

Conservation Committee Report

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Jack Walters—Conservation Chairman

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DEP Announces 61 Watershed Restoration and Stormwater Management Projects Funded by Landmark Penalty Against Sunoco

Grants resulted from landmark DEP penalty against Sunoco for Mariner East 2 pipeline

related to the Mariner East 2 pipeline project. The selected projects improve water quality, restore watersheds, and improve stormwater management.

through reducing runoff pollution, restoring watersheds, or other means," said DEP Secretary Patrick McDonnell.

The Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) has selected 61 projects to receive grants from the historic \$12.6 million penalty assessed to Sunoco for violations

"One thing that all of these projects have in common is that they will improve Pennsylvania's water – whether that is

In February 2018, DEP collected the \$12.6 million penalty for numerous violations along the Mariner East 2 pipeline

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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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DEP Launches Electronic Permit for New Projects Affecting Wetlands and Waterways, Continuing Campaign to Modernize Permitting

The Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) launched an electronic permit system to provide landowners a more efficient way to request permit registrations for new projects that affect wetlands and water-

ways and get a faster response from DEP.

"As part of Governor Wolf's commitment to improve the permitting process, DEP is committed to improving customer service by employing the best technol-

ogies we can, while also understanding the needs of the permit applicants," said DEP Secretary Patrick McDonnell. "We've launched this new system at the request of those who want the

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DEP Announces 61 Watershed Restoration and Stormwater Management Projects (continued)

and began accepting grant applications in April.

Grants were awarded for stormwater management, invasive species removal, forest restoration, farm runoff reduction, streambank restoration, and many other projects that ultimately improve water quality in Pennsylvania. Grantees include County Conservation Districts, municipalities, school districts, and non-profit organizations.

“These projects do not absolve Sunoco of its responsibility to restore any damage to Pennsylvania waters and wetlands through the construction of the pipeline. But it is nice that this penalty could be put directly towards other deserving improvement projects in the communities along the right-of-way,” said McDonnell. “DEP has been vigilant in holding Sunoco accountable for violations and will continue to do so.”

List of selected projects, alphabetically by county:

Allegheny:

Allegheny County Conservation District - \$40,000 – Multiple projects to reduce runoff pollution from Round Hill Park in Elizabeth Township.

Berks:

Berks County Conservation District - \$372,896 – Project to reduce nutrient and sediment runoff from a farm in Caernarvon Township.

American Rivers – \$275,441 – Removal of the Paper Mill Dam on Cacoosing Creek and riparian corridor and streambank restoration in Spring Township.

Spring Township – \$317,000 – Stormwater runoff management project in the Wyomissing Creek watershed in Spring Township.

Spring Township – \$440,000 – Stormwater runoff management project in the Cacoosing Creek watershed in Spring Township.

Caernarvon Township – \$100,000 – Stormwater runoff management project at the Twin Valley High School in Caernarvon Township.

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DEP Announces 61 Watershed Restoration and Stormwater Management Projects (continued)

Birdsboro Municipal Authority – \$750,000 – Rehabilitation of the Indian Run Dam in Robeson Township.

Cumru Township – \$118,000 – Urban stormwater management in Cumru Township.

Cumru Township – \$238,115 – Connecting noncommunity water systems to a public water supply in Cumru Township.

Blair County:

The Trust for Tomorrow – \$223,713 – Restoring 4,000 feet of Halter Creek and Frankstown Branch stream in Blair Township.

The Trust for Tomorrow – \$17,300 – Restoring 100 linear feet of stream and 3,500 square feet of riparian buffer on Piney Creek in Woodbury Township.

Cambria County:

Cambria County Conservation District – \$592,407 – Installation of features to reduce agricultural runoff from Vale Wood Farms in Munster Township.

Washington Township – \$340,000 – Restoration of an abandoned mine spoil pile to reduce mine drainage into the Little Conemaugh River in Washington Township.

Chester County:

Green Valley Association of Southeastern PA – \$168,212 – Riparian buffers and other features to reduce agricultural runoff in East Nantmeal Township.

