

In Case You Missed It

February 2020



Friends of PEC,

The weeks ahead will be eventful as we focus on energy and climate policy priorities including stronger controls on methane emissions from the oil and gas industry, Pennsylvania's prospective membership in the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative, and legislation clearing the way for community solar installations in the Commonwealth. Meanwhile, preparations are underway for springtime trail projects, watershed education events, and gatherings including the 2020 Governor's Awards for Environmental Excellence.

For more on our recent and upcoming activities, visit the PEC website at pecpa.org.

PEC at 50: Taking the Lead

In celebration of PEC's 50th anniversary, we are sharing stories of Pennsylvania's environmental history and the issues that have defined PEC's work over the years.



In just his second term in the state house, Rep. Franklin Kury wrote and fought for an amendment to the state constitution requiring the people's right to clean air and water, a law now known as "Pennsylvania's Environmental Rights Amendment."

"PEC and I worked together," recalls Kury. "PEC, with a few other organizations, really told

the public why this should be passed."

But as PEC's influence and reputation in Harrisburg grew, it remained steadfast to environmental solutions based on science, incorporating the long-term economic impacts of short-term actions, and the realities of the marketplace above politics...

READ

Momentum on Climate

Pennsylvania Capital-Star **Climate action is here and Pennsylvania is entering the race**

"Carbon emissions from our power sector are the fifth highest in the nation while Pennsylvania's oil and gas sector is estimated to emit more than 500,000 metric tons of methane emissions annually – five times higher than industry reported to the state Department of Environmental Protection (DEP)."

"But there is significant reason for hope. Meaningful, affordable, and entirely achievable first steps that are already moving in Harrisburg can be taken now to ratchet down climate-altering emissions."



Read the Feb. 7 [Pennsylvania Capital-Star op-ed](#) by PEC president Davitt Woodwell and Dan Grossman of Environmental Defense Fund:

READ

PEC Blog **Within Reach**

New research shows methane emissions from oil and gas operations are worse than previously believed.

But here in Pennsylvania, there's cause for optimism...



READ

PEC Blog **BP Embraces Carbon Pricing**

BP America is the latest energy company operating in Pennsylvania to endorse the Commonwealth's bid to link up with the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative (RGGI) carbon market. BP Chairman Susan Dio explains why.



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Save the Date

Climate Change and the Laurel Highlands

Ligonier, March 18

This Speaker Series will explore climate impacts and the Laurel Highlands and will include



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presentations covering mitigation and adaption strategies of state agencies including an overview of the DCNR Climate Change Action Plan; state energy policy efforts; and work that is underway and planned to adapt to a changing climate. Participants will gain tools to engage in both policy and practice around climate impacts, regardless of their views.



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Carnegie Mellon University Energy Week

Pittsburgh, March 23-27

Now in its 5th year, CMU Energy Week 2020 will draw more than 1,000 attendees from around the globe. The Wilton E. Scott Institute for Energy Innovation at CMU hosts more than 100 speakers as keynotes and panelists over 5 full days, bringing knowledge and expertise on all facets of energy and cleantech innovation.



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Governor's Awards for Environmental Excellence

Harrisburg, April 21

Recipients of the 2020 Governor's Awards for Environmental Excellence will be honored at a dinner hosted by the Pennsylvania Environmental Council on Tuesday, April 21st, 2020 at the Hilton Harrisburg located at One North Second Street in Harrisburg.

Pennsylvania Legacies



Watershed Allies

The Pennsylvania Organization for Watersheds and Rivers (POWR) provides support for community watershed organizations to build capacity and



Tailwind

The Circuit Trails initiative is starting 2020 with a full slate of projects and a hefty funding boost courtesy of Montgomery County. We talk with Dr. Valerie Arkoosh,

coordinate more effectively with one another. This spring they're taking their show on the road, with regional workshops planned for six locations all over the state.

Circuit advocate and chair of Montco's Board of Commissioners, and PEC's own Patrick Starr, who serves as vice chair of the Circuit Trails Coalition.

[LISTEN](#)

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

New episodes are posted every other Friday at pecpa.org/audio and are available on most podcast platforms.



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