

WAY E-NEWS

*A coalition of stakeholders committed to being innovative leaders
encouraging watershed-based planning, restoration and protection*



Monday, October 7, 2013

A PUBLIC-PRIVATE PARTNERSHIP

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- PENNVEST, DEP Announce Final Nutrient Credit Trading Auction for 2013 - Oct 16
- Pennsylvania Municipal Workshop - Oct 16
- FNLT Downtown Hoedown - TWO WEEKS AWAY! - Oct 17
- VUSP Pennsylvania Stormwater Symposium - Oct 17-18
- 11th Lancaster-Lebanon County Watershed Forum - Oct 26
- National Take-Back Initiative - Oct 26
- Eastern Boot Camp on Environmental Law® - Nov 11-13
- Pennsylvania Water Laws and Regulations - Nov 14
- 2013 Turning a New Leaf Conference REGISTRATION NOW OPEN! - Nov 16
- GreenBuild 2013 - Nov 20-22
- Registration Now Open for DEP's Annual Statewide Brownfields Conference - Dec 9-11

WATERSHED FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE...Page 8

- Urban Waters Small Grants Program - Nov 25
- Environmental Solutions for Communities - Dec 16
- 2014 Draft AmeriCorps Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) - Jan 8
- 2013 Specialty Crop Block Grant (SCBG) Program

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- FEMA Publishes Policy on Flood Risk Analysis and Mapping Standards
- Changes in the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) take effect on October 1, 2013
- EPA Report: Climate Change Impacts on Streamflow and Water Quality in 20 Watersheds
- Nitrogen & Phosphorus Pollution Data Access Tool Announcement
- NOAA Releases Report Explaining Extreme Events of 2012 from a Climate Perspective
- WaterSense Brings Water Savings to Commercial Kitchens with New Specifications

WATERSHED CONTACTS

- COUNTY PLANNING - (717) 771-9870**
CONSERVATION - (717) 840-7430
- Agricultural conservation planning
 - Environmentally sensitive dirt & gravel road maintenance
 - Environmental stewardship and watershed protection
 - Erosion & sediment control
 - Stormwater complaints
- 24-HR EMERGENCIES - (877) 333-1904**
- Chemical and oil spills from transport trucks, trains and industrial facilities
- ENVIRONMENTAL - DEP-SCRO**
- General Info 717-705-4700
 - Air Quality 717-705-4702
 - Energy & Technology 717-705-4703
 - Environmental Cleanup 717-705-4705
 - Mining (800) 541-2050
 - Radiation Protection 717-705-4704
 - Waste Management 717-705-4706
 - Water Supply Management 717-705-4708
- Water Management 717-705-4707
 - Watershed Management 717-705-4704
- FISHERIES - (800) 541-2050**
- Wildlife (fish, reptiles, amphibians) nuisance problems or to report violations
 - FISH KILL 1-855-347-4545
- GAME & WILDLIFE - (888) 742-8001**
- Wildlife (mammals or birds) to report violations or nuisance problems
- ILLEGAL DUMPING**
- Illegal dumping on state forest and park lands (877) 772-3673
 - Illegal dumping York County 840-7687
- MUNICIPAL (Phonebook Blue Pages)**
- Air pollution by burning household garbage
 - Dumping waste in surface waters
 - Floodplain disturbances
 - Municipal and residential septic/sewage problems
 - Stormwater management
- NOXIOUS PLANTS - (717) 772-5209**
RECYCLING - (717) 845-1066
WETLANDS - (717) 249-2522
- Updated 4/27/2011*

- EPA Encourages Homeowners to Care for Their Septic Systems During SepticSmart Week
- Video Highlights WARNs in Action
- Smart Location Database—A Resource for Measuring Location Efficiency and the Built Environment
- Implementing Stormwater Infiltration Practices at Vacant Parcels and Brownfield Sites



WATERSHED ALLIANCE NEWS

Ag Land Preservation Board of York County – www.york-county.org/gov/AUTH/agri.htm

- For information contact Patty McCandless at pmccandless@york-county.org or call 717-840-7400.

Carroll Citizens for Sensible Growth - <http://carrollcitizens.com/>

- Contact: Deana Weaver at (717) 432-2211 or admin@carrollcitizens.com

Codorus Creek Watershed Association – www.codoruscreek.net

- Oct 14 –Meeting of Members and Board, 7:00 pm, at York Water Co. (Mt. Rose Ave.). Strategic planning initiative. It is essential that all members attend.
- Contact: Jim Leaman at 843-2929

Codorus Endowment Implementation Committee – www.yccf.org

- For more information, contact the York County Community Foundation at 717.848.3733; Email: info@yccf.org

Codorus State Park

- Contact Manager Warren Werntz, Codorus state Park Ph: 717-637-2816; E-mail: codorusssp@pa.gov

Conewago Canoe Club – www.conewagocanooclub.org

- Club Meets bi-monthly at Mount Zion United Church of Christ, 7:00 pm, at Ridgewood Road in Pleasureville
- Questions or comments e-mail me oc1mike@comcast.net, but remember you catch more flies with honey than vinegar.

Deer Creek Watershed Association – <http://deercreekwatershed.com/>

- Contact Lee McDaniel at ldmcdaniel@aol.com.

Farm & Natural Lands Trust of York County – www.farmtrust.org

- Contact: Sean Kenny at Farm & Natural Lands Trust of York County. Ph: (717) 843-4411 or e-mail skenny@farmtrust.org

Gifford Pinchot State Park – www.dcnr.state.pa.us/stateparks/parks/giffordpinchot.aspx

- Event calendar <http://www.dcnr.state.pa.us/Calendar/list.asp>
- Contact Elizabeth Kepley, Environmental Education Specialist, DCNR Bureau of State Parks. Ph: 717-432-5011

Gunpowder Valley Conservancy – www.gunpowderfalls.org

- Contact: Gunpowder Valley Conservancy, P.O. Box 9733. Towson, MD 21284. Or Assistant Project Manager Rachel Streusand rstreusand@gunpowderfalls.org.

Horn Farm Center for Agricultural Education – www.hornfarmcenter.org

- Contact: Horn Farm Center for Agricultural Education. Ph: (717)654-0571. Email: info@hornfarmcenter.org. Web: www.hornfarmcenter.org

Izaak Walton League York Chapter #67 – www.yorkchapter67iwla.org/

- Club Open Meetings are held the Third Tuesday of each month at 7pm in the Clubhouse.
- Contact: York Chapter #67 IWLA. Ph: 717-428-2000

Lower Susquehanna Riverkeeper – www.lowersusquehannariverkeeper.org

- Contact: Michael Helfrich, Lower Susquehanna RIVERKEEPER®, York, PA. Cell phone: 717-779-7915 E-mail: lawsusriver@hotmail.com.