West Chester Area School District – \$61,656 – Removing invasive species and restoring natural diverse forest in Westtown Township.

West Whiteland Township – \$223,325 – Urban stormwater management in West Whiteland Township.

West Goshen Township – \$215,273 – Urban stormwater management that will reduce impacts to Taylor Run in West Goshen Township.

Uwchlan Township – \$117,324 – Urban stormwater management that will reduce impacts to impaired tributary to Shamona Creek in Uwchlan Township.

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DEP Announces 61 Watershed Restoration and Stormwater Management Projects (continued)

Uwchlan Township – \$123,824 – Urban stormwater management that will reduce runoff pollution into a tributary of the East Branch of Brandywine Creek in Uwchlan Township.

Uwchlan Township – \$99,401 – Urban stormwater management to reduce runoff pollution to a tributary to Valley Creek in Uwchlan Township.

East Goshen Township – \$350,000 – Stream restoration to enhance water resources and recreation opportunities in East Goshen Township.

Wallace Township – \$118,500 – Managing stormwater from nearby ballfields and parking lots to reduce pollution to Brandywine Creek in Wallace Township.

Upper Uwchlan Township – \$282,432 – Restoration of the Marsh Creek Watershed in Upper Uwchlan Township.

West Goshen Township – \$110,142 – Restoration of riparian buffer in the Chester Creek watershed in West Goshen Township.

Cumberland County:

Cumberland County Conservation District – \$90,000 – Technical assistance for Cumberland County farmers to plant cover crops that will reduce nutrient and sediment runoff pollution across Cumberland County.

Middlesex Township – \$631,600 – Stream restoration and stormwater management to reduce pollution into Wertz Run and Hogestown Run in Middlesex Township.

Cumberland County Conservation District – \$91,211 – Pollution reduction from farm fields in Lower Frankford Township.

Lower Allen Township – \$122,358 – Improved stormwater management to reduce runoff pollution into the Yellow Breeches Creek in Lower Allen Township.

Lower Allen Township – \$60,536 – Improved stormwater management to reduce runoff pollution into Cedar Run Creek in Lower Allen Township.

Dauphin County:

Highspire Borough – \$205,000 – Restoring Burd Run in Highspire Brough through streambank stabilization, tree and shrub planting, and stormwater management.

Derry Township Municipal Authority – \$103,000 – Restoring 1,700 feet of impaired streambank in Derry Township.

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DEP Announces 61 Watershed Restoration and Stormwater Management Projects (continued)

Lower Swatara Township – \$180,000 – Multiple stream and streambank restoration projects near Greenfield Park and the Middletown Area Middle School in Lower Swatara Township.

Londonderry Township – \$193,200 – Restoration of Conewago Creek in Londonderry Township through riparian forest buffers, streambank stabilization, floodplain restoration, and stormwater management.

Delaware County:

Middletown Township – \$198,472 – Stormwater management, streambank restoration, and invasive species removal in Middletown Township.

Thornbury Township – \$75,864 – Retrofitting a stormwater retention basin into a rain garden to help reduce stormwater runoff pollution in Thornbury Township.

Upper Chichester Township – \$89,175 – Stormwater management project to reduce runoff pollution and improve recreational access in Upper Chichester Township.

Rose Tree Media School District – \$151,000 – Improvements to the drinking water infrastructure at Glenwood Elementary School in Middletown Township.

Brookhaven Borough - \$110,000 – Stormwater management to reduce runoff pollution into Chester Creek and Ridley Creek in Brookhaven Borough.

Huntingdon County:

Huntingdon County Conservation District – \$155,023 – Reduction of agricultural runoff pollution in Shirley Township, Tell Township, Union Township, and Penn Township.

Indiana County:

Indiana County Conservation District – \$435,293 – Streambank stabilization and other improvements to reduce runoff pollution into Weir's Run in Burrell Township.

Indiana County Conservation District – \$88,152 – Streambank restoration and riparian forest buffers to improve Buttermilk Falls in West Wheatfield Township.

