

In Case You Missed It December 2020



Policy Updates

Public Comment Overwhelmingly Supports RGGI Proposal

In September, the Environmental Quality Board (EQB) voted to advance to public comment a proposed rulemaking for Pennsylvania to link with the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative (RGGI), a market-based platform between Northeastern and Mid-Atlantic states committed to reducing greenhouse gas emissions.



Over two weeks in early December, the EQB held ten virtual public hearings to give Pennsylvanians the opportunity to weigh-in on the state's proposal. The support for RGGI was overwhelming: over ninety-five percent of the nearly 500 hearing participants – a record number of participants for these types of hearings – spoke in favor of joining. Read more about the hearings [here](#).

The public comment period runs through January 14th. Written comments on the proposal to join RGGI can still be submitted through the [eComment system](#). After the public comment period, the EQB will again review the proposal. PEC's comments in support of the rulemaking will be posted on our website soon, but for the moment you can read our previous testimony and decarbonization reports [here](#).

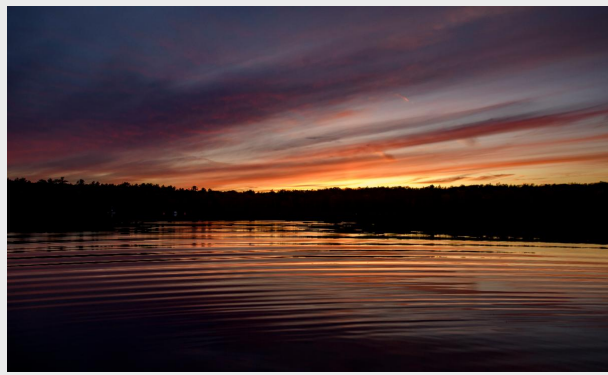
PEC at 50



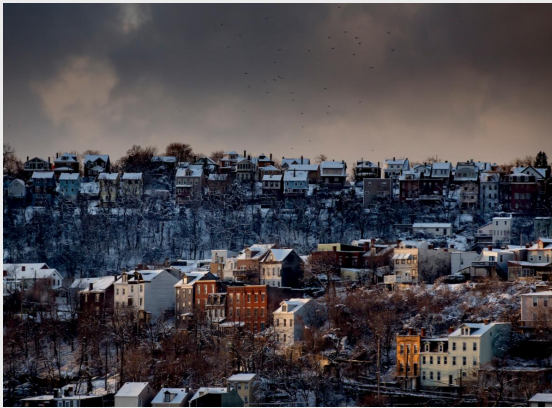
Over the last year, we've celebrated PEC's [50th anniversary](#) by looking back at our history and impact on Pennsylvania's environment. But as we look toward year 51 and beyond, there is plenty more work to be done.

The Next 50: The Only Constant Is Change

In a guest essay for PEC, Dr. Aurora Sharrard, Director of Sustainability at the University of Pittsburgh, poses these questions about addressing the climate crisis: Will we be proactive, or will our planet be the change we are reacting to? And can every one of us participate in and benefit from our efforts?



Read



The Next 50: Pennsylvania's Evolving Legacy

In a guest essay for PEC, Nathan Boon, Senior Program Officer for the William Penn Foundation, discusses how Pennsylvania's conservation legacy can guide the rising generation of environmental leaders and the importance of creating an environmental movement founded on principles of equity and justice.

Read

PEC Blog

Bicycle Film Festival Comes to State College, Virtually

The [Bicycle Film Festival](#), an international celebration of all things cycling, began in NYC in 2001 and now spans the globe. For 2020, the Film Festival partnered with local organizations to move the festival to a virtual format that still championed the impact that bikes have on communities around the world. In State College, the Pennsylvania Environmental Council partnered with the [Nittany Mountain Bike Association](#) and other advocacy groups to host the films and highlight the town's cycling culture.



Read

Pennsylvania Legacies

On its 100th anniversary, a new book



Accidental Paradise

explores the chain of unlikely historical events that gave us Presque Isle State Park. Authors David Frew and Jerry Skrypzak discuss the book, the Isle, and their hometown of Erie, PA.

Listen



The Pennsylvania Legacies podcast features conversations with community leaders, experts, thinkers, and citizens on the most important environmental and conservation issues facing Pennsylvania.

New episodes are posted every other Friday at [pecpa.org/audio](https://www.pecpa.org/audio) and are available on most podcast platforms.



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River of the Year

Voting to Begin for Pennsylvania's 2021 River of the Year

The public can [vote](#) for a favorite state waterway through 5 PM Friday, January 22.

Waterways nominated for 2021 are Buffalo Creek, Lehigh River, Loyalhanna Creek, Shenango River and Tunkhannock Creek.



Nominations were based on each waterway's conservation needs and successes, as well as celebration plans if the nominee is voted 2021 River of the Year. [POWER](#), an affiliate of the Pennsylvania Environmental Council, administers the River of the Year program with funding from DCNR. Presented annually since 1983, this year's 2020 designation was awarded to the Lackawanna River.

Read more [here](#).

PEC In the News

WHYY

A trail circuiting the region? That's the goal of a 500 miles by 2025 campaign

December 26, 2020

The Circuit Trails Coalition is campaigning for 500 miles of walkable, bikeable trails in and around the Philadelphia region by 2025.

Read more [here](#).





[StateImpact Pennsylvania](#)

Pennsylvania's alternative energy goals set to flatline next year, unless legislature acts

December 30, 2020

Pennsylvania's goals for utilities to buy increased amounts of power from alternative sources, such as wind and solar, are set to flatline in 2021 unless the General Assembly acts. Advocates for raising the standards say it will create jobs and help address climate change.

Read more [here](#).

[pahouse.com](#)

Kirkland announces grant for Chester waterfront project

December 17, 2020

The Department of Environmental Protection awarded the Pennsylvania Environmental Council a \$50,000 Coastal Zone grant for the Chester City East Coast Greenway (Highland and Norris) engineering design.

Read more [here](#).



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