Maryland's Upper West Shore Trib Team – <http://www.dnr.state.md.us/waters/tribstrat/>

- Next meeting Monday, 7th October @ 5:30 p.m. venue also TBD but hopefully at the McFaul Center in Bel Air.
- Upper Western Shore Water Quality and Habitat Assessment: A presentation to the Upper Western Shore Tributary Team and the Otter Point Creek Alliance at the Anita C. Leight Estuary Center . Monday December 2nd 2013 @ 5:30 pm
- Contact: Rupert Rossetti, Tributary Team Coordinator, e-mail: RupertRossetti@aol.com

Mason-Dixon Trail System, Inc. - <http://www.masondixontrail.org/>

- Trail Work – The York Hiking Club is having weekly trail work hikes on Thursdays. Most of the work hikes are on the Mason-Dixon Trail System. Contact Jim Hooper 717/252-3784 if you are interested in joining the group.
- Contact: James Hooper at 717/252-3784 or j.e.hooper@ieee.org

Mid-Atlantic Ecological Landscapes Partnership [MAEscapes] –<http://extension.psu.edu/plants/gardening/maescapes>

- Contact: 717-840-7408 or Connie Schmotzer at cxs51@psu.edu

[Peach Bottom Concerned Citizens Group Inc. - www.pbccg.com](http://www.pbccg.com)

- Contact Maria Payan by email pbccg@hotmail.com or mail: Peach Bottom Concerned Citizens Group, P.O. Box 307 Delta, PA 17314. PBCCG, Inc is a nonprofit organization supported solely by volunteers and donations.

[Prettyboy Watershed Alliance - www.prettyboywatershed.org](http://www.prettyboywatershed.org)

- Contact: *Prettyboy Watershed Alliance, P.O. Box 512, Monkton, MD 21111-0512. Phone us at: 410.239.0640*

[Sierra Club – Gov. Pinchot Group of PA - http://pennsylvania.sierraclub.org/pinshot/](http://pennsylvania.sierraclub.org/pinshot/)

- [Adopt-a-Highway Cleanup](#), Saturday October 19th, 8:30 am, Route 283/HIA Airport Connector
- Oct 29 – Upcoming monthly meetings will be held at the East Shore Area Library (ESA), 4501 Ethel Street, Harrisburg, PA 17109 at 6:30 pm. All meetings are on the last Tuesday of the month at 6:30 pm and will be held at the ESA unless noted.
- Contact GVP Sierra Club, P.O. Box 606, Harrisburg, PA 17108-0606. GVPSierraClub@email.com

[Shank's Mare Outfitters GO PLAY OUTSIDE! - www.shanksmare.com](http://www.shanksmare.com)

- Call Us: 717-252-1616. Email us: Shanksmare@comcast.net

[Spoutwood Farm Center for Sustainable Living - www.spoutwood.com](http://www.spoutwood.com)

- Contact Rob & Lucy Woods at Spoutwood Farm at 717-235-6610 or spoutwood@comcast.net.

[Susquehanna Gateway Heritage Area - http://www.susquehannaheritage.org/](http://www.susquehannaheritage.org/)

- Contact Mark Platts, Susquehanna Heritage Corporation. Ph: 717-252-0229. E-mail: info@lyhr.org.

[Trout Unlimited Codorus Chapter #558 - www.codorustu.org](http://www.codorustu.org)

- Monthly Chapter Meetings 2nd Wednesday, 7:00 p.m., at Laughman's Sawmill Pavilion (summer) and Gander Mtn. (winter)
- Contact: Tom Finenze at 840-1372 or tom@codorustu.org

[Trout Unlimited Muddy Creek Chapter #575 - http://muddycreektu.org/](http://muddycreektu.org/)

- Meetings are the third Wednesday of each month. Summer meetings at the Co-op Nursery, Winter meetings at Collinsville F&G Club
- Contact: Ron Heuston, President MCTU, 244-1851 or Heuy1955@aol.com

[Watershed Alliance of Adams County - http://www.adamswatersheds.org/](http://www.adamswatersheds.org/)

- WAAC meets the 4th Wed, 8:30AM, at the Adams County Ag Center
- Contact: Adam McClain, Ph: 717-334-0636; E-mail: stilden@adamswatersheds.org

[Watershed Alliance of York - www.watershedsyork.org](http://www.watershedsyork.org)

- Jan 8 – Next meeting of WAY Board of Directors, 7:00 PM, at The York Water Co., Mt. Rose Ave.
- WAY E-News – Published by the Watershed Alliance of York, Inc. to inform the public about news and information that affect York County watersheds and beyond. Distribution: electronic (1,950). Frequency: bi-weekly. Subscription: No charge. Editor: Gary R. Peacock.
- Contact: Watershed Alliance of York, Inc. (WAY), C/o York County Conservation District, 118 Pleasant Acres Road, York, PA 17402. Phone: (717) 840-7430. Facsimile: (717) 755-0301. E-mail: gpeacock@yorkccd.org

[Wecology - www.wecologypa.org/](http://www.wecologypa.org/)

- Contact: Wecology 130 E.Market St., York, PA 17405. Phone: 717-718-7554.

[Yellow Breeches Watershed Association - www.ybwa.org](http://www.ybwa.org)

- Contact: Deborah Goetz, at deborah.p.goetz@gmail.com or phone 717-697-4734

[York-Adams Pharmaceuticals Stewardship Alliance](#)

- Contact: Martha King at 717-968-3083.

[York-Adams Regional Smart Growth Coalition - www.yorkadamssmartgrowth.org](http://www.yorkadamssmartgrowth.org)

- Contact Shanna Wiest, Government Affairs Director, REALTORS Association of York & Adams Counties, Inc. Ph: (717) 843-7891. Fax: (717) 854-0720. <http://www.rayac.com>

[York Audubon Society - http://www.yorkaudubon.org/](http://www.yorkaudubon.org/)

- YAS monthly meetings are held at: Luther Memorial Church, 1907 Hollywood Drive, York, PA 17403.
- Contact Tom Smith at 717-246-9767 or tjs35@psu.edu.

[York County Conservation District - www.yorkccd.org](http://www.yorkccd.org)

- Board meets 2nd Friday, 11:00 a.m. (December-March) and 2nd Thursday, 7:00 p.m. (Apr.-Nov.), at the York County ANNEX
- Contact: YCCD at 717-840-7430 or yorkccd@yorkccd.org

[York County Parks & Recreation - www.YorkCountyParks.org](http://www.YorkCountyParks.org)

- [Partners in the Park 5K Race](#) October 13th
- For more information, contact York County Department of Parks and Recreation. Ph: (717) 840-7440. E-mail: Parks@York-County.org. Web: www.YorkCountyParks.org.