Indiana County Conservation District – \$60,877 – Streambank restoration of Tom's Run in Burrell Township.

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DEP Announces 61 Watershed Restoration and Stormwater Management Projects (continued)

Lancaster County:

Conservation Foundation of Lancaster County – \$140,000 – Floodplain restoration in the Cocalico Creek headwaters in West Cocalico Township.

Lebanon County:

Lebanon Valley Conservancy – \$150,774 – Restoration of 2,000 linear feet of Beck Creek in West Cornwall Township.

Lebanon Valley Conservancy – \$159,094 – Restoration of 2,310 linear feet of Snitz Creek in Cornwall Borough.

South Annville Township – \$90,000 – Restoration of Bachman Run in South Annville Township by stabilizing streambanks, planting forest buffer, and building fish habitat structures.

Borough of Cornwall – \$166,400 – Stormwater runoff pollution reduction in the Goosetown neighborhood of Cornwall Borough.

West Cornwall Township – \$241,225 – Improvements to the Quentin Water System in West Cornwall Township.

South Lebanon Township – \$66,900 – Stormwater management to reduce runoff pollution in South Lebanon Township.

South Londonderry Township – \$90,000 – Installation of riparian buffers at Campbelltown Park in South Londonderry Township.

South Lebanon Township – \$81,600 – Stormwater management to reduce runoff pollution in South Lebanon Township.

West Cornwall Township – \$69,760 – Improvements to the Mt. Gretna Campmeeting Water System in West Cornwall Township.

Washington County:

Western Pennsylvania Conservancy – \$99,800 – Stabilization of 1,700 feet of Little Chartiers Creek in North Strabane Township, which reduce sediment runoff pollution by an estimated 300 tons per year.

Nottingham Township – \$298,000 – Streambank stabilization along Beagle Club Road in Nottingham township.

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DEP Announces 61 Watershed Restoration and Stormwater Management Projects (continued)

Westmoreland County:

Derry Township – \$250,000 – Stormwater management to reduce runoff pollution to Sulfur Run in Derry Township.

Derry Township – \$195,500 – Wetland construction along Lower Saxman Run in Derry Township.

Rostraver Township – \$327,000 – Reduction of runoff pollution that is impairing Cedar Creek and Pollock Run in Rostraver Township.

Borough of Delmont – \$114,500 – Stormwater management to reduce runoff pollution into Turtle Creek in Delmont Borough.

Hempfield Township Supervisors – \$96,000 – Stormwater management to reduce runoff pollution into a tributary of Little Sewickley Creek in Hempfield Township.

Westmoreland County Conservation District – \$63,270 – Streambank stabilization along Turtle Creek in Murrysville Borough.

Penn Township Sewage Authority – \$240,000 – Elimination of partially treated sewage discharges into Brush Creek in Penn Township.

Source: The Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection (DEP)

DEP Launches Electronic Permit for New Projects Affecting Wetlands and Waterways, Continuing Campaign to Modernize Permitting (continued)

convenience and speed of a web-based permit process.”

A variety of projects are covered by Chapter 105 Wetland and Waterway Obstruction and Encroachment General Permits, including stream crossings, small docks and boat ramps, streambank rehabilitation or protection, gravel bar removal, intake and outfall structures, agricultural crossings and ramps, minor road crossings, agricultural activities, and fish habitat enhancement structures.

DEP processes at least 2,500 Chapter 105 registration requests for business, municipal, and individual landowners each year. The [Chapter 105 e-permit](#), which is accessed through [DEP GreenPort](#) (registration is required for first-time users), will save time for applicants and department reviewers, include online permit payment, reduce the expense of printing complex design drawings, and make information available in real-time to the public, for increased transparency. DEP will also continue to accept paper registrations to accommodate applicants whose only option is a paper form.

