



## Policy Updates

### End of Session

The 2020 legislative session ended with a short flurry of activity, centered on completion of the stop gap fiscal year budget passed earlier this year. With the COVID pandemic disrupting state revenues and lingering uncertainty about further federal assistance, the General Assembly opted to transfer more than \$431 million from special funds to cover state expenditures. The good news is that two key conservation and recreation funds – the Keystone Park, Recreation, and Conservation Fund, as well as the Environmental Stewardship Fund – were spared. The bad news is that more than \$200 million was transferred from other environmental and energy programs. The Pennsylvania Environmental Digest has a [detailed breakdown](#) of the approved budget.



And, as has become routine in budget legislation, several other provisions were added to the fiscal code bill at the last moment – including establishment of a regional ATV pilot program in select state forest districts, as well as limitations on the Department of Environmental Protection's evaluation of environmental and infrastructure impacts resulting from underground coal mining.

One additional piece of legislation also passed the General Assembly during that final week. Senate Bill 790, which attempted to roll back environmental performance standards applied to the conventional oil and gas industry, was approved by the legislature but ultimately vetoed by the Governor on November 25<sup>th</sup>. PEC opposed this legislation, which would have made Pennsylvania an outlier among other gas producing states by weakening health and environmental protections. You can see our statement commending the Governor's veto [here](#).

## 2020 Virtual Dinners

Every year, PEC hosts regional awards dinners to celebrate the exceptional work being done by groups and



individuals across the Commonwealth to help the environment. This year, those events looked a little different. While we were not able to gather in person, the virtual events presented new opportunities, including the ability for viewers throughout the state to attend any of the dinners.

We're pleased to share the following recordings of our [30th Annual Evening for Northeast Pennsylvania's Environment](#) and the [50th Philadelphia Environmental Partnership Dinner](#), alongside the Western Pennsylvania Environmental Awards virtual program.

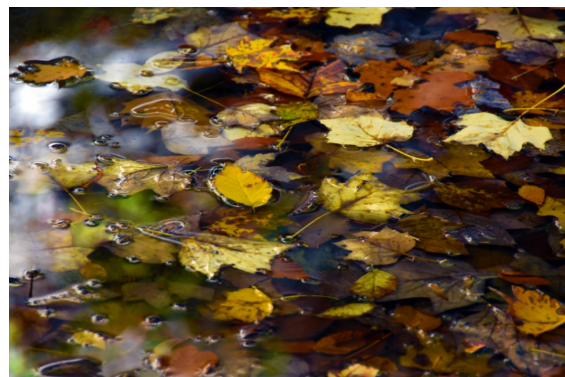
[View the Events](#)

## PEC Blog

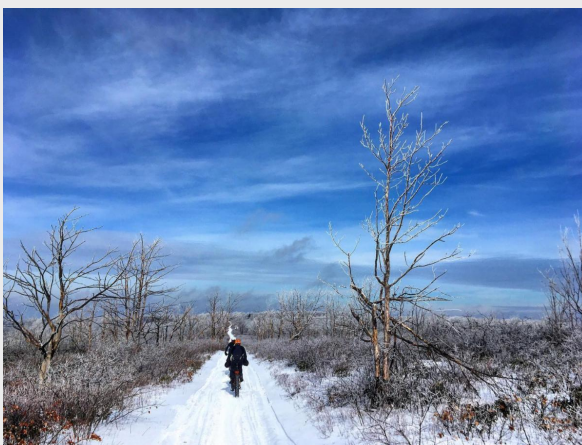
### Watershed Notes

PEC's water team staff continues to participate in programs across the Commonwealth, keeping our focus on initiatives which promote clean and healthy watersheds. Through partnership work we help strengthen community connection to these local waterways and highlight the multiple benefits of clean and healthy waterways to residents, businesses, and local elected officials.

Read more [here](#).



### Embrace the Cold, Remain Outside



Spending time outdoors has many proven benefits, from elevating mood and lowering anxiety levels to warding off countless diseases and boosting the immune system. As Covid-19 cases continue to reach record levels and the daylight continues to wane and the temperatures drop, plenty of people are dreading the dark winter ahead. But trails can offer an antidote. Cooler weather doesn't have to signal an end to enjoying the outdoors and reaping these benefits.

Read more [here](#).

## PEC at 50: Where Are They Now?

For five decades, PEC's staff has shared a



common goal: to protect and restore Pennsylvania's environment. This mission has always attracted a talented group from a wide range of professional backgrounds. Over the years, this staff has turned over as folks switched paths or retired. But each individual that has worked at PEC has contributed to its impact and helped shape its legacy. In honor of our **50th anniversary**, we decided to catch up with some former PEC employees to see what they're doing now.

Read more [here](#).



## Pennsylvania Legacies



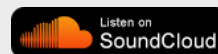
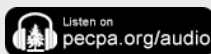
Winners of the 2020 Northeast Environmental Partnership Awards and 2020 Western Pennsylvania Environmental Awards, in their own words.

[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://pecpa.org/audio) and are available on most podcast platforms.*



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## PEC In the News

### [WNEP](#) [Pennsylvania](#) [Environmental Leadership](#) [Awards](#)

WNEP covered PEC's Northeast Environmental Partnership Awards for their PA Outdoor Life series.



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