York County Planning Commission – www.ycpc.org

- Meetings are held the third Monday of the month and held at the 911 Center.
- Contact YCPC at 717-771-9870 or planner@ycpc.org

York County Solid Waste Authority – <http://www.ycswa.org/>

- Contact YCSWA at 717-845-1066



WATERSHED EDUCATION & OUTREACH

Warning: Many watersheds in US failing 'stress test'

The U.S. has a growing water supply problem, [according to a new study](#). Nearly 1 in 10 of the nation's watersheds—areas of land that contain runoff from rivers and streams—are stressed to the point to where demand for water exceeds the natural supply. "There is a lot of pressure on our water supply, especially in the western part of the country," said Kristen Averyt, associate director for science at the [Cooperative Institute for Research in Environmental Sciences](#), and lead author of the report released this month. Read more...

http://www.cncb.com/id/101062973?goback=%2Egde_2689576_member_277844707#%21

Nearly 20,000 Miles Of PA Streams Polluted

The Pennsylvania Office of the [Chesapeake Bay Foundation](#) this week put out the [second in a series of fact sheets](#) on water quality issues facing Pennsylvania saying nearly 20,000 miles of rivers and streams in the state are polluted and do not meet water quality standards. Although much focus has been on the [Chesapeake Bay Clean Water Blueprint](#), many may not realize there are thousands of stream miles and hundreds of acres of lakes all across Pennsylvania that are considered “impaired” under the federal Clean Water Act that either have or will require what is known as a Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL). When a waterbody is called “impaired,” it does not meet scientifically established water quality criteria. Simply stated, a TMDL scientifically answers the question of “how much pollution is too much? Over 7,200 miles of streams have TMDLs in Pennsylvania and more are being added. According to the Department of Environmental Protection’s most recent assessment, more than 19,600 stream miles and nearly 67,990 acres of lakes in Pennsylvania are impaired. This represents roughly 23 percent of all streams and approximately 42 percent of all lakes in the Commonwealth. The three primary causes of impairment are: agricultural runoff (5,705 miles), abandoned mine drainage (5,596 miles) and urban/suburban stormwater runoff (4,103). Sediment from these sources of pollution is the leading carrier of pollution. The effort to “Save the Bay” starts with the small streams of Pennsylvania. The benefits of better water quality, whether they be improved agricultural productivity, reduced flooding, improved sewer and water infrastructure, or downtown revitalization are investments for Pennsylvanians by Pennsylvanians. To date, the Commonwealth has made sound investments in practices to help reduce pollution sources to local rivers and streams. These practices are also the same practices that can be found in Pennsylvania’s phase 1 and 2 Chesapeake Bay plans, called Watershed Implementation Plans, and the associated 2-year Milestone commitments. By galvanizing our efforts, and our funding, on conservation practices that count toward meeting the Commonwealth’s obligations under the Chesapeake Bay Clean Water Blueprint, we are also helping to ensure clean water to local communities in the Bay watershed. A copy of the TMDL fact sheet [is available online](#). The first fact sheet— [A Primer On Pollutants Of Concern](#)— outlines the contributions Pennsylvania’s portion of the Chesapeake Bay Watershed makes to nitrogen, phosphorus and sediment pollution to the Bay.

Scientists defend storm-water controls

Maryland – Scientists and others engaged in protecting Maryland's rivers and streams are rising to the defense of the state's storm-water management laws in the wake of a Harford County Executive's call for their repeal. The fee, which critics have dubbed a "rain tax," is generally assessed based on the amount of pavement and rooftop that property owners have. Critics contend the fees are inconsistently applied and so steep in places like Baltimore that they'll drive businesses out. But in calling for the fee's repeal, the Executive took aim at the scientific basis for focusing on such "impervious surface." He also called for repeal of a 2007 law tightening requirements for new development to limit storm-water runoff, and of a 1984 law limiting development near the shore of the Chesapeake Bay and its tributaries. Scientists take issue with his statement questioning the science behind the storm-water fees. The connection between impervious surface and stream vitality has been established for years now. Rainfall runs off pavement and roofs when in an undeveloped setting it would soak into the ground, explained Kwon. Her nonprofit center works with local governments and others to curb the effects of storm water. The little streams are taking giant loads of water, and the runoff surging into them picks up pollutants on the way, as impervious surface acts as both a collector and conduit of dirt, oil, fertilizer, pet waste and other pollutants. Generally speaking, streams show clear signs of degradation when 10 percent or more of their watershed is covered by pavement and buildings. Besides increased erosion, streams in more developed watersheds experience declines in the number and types of fish and aquatic insects living there, and changes in the basic chemistry of the water. In some cases, streams begin to lose ground with even less development. Elmore said recent studies show that having pavement and buildings cover as little as 2 percent of a stream's watershed can hurt brook trout populations, and the pollution-sensitive fish is never found in streams with more than 4 percent of the watershed paved over. Elmore and Kwon both acknowledge that the costs of reducing storm-water pollution can be daunting, especially for cities and older, more densely developed suburbs. Storm-water runoff accounts for about 20 percent of the nutrient pollution fouling the Chesapeake Bay, according to the Environmental Protection Agency, and is the only source still growing. The important challenge for science and public policy is to find ways of maintaining economic activity without increasing impervious surface area.

Read more: <http://www.baltimoresun.com/features/green/blog/bal-scientists-defend-stormwater-controls-20130918,0,3746868.story#ixzz2hElhW4wC>

Judge rules EPA can enforce nutrient standards

A District Court judge has upheld that the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency has the authority to set and enforce Total Maximum Daily Load for the Chesapeake Bay. The case has implications for Midwestern farmers and ag retailers. U.S. District Court Judge Sylvia Rambo in Harrisburg, ruled that EPA could impose nutrient standards on six states and Washington, D.C., that have waters that flow into Chesapeake Bay. Rambo rejected arguments that EPA had overstepped its bounds under the federal Clean Water Act, created an unfair process and used standards that were flawed or unlawfully complicated, the Associated Press reported. The American Farm Bureau Federation, which originally filed the suit in 2011, issued a statement regarding the judge’s decision. American Farm Bureau Federation President Bob Stallman issued

the following statement regarding the court's decision: AFBF was not alone in its lawsuit. Other industry groups that joined AFBF include the Fertilizer Institute, the National Pork Producers Council, the National Corn Growers Association, the National Chicken Council, the U.S. Poultry and Egg Association and the National Turkey Federation. National Corn Growers Association President Pam Johnson released the following statement in response to the district court's ruling upholding the Environmental Protection Agency's Total Maximum Daily Load for the Chesapeake Bay:

Watershed Development & Forests: How Much Is Too Much, Too Little?