The Chapter 105 e-permit is the latest electronic tool in DEP’s continuing efforts to use technology solutions to improve customer service, reduce paper-driven processes, and further protect the environment. Stakeholders can now use online tools to file permit applications for surface coal mining, storage tank renewals, and radiation protection renewal, and other regulated activities. In addition, DEP has developed online processes to digitize grants systems, modernize facility inspection processes, and archive content for access by both staff and the public.

As DEP continues to seek ways to modernize and increase efficiency, the agency encourages applicants to use the Chapter 105 e-permit and provide feedback on it.

“We value the community’s insights on using the e-permit. They’ll be very helpful as we work to perfect a tool that enables improved service, efficiency, response time, and transparency,” said McDonnell.

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DEP Launches Electronic Permit for New Projects Affecting Wetlands and Waterways, Continuing Campaign to Modernize Permitting (continued)

Applicants are encouraged to send comments and suggestions on the e-permit to a dedicated email account: ra-epbweweperdwet105@pa.gov . All messages will be reviewed and considered for future improvements. Applicants will also be invited to participate in a web-based conference call to learn more about the functionality of the new tool and provide recommendations for potential enhancements.

Source: The Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection (DEP)

Governor Wolf's PFAS Action Team Outlines Public Outreach Plans

Action Team calls for expert presentations and public input on concerns

At an organizational meeting held, Governor Wolf's PFAS Action Team announced that it has opened a comment period to take public input regarding per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) and is inviting proposals for expert presentations to the Action Team at a public meeting to be held on November 30, 2018.

"Public comment, expert presentations, public meetings, and additional testing can help us develop a clear path forward, including more fully defining state agency roles to ensure we are doing all we can to address this problem," Governor Wolf said.

Governor Wolf signed an [executive order](#) forming the PFAS Action Team on September 19, 2018, as one of a series of steps to address PFAS contaminants across the commonwealth and protect Pennsylvania residents. The governor tasked the Action Team with developing a comprehensive response to identify and eliminate sources of contamination, ensure drinking water is safe, and manage environmental contamination.

"As we move forward aggressively to address these substances, it is critical that we work closely with affected residents, municipal officials, water system operators, and the scientific community to gather as much information as we can about potential impacts to public health and the environment," said Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) Secretary Patrick McDonnell, who chairs the Action Team.

The PFAS Action Team November 30th meeting will be open to the public, with additional details on time and location to be announced shortly. The PFAS Action Team invites presentation proposals on topics including: known sources of PFAS chemicals, health limits and impacts, and environmental impacts. To propose a presentation topic for the November meeting, please contact ra-epthepolicyoffice@pa.gov. The Action Team will take public comment through the DEP eComment tool - <https://www.ahs.dep.pa.gov/eComment/>.

In addition to Secretary McDonnell, the Action Team is led by the secretaries of the departments of Health, Military and Veteran Affairs, Community and Economic Development, Agriculture, Transportation, and the State Fire Commissioner.

Governor Wolf's PFAS Action Team Outlines Public Outreach Plans (continued)

“The Wolf Administration is committed to ensuring that Pennsylvanians are informed of the potential health risks of PFAS, and the work that has been done to investigate the topic,” Secretary of Health Dr. Rachel Levine said. “The Department of Health has been on the forefront, participating in a pilot project to inform future studies across the U.S. on PFAS. We are committed to working to ensure the health and well-being of Pennsylvanians.”

Over the course of the past year, the Department of Health (DOH) has been involved in a pilot to help determine the prevalence of PFAS. Part of the program, which is funded by the federal government, has involved conducting blood level testing for members of randomly chosen households. These individuals have agreed to the testing and visited a clinic to have a blood sample drawn. DOH has begun sending results of the blood level testing to those who were tested. A final report will be developed based on test results, with a public meeting planned to discuss the final report.

Other Executive Actions announced by the governor to address PFAS includes outreach to both the EPA and Pennsylvania's congressional delegation to push for additional funding and coordination and hiring toxicologists at DOH to evaluate defensible PFAS drinking water limits. In addition, DEP is currently developing a sampling plan to test public water systems and identify any additional systems with elevated PFAS levels in drinking water. Sampling will begin in early 2019, and water systems will be selected based on risk characteristics developed by the department. Results will be shared with the public via the Action Team when completed.

