Cellulosic biofuel — which requires 60 percent lifecycle carbon emissions reductions — would grow by 82 million gallons, or 35 percent, between 2016 and 2017.

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EPA Proposes Increase in Renewable Fuel Levels

Renewable Fuel Volume Requirements for 2014-2018

	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018
Cellulosic biofuel (million gal-	33	123	230	312*	n/a
Biomass-based diesel (billion	1.63	1.73	1.9	2.0	2.1*
Advanced biofuel (billion gallons)	2.67	2.88	3.61	4.0*	n/a
Renewable fuel (billion gallons)	16.28	16.93	18.11	18.8*	n/a

**Proposed Volume Requirements*

The Clean Air Act requires EPA to set annual RFS volume requirements for four categories of biofuels. By displacing fossil fuels, biofuels help reduce greenhouse gas emissions and help strengthen energy security. EPA is proposing to use the tools provided by Congress to adjust the standards below the statutory targets, but the steadily increasing volumes in the proposal continue to support Congress's intent to grow the volumes of these important fuels that are part of the nation's overall strategy to enhance energy security and address climate change. EPA implements the program in consultation with the U.S. Department of Agriculture and the U.S. Department of Energy.

EPA will hold a public hearing on this proposal on June 9, 2016, in Kansas City, Mo. The period for public input and comment will open until July 11.

For more information on today's announcement, go to: <http://www.epa.gov/renewable-fuel-standard-program/proposed-renewable-fuel-standards-2017-and-biomass-based-diesel>.

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

United States Settles with Trader Joe's to Reduce Ozone-Depleting and Greenhouse Gas Emissions at Stores Nationwide

The national grocery store chain Trader Joe's Company has agreed to reduce emissions of potent greenhouse gases from refrigeration equipment at 453 of its stores under a proposed settlement with the U.S. Department of Justice and the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to resolve alleged violations of the Clean Air Act. Under the settlement, Trader Joe's will spend an estimated \$2 million over the next three years to reduce coolant leaks from refrigerators and other equipment and improve company-wide compliance. The company will also pay a \$500,000 civil penalty.

The United States alleged that Trader Joe's violated the Clean Air Act by failing to promptly repair leaks of R-22, a hydrochlorofluorocarbon (HCFC) that is an ozone-depleting substance and potent greenhouse gas used as a coolant in refrigerators. The company also failed to keep adequate servicing records of its refrigeration equipment and failed to provide information about its compliance record.

"Taking action to combat climate change is a priority for the Obama Administration and this settlement will result in substantial cuts to one of the most potent greenhouse gases," said Cynthia Giles, Assistant Administrator for EPA's Office of Enforcement and Compliance Assurance. "The company-wide upgrades Trader Joe's will make are not only good for the environment, they set a high bar for the grocery industry for detecting and fixing coolant leaks."

"By reducing the amount of ozone depleting refrigerants and potent greenhouse gasses released into the atmosphere, this settlement will assist our efforts to control these two major global environmental problems," said Assistant Attorney General John C. Cruden of the Department of Justice's Environment and Natural Resources Division. "The consent decree will also help assure Trader Joe's future compliance with the Clean Air Act, by requiring heightened auditing, leak monitoring, centralized computer recordkeeping, and searchable electronic reporting to EPA."

Trader Joe's will now implement a corporate refrigerant compliance management system to comply with federal stratospheric ozone regulations and to detect and repair leaks through a new quarterly leak monitoring program. In addition, Trader Joe's will achieve and maintain an annual corporate-wide average leak rate of 12.1 percent through 2019, well below the grocery store sector average of 25 percent. The company must also use non-ozone depleting refrigerants at all new stores and major remodels and at least 15 of these stores must use advanced refrigerants, such as carbon dioxide which have significantly less global warming potential compared to typical refrigerants.

The total estimated greenhouse gas emissions reductions from this settlement are equal to the amount from over 6,500 passenger vehicles driven in one year, the CO₂ emissions from 33 million pounds of coal burned, or the carbon sequestered by 25,000 acres of forests in one year.

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United States Settles with Trader Joe's to Reduce Ozone-Depleting and Greenhouse Gas Emissions at Stores Nationwide

EPA regulations issued under the Clean Air Act require that owners or operators of commercial refrigeration equipment that contain over 50 pounds of ozone-depleting refrigerants repair any leaks within 30 days. Damage to the ozone layer results in dangerous amounts of cancer-causing ultraviolet solar radiation, increasing skin cancers and cataracts. R-22 is also a potent greenhouse gas with 1,800 times more global warming potential than carbon dioxide. Approximately one-quarter of Trader Joe's equipment units use hydrofluorocarbon (HFC) refrigerants that are non-ozone-depleting, but have a high global warming potential. An added benefit of repairing refrigerant leaks is improved energy efficiency of the system which can save electricity.

The settlement is the third in a series of national grocery store refrigerant cases, including cases previously filed against Safeway Inc. and Costco Wholesale Corp. Today's settlement also supports the goals of President Obama's Climate Action Plan by reducing HFC emissions, as well as EPA's proposal under Section 608 of the Clean Air Act that aims to update requirements and improve refrigerant management practices for refrigerants that are greenhouse gases, but not ozone-depleting, such as HFCs. This is the first EPA settlement with requirements to repair leaks of HFCs in order to further reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

Trader Joe's, headquartered in Monrovia, California, is a privately held chain of specialty grocery stores in the U.S., with 461 stores located in 43 states and Washington, D.C. and 2014 revenues of \$9.38 billion.

The settlement was lodged today in the U.S. District Court for the Northern District of California and is subject to a 30-day public comment period and final court approval. It will be available for viewing at www.justice.gov/enrd/Consent_Decrees.

For More information on the Presidents Climate Action Plan, please visit:

<https://www.whitehouse.gov/sites/default/files/image/president27sclimateactionplan.pdf>