If you've been depending upon stormwater management, sediment control or other protection measures to preserve your favorite waters from development impacts, then you're likely in for disappointment. While these measures definitely provide benefits, they are insufficient to protect sensitive waters from damage. So far only limits on watershed development intensity and preserving a minimum amount of forest has been successful in maintaining healthy streams, rivers, lakes and tidal waters. However, if we watershed advocates can find a way to be far more effective in supporting new technologies like Low-Impact Development and Environmental Site Design, then we may reap the benefits of growth while keeping our waters safe for kids and aquatic ecosystems. Read more...

<http://cedsnews.com/2013/07/29/watershed-development-forests-how-much-is-too-much-too-little/>

ACTION ALERT! Your voice need to help restore the shad fishery

River herring and shad play an important role in the Chesapeake Bay and Atlantic Ocean ecosystems. They are prey for birds, marine mammals, and other fish in the rivers where they spawn and during their long migrations to the sea. Additionally, these species once supported commercial and recreational fisheries and even sustained the Continental Army during the American Revolution, leading to their nickname of America's "founding fish." Unfortunately, populations of shad and river herring have declined to historic lows, threatening coastal environments, economies, and traditions dating back more than 200 years. Critical as they are to the Bay and its rivers and streams, Chesapeake states are doing all they can to bring them back, prohibiting harvesting and investing in fish passageways and water quality improvements. Programs to spawn shad in hatcheries for restocking in the tributaries have been active for decades. Still, it has not been enough. Millions of shad and river herring continue to be killed by industrial fishing vessels targeting mackerel in federal waters of the Atlantic. They need protection through strong federal regulation. Please sign this petition to urge fisheries managers to protect river herring and shad through full federal conservation and management. These measures should include increased monitoring and reporting, establishment of science-based limits on the amount of fish that can be caught at sea, accountability rules, and better habitat protection. Saving river herring and shad means taking a step toward saving the Bay and its rivers and streams. Thank you, Bill Goldsborough, Director of Fisheries, Chesapeake Bay Foundation

[Sign the petition now! Together we can ensure the future of these vital fish, and the future of the Bay we love.](#)

Revised Total Coliform Rule Update

Slowly, but surely, the Revised Total Coliform Rule (RTCR) is being put into place. It was finalized in February of this year with publication in the Federal Register. The effective date of compliance for public water systems is not until April 1, 2016 but water system managers and operators need to be aware of and plan for the changes. Between now and April 2016, most of the work to be done falls on state drinking water primacy agencies, which must adopt state regulations that conform with the RTCR and crosswalk their rules with federal rules. State drinking water agencies can request extensions if submitted before February 13, 2015. The complete RTCR is available at:

www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/FR-2013-02-13/pdf/2012-31205.pdf. A Quick Reference Guide to the RTCR can be found at:

<http://water.epa.gov/lawsregs/rulesregs/sdwa/tcr/upload/epa815b13001.pdf>.

Winterizing Your Pond

While we still may be wearing our shorts, autumn is knocking at our door. It is a beautiful season as the leaves begin to change but all of those falling leaves can be a headache for any of you that have large ponds on your property. The good news is that there are some steps you can take to winterize your pond including preventing problems caused by falling leaves. Read more...

http://extension.psu.edu/natural-resources/water/discovery-watersheds/news/2013/winterizing-your-pond?utm_source=feedburner&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=Feed%3A+agsci-water-watershedwinds+%28Penn+State+Watershed+Winds+Newsletter%29

PAEE News

I hope this email / newsletter finds you well. It seems that Fall is finally upon us, here in Central PA the leaves are on the verge of changing and the air is a little cooler at night. PAEE is currently working on the 2014 Conference, Spheres of Influence: Shaping the Curve of Environmental Education, which will be held on March 14-15, 2014 at Antiochian Village, (near) Ligonier, PA. We currently have information on our home page www.paee.net and will have the registration form ready shortly. We have been busy working on EE Certification, Project Learning Tree, and soon Project WET. We have also been busy with our other websites and resources, all of which will be ready over the course of the next month or so.

Tips for Creating a Wildlife Friendly Backyard

If you've ever wanted to create a wildlife-friendly garden, but weren't sure how to keep it from looking too "wild", now is the perfect time to start. [Fall is a great time to plan and lay groundwork for a beautiful, bustling spring garden — get started today and then certify your yard as a National Wildlife Federation Certified Wildlife Habitat® site.](#) Here are five simple tips gardeners of every experience level can use to create a yard both people and wildlife alike will enjoy:

- Develop a design. Layout is key to creating a space that is pleasing to wildlife and humans. Use pathways, borders, hedges and even fences to create order and group plantings. Sketch out a basic design ahead of time and work from your plan.
- Start slowly. Don't tear up your entire yard at once or you can easily get overwhelmed. You can start small — such as with a butterfly garden — and gradually expand it.
- Cluster flowers and ornamental grasses. Grouping plants together creates a bold impact and makes flowers more visible to the birds and butterflies that enjoy them.

- Include natives. Because native plants are indigenous to a specific region, they usually require less maintenance and are welcomed by birds, butterflies and other wildlife who have adapted to them over time. Native doesn't have to mean "unfamiliar" to you – there are many popular natives that you might already be familiar with, like some hollies, oaks and dogwoods.
- Create orderly cover. If you aren't thrilled about brush piles in your yard, a rock garden or neatly stacked logs can provide appropriate shelter for many small wildlife.

[Once you have your wildlife-friendly garden, be sure to make it official by certifying it as a National Wildlife Federation Certified Wildlife Habitat@ site.](#) When you do, you'll be joining over 150,000 other friends of wildlife who have also certified their yard, plus you'll get great benefits, including a free lunchbag! When you [certify your yard today](#), you'll be eligible to purchase one of our beautiful yard signs to proudly display the fact that your garden is wildlife-friendly.

New Issue of On Tap Available Online

A new issue of On Tap, the National Environmental Services Center's drinking water and wastewater magazine, is now available at www.nesc.wvu.edu/ontap.cfm. The fall/winter 2013 issue features articles discussing why stormwater is an important issue, how to reduce water usage, tips for setting appropriate user rates, an overview of the latest national drinking water infrastructure needs assessment, and a look at how Baltimore tackled problems with aging (and failing) distribution lines. As always, we encourage you to use the information in On Tap in your community. All we ask is that you give us credit and let us know how you used it.