PFAS substances were commonly used in applications that include surface coating of paper and cardboard packaging products, carpets, non-stick pans, and textiles, as well as firefighting foams. These substances have been detected in air, water, and soil in and around production manufacturing facilities, and airports and military bases that used firefighting foams. Companies began phasing out the production and use of several PFAS substances in the early 2000s, and two of the most well studied—perfluorooctanoic acid (PFOA) and perfluorooctane sulfonate (PFOS)—are no longer manufactured or imported into the United States. Despite the phase-out, contamination has been identified at 15 sites in Pennsylvania, each of which are being addressed by state and federal cleanup efforts.

Source: PA DEP

Summary of West Nile Virus Activity

Summary of WNV activity:

Human – 72

Adams- 1

Allegheny- 4

Berks- 4

Bucks- 6

Cambria- 3

Centre- 2

Chester- 2

Clinton- 1

Dauphin- 1

Delaware- 3

Fayette- 1

Franklin- 8

Lancaster- 5

Lebanon- 5

Lehigh- 1

Monroe- 2

Montgomery- 7

Montour- 1

Philadelphia- 11

Tioga- 1

Westmoreland- 1

York- 2

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Summary of West Nile Virus Activity (continued)

Veterinary – 70

Mosquito – 4680

Avian - 106

The WNV surveillance and control season has wrapped up work for 2018.

Source: PA Dept. Health

Wolf Administration Announces Funding for 15 Local Projects to Protect Sustainability of Lake Erie, Delaware River Coastal Areas

Fifteen projects by municipalities, schools, and community organizations will help protect and restore water quality, shoreline stability, trails, and other community and natural resources in the coastal areas along Lake Erie and the tidal Delaware River in Pennsylvania, thanks to nearly \$550,000 in grants from the Department of Environmental Protection (DEP).

“Our coastal areas are complex ecosystems that provide a bounty of natural and community resources,” said DEP Secretary Patrick McDonnell. “Local initiatives to protect their environmental sustainability will also protect public health, infrastructure, business, and outdoor recreation opportunities. This is essential as coastal zones come under increasing pressure from development, erosion, severe storms, biodiversity loss, and pollution.”

This year’s grants support a variety of initiatives, including debris cleanup, public educational programs, creek restoration and trail construction projects, a living shoreline to stabilize erosion, research on algal bloom impacts, and development of local municipal capacity to adapt to flooding related to climate change.

Coastal areas comprise coastal waters and adjacent shorelands. The 112-mile Delaware Estuary coastal area is in Bucks, Delaware, and Philadelphia counties. It encompasses islands, marshes, and other areas in the Delaware Estuary watershed, as well as the Port of Philadelphia.

The 77-mile Lake Erie coastal area is in Erie County and includes the Lake Erie shoreline and several major tributaries. It also extends to the middle of the lake, to the international boundary with Canada, and inland an average of 1.4 miles.

Tidal Delaware River Coastal Area

Bensalem Township – \$50,000 to construct a segment of the Bensalem Greenway trail through Ryn County Park as part of the East Coast Greenway initiative from Maine to Florida

Delaware Valley Regional Planning Commission – \$50,000 to conduct outreach to municipalities in the Delaware Estuary Coastal Zone focused on climate resiliency and related hazard mitigation; \$45,000 to implement the Coastal Management Program in the Delaware Estuary Coastal Zone

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Wolf Administration Announces Funding for 15 Local Projects to Protect Sustainability of Lake Erie, Delaware River Coastal Areas (continued)

Friends of Silver Lake Nature Center – \$9,440 to provide water quality monitoring and community educational programming on non-point-source pollution

Heritage Conservancy – \$24,000 to provide community educational programming, help restore biodiversity and habitat through invasive species control, and develop school and scout volunteer stewardship opportunities at Croydon Woods Preserve