Pharmaceutical Disposal and Water Quality

Many times things get put down our drains or flushed down our toilets that shouldn't be because they can harm our septic systems or sewage treatment plants and ultimately our water quality and health. But what do you do with something like unused medication?

http://extension.psu.edu/natural-resources/water/discovery-watersheds/news/2013/pharmaceutical-disposal-and-water-quality?utm_source=feedburner&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=Feed%3A+agsci-water-watershedwinds+%28Penn+State+Watershed+Winds+Newsletter%29

Community Development Guide - Rain Gardens

Hello Chesapeake Network Members! Resource Media has responded to requests to create a geographically neutral version of their recent "beautiful, hard working rain gardens" guide to community development. Download your digital copy at this link.

<http://www.resource-media.org/raingardens/>

iConservePA.org Video: Lancaster Green Efforts Capture Stormwater

A new video by iConservePA.org tells how the City of Lancaster is using greening efforts to capture millions of gallons of stormwater runoff that would otherwise overwhelm its sewer system. [Click Here](#) to watch the video.

WEF Announces Winners of Stormwater Video Competition

The StormTV Project is a video competition developed by the Water Environment Federation (WEF) with the goal of sharing creative ways of managing stormwater, improving water quality, and informing the public about stormwater management. Winners include LandStudies, Inc.; Portland Bureau of Environmental Services; the Chesapeake Bay Program; WesTech Engineering, Inc.; and the Washington Stormwater Center. View <http://stormwater.wef.org/2013/09/wef-announces-winners-stormwater-video-competition/#>

Climate Resources for Educators: Interactive Climate Webcasts for Classrooms

ClimateChangeLIVE is a collaboration of federal agencies and non-governmental organizations providing educators with a range of free tools for teaching climate concepts for the 2013-2014 school year. Through webcasts, webinars, and online climate education resources, ClimateChangeLIVE provides a distance learning adventure aligned with national science education standards and gathered from 17 federal agency and non-governmental organizations partners. Electronic field trips are also available as a way to learn about climate change science directly from climate experts and educators and to have the chance to interact with them during the ClimateChangeLIVE webcasts and on social media. To learn more, visit: <http://climatechangelive.org/>.

Watershed Resources for Teachers and Students

- Basic Water Curriculum http://extension.psu.edu/natural-resources/water/youth/additional-youth-water-resources/resources-for-students?utm_source=September+2013+WREN+Water+Policy+News&utm_campaign=September+2013+WPN&utm_medium=email
- Water Lesson Plans for Students and Youth http://ecosystems.psu.edu/youth/sftrc/lesson-plans/water?utm_source=September+2013+WREN+Water+Policy+News&utm_campaign=September+2013+WPN&utm_medium=email
- Educator Generated Lesson Plans http://ecosystems.psu.edu/youth/sftrc/lesson-plans?utm_source=September+2013+WREN+Water+Policy+News&utm_campaign=September+2013+WPN&utm_medium=email

Rooftop Gardens Sprout up on Public Buses

Buses are going green, but not by using alternative fuel or electric motors. These public buses are using rooftop gardens to improve the ecosystem by purifying city air. The Phyto Kinetic project also provides energy-saving alternatives by keeping the buses ... [Continue reading](#)

Stunning aerial photos reveal how humans have reshaped the Earth with our need for water

The latest project from photographer Edward Burtynsky is an incredible series documenting how humans treat water, a resource that is vital to all known forms of life on earth. On [his website](#), the artist explains: 'While trying to accommodate the growing needs of an expanding, and very thirsty civilization, we are reshaping the Earth in colossal ways.' Burtynsky notes that 'we are also capable of engineering our own demise.' So, in these images, he says he wants to 'stimulate a process of thinking about something essential to our survival; something we often take for granted - until it's gone.' So these large-scale pictures reveal strangely patterned agricultural land, dry deltas, huge multi-colored circles created by pivot irrigation, organized food production and human life centered around the compound that covers 71 percent of the Earth's surface. The photographer states: 'Water is intermittently introduced as a victim, a partner, a protagonist, a lure, a source, an end, a threat

and a pleasure.' But the effects of water are often at their most powerful when it is missing. For this work, Burtynsky has produced a [book](#), a [documentary called Watermark](#) and several multimedia offerings, including an iPad app. His photographs are also showing at the [Howard Greenberg gallery](#) and the [Bryce Wolkowitz Gallery](#), both in New York City, until 2 November.

Read more: <http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-2429012/Dusty-deltas-roaring-dams-alien-landscapes-Stunning-aerial-photos-reveal-humans-reshaped-Earth-need-water-vital-resource-granted-gone.html#ixzz2hFEP9Xgr>



WATERSHED FACILITATION ASSISTANCE

PENNVEST, DEP Announce Final Nutrient Credit Trading Auction for 2013 – Oct 16

HARRISBURG – The Pennsylvania Infrastructure Investment Authority (PENNVEST) and the Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) today announced they will host an auction on Nov. 6, for the sale and purchase of nutrient credits in the Susquehanna and Potomac watersheds. The auction will be a “spot” auction, where verified credits will be sold at auction, delivered and applied to the 2013 compliance year. The auction will afford wastewater treatment plants in these two watersheds the opportunity to purchase credits as a means of meeting their nitrogen and phosphorus discharge limits for the compliance year. Enrollment to participate in the auction will begin on Sept. 25 and close on Oct. 16. DEP’s nutrient credit trading program provides a cost-effective means for facilities that are subject to nitrogen and phosphorus limits to meet those limits by working with other facilities, non-point sources or both. PENNVEST has chosen Markit Inc. to provide the platform for enrollment and eligibility, auctions and registry services. Markit, a financial information services company, has provided operations and infrastructure services to environmental programs worldwide. PENNVEST anticipates charging buyers and sellers 2.5 cents per credit to offset administrative costs. For more information, visit www.pennvest.state.pa.us and click on “nutrient credit trading” on the left side of the page; or call Robert Boos at 717-783-4493 (PENNVEST) or Veronica Kasi at 717-772-4053 (DEP)

Pennsylvania Municipal Workshop – Oct 16

Financing for Stormwater Management – Warning, the Municipal workshop is intended for Municipal Officials and Municipal Employees, and EAC Members. It does NOT include firms that represent municipal groups, or nonprofit industry representatives. We realize some municipal firms will want to bring their engineering representatives with them and that is allowed. After saying all that, engineering firms can sign up after contracting Dr. Traver, but they will be the first removed if the symposium is full.