PA Cleanways/Keep Pennsylvania Beautiful – \$10,000 to conduct community cleanups and debris removal in the Delaware Estuary

Partnership for the Delaware Estuary, Inc. – \$52,722 to conduct a study on integrating freshwater mussel restoration and living shorelines on the Schuylkill River; \$34,503 to conduct Pennsylvania Coast Day 2019 events to educate the public about coastal recreation, historic sites, and public access

Schuylkill River Development Corporation – \$50,000 to complete the final design for a new segment of Schuylkill Banks, part of the Schuylkill River Trail, from Christian to Crescent; \$42,000 to complete the Bartram's Mile fishing pier feasibility study

Lake Erie Coastal Area

County of Erie – \$70,00 for coordination and technical assistance with Lake Erie coastal zone projects; \$9,000 to assist Lake Erie coastal communities in administering the Bluff Recession and Setback Act of 1980

Erie Times-News in Education – \$41,572 for a recurring Newspaper in Education weekly page focusing on coastal zone environmental issues

Gannon University – \$11,915 to conduct the Regional Summer School of Excellence

Regional Science Consortium – \$49,834 to research the impact of Harmful Algal Blooms on wild and domestic animal populations

Source: Department of Environmental Protection (DEP).

Wolf Administration Boosts Local Recycling and Leaf Collection Programs

Nearly 200 county and municipal governments will expand collections

Nearly 200 county and municipal governments will be getting a boost to their recycling and leaf collection programs this year, thanks to \$37 million in Recycling Development and Implementation Grants from the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection (DEP).

Grants were awarded to 195 county and municipal governments for recycling collections and education, as well as leaf litter pickup.

“By providing these grants, we are helping bolster recycling in communities all over Pennsylvania, and reduce the amount of material going into our landfills,” said DEP Secretary Patrick McDonnell. “Whether it’s from increased education for residents or an entire facility for sorting recyclables, these grants are making a difference.”

Many of the grants are for community leaf collection programs. Leaf litter cannot be sent to landfills, and many municipalities prohibit open burning.

“Composting leaf waste from residential areas is a good practice,” said McDonnell. “It allows a beneficial use of the leaves that fall every year, and cuts down on air pollution from burning leaves.”

Through the grant program, municipalities and counties in Pennsylvania are eligible for up to 90 percent funding of approved recycling program costs. Municipalities that are designated financially distressed under the Financial Distressed Communities Act are eligible to receive funding for an additional 10 percent of approved costs. Grants were also awarded based on programs designed to meet current market demands for recyclable goods.

Examples of eligible projects include operating leaf compost facilities; developing web-based programs on recycling for consumers; expanding recycling processing facilities; installing data collection systems on recycling vehicles; continuing and creating curbside recycling programs; and developing educational materials to encourage residents to properly recycle.

The awardees and grant amounts, alphabetically by county:

**Wolf Administration Boosts Local Recycling and Leaf Collection Programs(
continued)**

Allegheny County:

Allegheny County	\$198,000
Baldwin Borough	\$264,681
Fox Chapel Borough	\$350,000
Green Tree Borough	\$77,958
Oakmont Borough	\$112,140
Penn Hills Municipality	\$288,000
Pittsburgh City	\$350,000
Robinson Township	\$244,726
West Homestead Borough	\$277,110
Wilkins Township	\$24,570

Beaver County:

Aliquippa City	\$53,700
Beaver Borough	\$234,000
Beaver County	\$350,000
Brighton Township	\$18,000
Chippewa Township	\$108,000
Monaca Borough	\$198,000
New Sewickley Township	\$166,500
Patterson Township	\$49,500
Vanport Township	\$130,500

Source: Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection (DEP).

DEP Advises Homeowners to Inspect Home Heating Oil Tanks and Take Precautions to Prevent Spills, Leaks

The Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) advised residents to inspect and assess home heating oil tanks before the upcoming heating season to avoid leaks or spills that can be prevented.

Nearly one in five Pennsylvania households uses heating oil to stay warm in the winter. Owners of home heating oil tanks should inspect indoor and outdoor tanks for potential problems. Leaking heating oil tanks can contaminate drinking water and soils, diminish indoor air quality, create the potential for fires and explosions, and subject tank owners to very expensive cleanups, which may not be covered by homeowner insurance policies. With proper tank management, spills and leaks can be avoided. Tank owners who think their oil tank may have a problem should immediately contact their oil company for help.

DEP encourages home heating oil tank owners to routinely inspect the exterior of the tank and all attached equipment and follow these tips:

- For safety reasons, always assume the tank contains at least some oil.

- Check for signs of rusting on the tank and its structural supports.

- Examine the tank's fill line and feed line to the furnace for leaks.

- Check for signs that the vent line is clogged by debris such as spider or bee nests.

- Recognize that wet spots or odors near the tank may signal a problem.

- Never tip over or empty a tank onto the ground.

- Enlist a professional to perform maintenance or alterations to a heating oil tank system.

Tank owners should make certain that the home address is clearly visible and the tank's fill line is clearly marked when heating oil is delivered. If a tank owner cannot be home when heating oil is delivered, mark the fill pipe with a red flag or marker and inform the oil company of its location. Residents should ensure that any disconnected fill pipes that remain above the ground are permanently sealed and cannot be opened.

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DEP Advises Homeowners to Inspect Home Heating Oil Tanks and Take Precautions to Prevent Spills, Leaks (continued)

If a leak or spill occurs, tank owners should do the following:

Find the source of the spill or leak and stop or contain the release, using absorbent material like cat litter, sawdust, peat moss or newspaper to stop the release from spreading.

Call the heating oil distributor to remove as much oil from the tank as is necessary to prevent further release.

Immediately notify the municipality and DEP.

If heating oil odors are getting into the house, ventilate affected areas, and close off unaffected areas.

Contact environmental professionals to begin the cleanup.

Keep detailed, accurate records.

Contact the insurance provider.

For more information on home heating oil tanks, visit the new Home Heating Oil web page on DEP's website at www.dep.pa.gov/homeheatingoil or call DEP's Division of Storage Tanks at 717-772-5599.

Source: The Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection (DEP)

DEP Offers Funding for Environmental Education Projects

The Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) invites schools, nonprofit organizations, and businesses to apply for \$205,000 in 2019 Environmental Education Grants to support a wide range of enviro-education projects.

“From a neighborhood event or class activity to statewide public awareness campaigns, environmental educational outreach takes many forms, engaging Pennsylvanians of all ages to develop their local and broader environmental knowledge,” said DEP Secretary Patrick McDonnell. “DEP is committed to supporting these diverse learning experiences, which result in real improvements to the environment and nurture ongoing environmental stewardship.”

General grants of up to \$25,000 will be awarded to larger, one-year, regional or statewide initiatives. Mini-grants of up to \$3,000 will be awarded to one-year projects of any size.

Examples of eligible enviro-education projects include educating participants on climate change adaptation or the impact of emissions on public health, offering training on the DEP permitting process, connecting city residents to nature, and instruction on reducing abandoned mine drainage or non-point-source water pollution from fertilizers.

Applications must be submitted online through [eGrants](#) (first-time users need to register). The application deadline is January 11, 2019, at 11:59 PM.

All interested are encouraged to participate in a free live webinar on how to apply for Environmental Education Grants on Thursday, November 15, 2018, from noon to 1:00 PM. Environmental Education Director Bert Myers will walk through the steps of applying and answer questions. [Registration is required.](#)

Grant application guidelines and instructions are available at [DEP Environmental Education Grants](#). A recording of the webinar will be posted there as well.

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DEP Offers Funding for Environmental Education Projects (continued)

The Environmental Education Grants Program was established by the Environmental Education Act of 1993, which mandates setting aside five percent of the pollution fines and penalties DEP collects annually for environmental education in Pennsylvania. To date the program has provided more than \$11.8 million in grants to more than 1,850 organizations.

Source: The Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection (DEP)