FNLT Downtown Hoedown - TWO WEEKS AWAY! - Oct 17

We’re a mere two weeks away from the Farm & Natural Lands Trust of York County’s 5th Annual Downtown Hoedown taking place Thursday, October 17th from 5:30 to 9:00 PM. Join us! [Click Here to Purchase Tickets](#). I’m adding updates to previous promotions... things to make your mouth water and want to go grab friends for a great time at the York County Heritage Trust’s Agricultural & Industrial Museum. The Downtown Hoedown is a steal at only \$25 per person or \$200 for a group of eight. That price includes live music by York’s own Waitin On A Train and more featured below. [You can order your tickets online NOW – click here.](#)

VUSP Pennsylvania Stormwater Symposium – Oct 17-18

Stormwater from the Ground Up – Mission Statement: The purpose of the symposium is to advance the knowledge and understanding of sustainable stormwater management for those dealing in all aspects of planning, design, implementation and regulatory compliance. A workshop for non-engineers will be held in conjunction with the symposium. Participants are expected to include Engineers, Planners, Water Resource Professionals, Regional, State and Local Government Representatives, Land Development Professionals, and Watershed and Conservation Groups. This is the seventh symposium on stormwater issues that has been held at Villanova. Register: <http://www3.villanova.edu/VUSP/Outreach/paswm13/13symposium.htm>

11th Lancaster-Lebanon County Watershed Forum – Oct 26

SATURDAY OCT. 26, 2013; 9:00 AM–12:00 NOON. Location: Acorn farms banquet & reception Hall, RT 283 Mount Joy, Lancaster, PA. NO COST TO ATTEND, HOWEVER REGISTRATION IS REQUIRED! Please register by calling Lancaster County Conservation District 717-299-5361 ext. 124 or email: mattkofroth@lancasterconservation.org or Lebanon County Conservation District 717-272-3908 ext. 4 or email: stephanie.harmon@lccd.org. REGISTRATION DEADLINE OCTOBER 21, 2013.

National Take-Back Initiative - Oct 26

October 26, 2013 - 10AM to 2PM. The National Prescription Drug Take-Back Day aims to provide a safe, convenient, and responsible means of disposing of prescription drugs, while also educating the general public about the potential for abuse of medications.

- [Locate collection sites](#): Search by zip code for a collection site near you. Inquiries can also be made at 1-800-882-9539.
- [Law Enforcement Agencies Only](#): For law enforcement agencies that wish to host a collection site please call the POC in your area.
- [Partnership Toolbox](#) Download posters, handouts and other materials to promote National Prescription Drug Take-Back Day.
- [Drug Disposal Information](#)
- [News Releases](#)

Eastern Boot Camp on Environmental Law® - Nov 11-13

Washington, DC – Attend the nationally renowned ELI Boot Camp on Environmental Law®.

- [Course Website >>](#)
- [Registration >>](#)
- [Location >>](#)
- [Agenda >>](#)

Earn almost 20 hours of CLE for less than \$1,000. Applicants registering after September 30 may need to secure their own CLE approval.

Pennsylvania Water Laws and Regulations – Nov 14

Harrisburg, PA. November 14, 2013 8:30 AM - 5:00 PM. Registration begins 30 minutes prior to seminar. [Register for This Seminar.](#)

- Understanding Pennsylvania Surface Water and Groundwater Rights
- Water Usage, Withdrawals, and Planning
- Stormwater Regulation
- Water Utility Regulation and Financing
- Complying with Water Quality Laws Regulations

2013 Turning a New Leaf Conference REGISTRATION NOW OPEN! – Nov 16

Saturday, November 16th, 2013; 8:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. KEYNOTE SPEAKER: Douglas W. Tallamy, PhD, University of Delaware. PLENARY SPEAKER: C. Colston Burrell, Native Landscape Design and Restoration. This year, CCLC's fifth Turning a New Leaf Conference will be held at the National Conservation Training Center in Shepherdstown, West Virginia on Saturday, November 16th, with pre-registration and a networking dinner held on Friday evening. This one-of-a-kind conference brings together professionals from the landscaping industries, horticulture, environmental nonprofits, and government agencies to discuss and learn about current trends, issues and technologies in conservation landscaping. The theme of this conference is based on the keynote speaker, Dr. Douglas Tallamy's book Bringing Nature Home. From soil to marketing techniques, this conference will focus on innovative practices to improve your business and the health of the environment and the Chesapeake Bay. Register online: <https://co.clickandpledge.com/advanced/default.aspx?wid=71256>

GreenBuild 2013 – Nov 20-22

Location: Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. GreenBuild is the world's largest conference and expo dedicated to green building. This conference will feature several sessions focused on LEED-ND (neighborhood design standards), including workshops and LEED-ND certification review. <http://www.greenbuildexpo.org/home.aspx>

Registration Now Open for DEP's Annual Statewide Brownfields Conference – Dec 9-11

HARRISBURG – Registration is now open for the annual Pennsylvania Brownfields Conference to be held Dec. 9-11 at the Radisson Valley Forge Hotel, King of Prussia. The conference, hosted by the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection (DEP), in partnership with the Engineers' Society of Western Pennsylvania, is the largest brownfields networking and education event in Pennsylvania. The theme of this year's conference, "Positioning for the Future," will highlight building community partnerships, incorporating sustainable design into projects, accessing financial assistance and keeping abreast of regulatory changes. There will also be mobile workshops at the Navy Yard and Conshohocken waterfront, a video showcase of success stories, technical updates on market trends and treatment options, and a tiered track of courses that will provide continuing education credits for professionals attending the conference. The popular Extreme Makeover competition will also take place. Featured presenters include David Lloyd, head of EPA's Office of Brownfields and Land Revitalization, Brian O'Neill of O'Neill Properties, and Keith Orris of Drexel University who will speak on development trends in the private and community institutional areas. Acting DEP Secretary Chris Abruzzo will deliver the keynote address and Department of Community and Economic Development Secretary C. Alan Walker will lead a panel discussion about Philadelphia's resurgence as an energy hub. Attendees will have the chance to network with local, state and federal government officials, private developers, economic development agencies and consultants. New to this year's conference will be an optional opportunity to meet one-on-one with the directors of DEP's regional offices and members of their environmental cleanup and local government staff. This is DEP's ninth Pennsylvania Brownfields Conference, the second that has involved a partnership with the Engineers' Society of Western Pennsylvania. Organizers hold the conference in different regions of the state each year and develop conference content with input from an advisory panel of industry experts. Brownfields are properties that are in need of expansion, redevelopment or reuse, but because of actual or anticipated hazardous substances, pollutants or contaminants, that work is made more challenging. Pennsylvania's approach to brownfields redevelopment has proven to be a national model for transforming abandoned, idle properties into places of environmental protection and economic opportunity. To register for the conference, visit www.eswp.com/brownfields/. To learn more about brownfields redevelopment in Pennsylvania, visit www.dep.state.pa.us and click on the "PA Brownfields Conference" banner, or call 717-783-1566.



WATERSHED FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE

Urban Waters Small Grants Program – Nov 25

This EPA grant program will fund research, training, and demonstrations that will advance the restoration of urban waters by improving water quality in urban areas. This program recognizes that healthy and accessible urban waters can help grow local businesses and enhance educational, recreational, social, and employment opportunities in nearby communities. EPA expects to award approximately \$1.6 million to support such projects, in grants of \$40,000 to \$60,000 each. Proposal Due Date: November 25, 2013. <http://www2.epa.gov/urbanwaters/urban-waters-small-grants>

Environmental Solutions for Communities – Dec 16

The National Fish & Wildlife Foundation and Wells Fargo will award grants to support highly visible projects that link economic development and community well-being to the stewardship and health of the environment. Demonstration projects considered will include those within urban communities that focus on 'greening' traditional infrastructure and public projects such as storm water management and flood control, public park enhancements, and renovations to public facilities. Proposal Due Date: December 16, 2013. <http://www.nfwf.org/environmentalsolutions/Pages/2014rfp.aspx>

2014 Draft AmeriCorps Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) – Jan 8

As we enter this 20th Anniversary year marking the beginning of AmeriCorps, we are pleased to share with you this early release of the [2014 Draft AmeriCorps Notice of Funding Opportunity \(NOFO\)](#). Additional resources will be posted on the website shortly, so check back regularly. To receive regular email updates, please subscribe to "[New Funding Opportunities](#)". Dates: Applications are due Wednesday, January 8, 2014 at 5:00 p.m. ET. CNCS expects that successful applicants will be notified no later than April 18, 2014, contingent on timely full-year

appropriations. Submission of a Notice of Intent to Apply is required to be eligible for this competition and is due Wednesday, December 11, 2013 at 5:00 p.m. ET by e-mail to IntentToApply@cns.gov. There have been several changes in this **NOFO**. Please familiarize yourself with the changes and enhancements before you begin to reply. With these changes, we are required to clear the application instructions. The notice to provide public comments was published in the Federal Register on Monday, August 19th, 2013. In this **NOFO**, we continue our emphasis on research based funding decisions by investing AmeriCorps resources in programs that link service interventions and outcomes to research-based findings. Questions about this funding opportunity can be submitted to americorpsgrants@cns.gov. Responses will be included in a list of Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) that will be updated periodically and available through the NOFO webpage. Publication of this notice does not obligate CNCS to award any specific number of grants nor to obligate the entire amount of funding available. The mission of the **Corporation for National and Community Service (CNCS)** is to improve lives, strengthen communities, and foster civic participation through service and volunteering. CNCS has helped to engage millions of citizens in meeting community and national challenges through service and volunteer action.

America's specialty crop producers through the 2013 Specialty Crop Block Grant (SCBG) Program

Washington, Sept. 24, 2013 – Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack today announced that USDA will invest \$52 million in grants to support America's specialty crop producers through the 2013 Specialty Crop Block Grant (SCBG) Program awards. The funding includes 54 block grants to U.S. states and territories that will support 694 initiatives nationwide. These grants will assist producers of fresh fruits and vegetables and help strengthen markets for specialty crops such as fruits, vegetables, tree nuts, dried fruits, horticulture, and nursery crops, including floriculture. The goal of the grant program is to promote and increase opportunities for specialty crop producers. All 50 states, the District of Columbia, the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, American Samoa, and Guam received grants this year. The Specialty Crop Block Grants, administered by USDA's AMS are designed to help strengthen the market for specialty crops like fruits, vegetables, tree nuts, dried fruits, horticulture and nursery crops, including floriculture. AMS encourages states to develop projects that enhance the competitiveness of specialty crops, sustain the livelihood of American farmers, and strengthen local economies. Many of the grants announced this round contribute to the development of local and regional food systems. USDA coordinates its work on this issue through the Know Your Farmer, Know Your Food initiative (KYF2), launched in 2009. KYF2 fosters new opportunities for farmers and ranchers and economic development in rural communities; promotes locally and regionally produced and processed foods; cultivates healthy eating habits and educated, empowered consumers; and expands access to affordable fresh and local food in underserved communities. KYF2 also leads a national conversation about food and agriculture to strengthen the connection between consumers and farmers. An interactive view of USDA programs that support local and regional food system development is available at the [Know Your Farmer, Know Your Food Compass](#). The [KYF Compass](#) is a digital guide to USDA resources related to local and regional food systems. The Compass consists of an [interactive U.S. map](#) of USDA-supported local and regional food projects and an [accompanying narrative](#) documenting the results of this work through case studies, photos and video content.



WATERSHED TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE

FEMA Publishes Policy on Flood Risk Analysis and Mapping Standards

The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) Risk Map Program provides communities with information on flooding and tools they can use to enhance their mitigation plans and take action to better protect their citizens. FEMA sets standards to define the mandatory requirements for working with communities to analyze and publish flood risk information and review requests to change existing flood risk data. FEMA published a standalone policy memo, the August 2013 FEMA Policy Memo Standards for Flood Risk Analysis and Mapping, with the most recent version of the standards. As part of a multiyear plan, FEMA is improving the way [guidelines and standards](#) for flood risk mapping are presented and have completed the extraction of distinct standards from the existing Guidelines and Specifications for Flood Hazard Mapping Partners. These standards are consistent with the previous requirements and are organized in a separate policy document to highlight the mandatory requirements of the program, and separate guidance or recommendations. FEMA conducted a public review of the draft standards earlier this year. A summary of the comments received and changes implemented is published on <http://www.fema.gov/media-library/assets/documents/72608>. FEMA continues to update the existing guidance based on this new approach. Until this is completed, mapping partners can locate the historical recommended guidelines in the previous Guidelines and Specifications documents at www.fema.gov/media-library/assets/documents/34953. While the source for mandatory requirements is the August 2013 FEMA Policy Memo Standards for Flood Risk Analysis and Mapping, these guidance documents can be used to identify most recommended methods to meet the standards. For additional information, please visit the [FEMA Guidelines and Standards for Flood Risk Analysis and Mapping](#) webpage.

Changes in the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) that begin to take effect on October 1, 2013

These changes have the potential to impact many current and future residents and businesses in York County enrolled in the NFIP. We have also provided information on the Community Rating System (CRS) Program which can be used by municipalities to help lessen some of the financial impacts from the proposed changes. This information is being provided to help inform municipalities and residents of York County. At a later date, the York County Planning Commission will be following up with a survey to see if there is any interest in the CRS Program and the potential need for future meetings to discuss implementation of the CRS Program by municipalities in York County. This information will also be available on our website at www.ycpc.org.

EPA Releases Report of Climate Change Impacts on Streamflow and Water Quality in 20 Watersheds in the United States

There is growing concern about the potential effects of climate change on water resources. To develop this report, watershed modeling was conducted in 20 large U.S. watersheds to characterize the sensitivity of streamflow, nutrient (nitrogen and phosphorus), and sediment loading to a range of plausible mid-21st century climate change and urban development scenarios. The report also provides an improved understanding of methodological challenges associated with integrating existing tools (e.g., climate models, downscaling approaches, and watershed models) and data sets to address these scientific questions. To view the study and related links, visit: <http://cfpub.epa.gov/ncea/global/recordisplay.cfm?deid=256912>.

Nitrogen & Phosphorus Pollution Data Access Tool Announcement

The NPDAT is a Web-based tool intended to help states develop effective strategies for reducing nitrogen and phosphorus pollution. The NPDAT consists of an introductory website, geospatial viewer, and data download tables available at www.epa.gov/nutrientpollution/npdat. Data available on the NPDAT include:

- Nitrogen and Phosphorus Loading information from U.S. Geological Survey SPARROW model (SPATIally Referenced Regressions On Watershed attributes)
- Water Quality Data and Information (e.g., Water quality monitoring sites with nitrogen and phosphorus data and National Aquatic Resource Surveys (NARS) Phosphorus/ Nitrogen Values data layers)
- Setting Watershed Load Reduction Goals / Source Control Priorities (e.g., Facilities that are likely to discharge nitrogen and phosphorus to water, waters with N/P TMDLs [Total Maximum Daily Loads], and drinking water sources)

We are pleased to announce the following NPDAT updates:

- Updated Data on Facilities Likely to Discharge N/P to Water – The Facilities Likely to Discharge Nitrogen/Phosphorus (N/P) to Water data layer now provides information on nitrogen and phosphorus discharge and any nitrogen and phosphorus permit limits from 2011 facility monitoring reports (previously 2010 information was the most current information available through the Nitrogen and Phosphorus Pollution Data Access Tool). These data are retrieved using EPA's [Discharge Monitoring Report \(DMR\) Pollutant Loading Tool](#).
- Updated Data on [Waters Listed for N/P Impairments and Waters with N/P TMDLs](#). The data layers with Waters Listed for N/P Impairments and Waters with N/P TMDLs (Total Maximum Daily Loads) now reflect data pulled from the Assessment TMDL Tracking and Implementation System (ATTAINS) as of January 2013 (previously the layers reflected May 2012 ATTAINS data).

NOAA Releases Report Explaining Extreme Events of 2012 from a Climate Perspective

Eighteen different research teams from around the world contributed to this peer-reviewed report that examined the causes of twelve extreme events that occurred during 2012. The report shows that the effects of natural weather and climate fluctuations played a key role in the intensity and evolution of the 2012 extreme events. However, in some events, the analyses revealed compelling evidence that human-caused climate change, through the emission of heat-trapping gases, also contributed to the extreme event. In addition to investigating the causes of these extreme events, the multiple analyses of four of the events - the warm temperatures in the United States, the record-low levels of Arctic sea ice, and the heavy rain in both northern Europe and eastern Australia - allowed the scientists to compare and contrast the strengths and weaknesses of their various methods of analysis. To learn more, visit: <http://www.noaaneews.noaa.gov/stories2013/20130905-extremeweatherandclimateevents.html>.

WaterSense Brings Water Savings to Commercial Kitchens with New Specifications

The WaterSense program has released a final specification for commercial pre-rinse spray valves, the first commercial kitchen product eligible to earn the WaterSense label. Pre-rinse spray valves-used in commercial food service establishments to remove food waste from dishes prior to dishwashing-can account for nearly one-third of the water used in the typical commercial kitchen. If every commercial kitchen in the United States installed and used a WaterSense labeled pre-rinse spray valve, savings could exceed 10 billion gallons of water and \$225 million annually in water and energy costs. [Read more.](#)

EPA Encourages Homeowners to Care for Their Septic Systems During SepticSmart Week

Proper septic system care and maintenance is vital to protecting public health and preserving valuable water resources. During the first-ever SepticSmart Week, September 23-27, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is encouraging homeowners to take action to ensure their septic systems are functioning properly. Nearly one quarter of all American households-more than 26 million homes-depend on septic systems to treat their wastewater. Failure to maintain and service a home's septic system can lead to system back-ups and overflows, which can result in costly repairs, polluted local waterways and risks to public health and the environment. Many septic system failures occur during the winter holiday season, so EPA is encouraging homeowners to get their septic systems inspected and serviced now before licensed inspectors' schedules fill up around the holidays. [Read more.](#)

Video Highlights WARNs in Action

EPA has released a new video to promote the Water/Wastewater Agency Response Network (WARN) initiative, intrastate networks of utilities helping utilities during an emergency. Entitled "WARNs in Action", the video illustrates the types of events in which the mutual aid networks have been utilized and emphasizes the importance of water sector coordination during an emergency. Interviews with WARN representatives provide detail on particular benefits of WARN, explaining how the programs have reduced response time and saved utilities money during emergencies. [Watch the video.](#)

Smart Location Database—A Resource for Measuring Location Efficiency and the Built Environment

"Location efficiency" is a term used to describe compact neighborhoods that require less time, money, and greenhouse gas emissions for residents to meet their everyday travel requirements. EPA's Smart Location Database version 2.0 is a nationwide geographic data resource for measuring location efficiency. The database includes more than 90 attributes summarizing characteristics such as housing density, diversity of land use, neighborhood design, destination accessibility, transit service, employment, and demographics.

http://r20.rs6.net/tn.jsp?e=001wy3HXd9gz7HUWccT0t1Vj2JayfCvNj2liHoctdWP2P_hRJ2PfxUjEW0m2TLUZUPovi9GWimzU9m8sumu_Trne_KPoRzk8xV6k2eLMcv_glhX27J1ptOFkaafzKqnvWOKIzcJalv2WncvK8b62Ztsu73CcaMLW2FoFBTcwWb4=

Implementing Stormwater Infiltration Practices at Vacant Parcels and Brownfield Sites

EPA has released a new guide to help communities, developers, and other stakeholders determine the appropriateness of stormwater infiltration on vacant parcels and brownfield sites. In planning infiltration-based stormwater management practices, care must be taken not to mobilize contaminants in the soil which could increase the risk of groundwater contamination. The new guide walks decision-makers through a series of questions to determine whether infiltration or other stormwater management approaches are appropriate for a specific brownfield property. PDF http://water.epa.gov/infrastructure/greeninfrastructure/upload/brownfield_infiltration_decision_tool.pdf

