



# Summer Report

## A lifeline for local streams and rivers

### Expanding effort to renew conservation program

From Neshaminy Creek to the Monongahela River, too many of Pennsylvania's 86,000 miles of streams and rivers are threatened by pollution and development. This summer, as we continue to press our case for renewing our state's top conservation program, Growing Greener, we're calling attention to the program's role in protecting our local streams and rivers.

From the rocky outcrops of the Wisahickon to Pittsburgh's iconic Three Rivers, our local waterways are integral parts of our communities. We go hiking, fishing or for a walk along their footpaths; our kids explore the stream banks and ride their bikes on the adjacent trails; and they're great places to get away from it all.

### Practical steps to restore streams

While these are all beautiful places to go, the streams and rivers themselves suffer from far too much water pollution. For example, Neshaminy Creek, Pittsburgh's Three Rivers, and others have been categorized as often unsafe for fishing and swimming.

Luckily, there are concrete steps we can take to protect and restore our streams, from preserving stream bank habitat to reducing runoff pollution. That's where Growing Greener comes in. The program gives local communities the resources they need to get the job done, funding projects to tackle local sources of water pollution, create parks and green spaces along stream banks, and much more.



Paul R. Sell, Jr.

▲ Neshaminy Creek, above, is just one of the local streams and rivers that Growing Greener helps protect and restore.

Sadly, Growing Greener is running out of funding and set to expire. If our elected officials don't act quickly, we'll lose Growing Greener—and our beloved local rivers and streams will pay the price.

### Together, we can win

PennEnvironment staff are working to defend our streams by continuing our efforts to build support for Growing Greener

inside Pennsylvania's House and in communities across the state. This summer, our staff is gearing up to speak to tens of thousands of Pennsylvanians about the threats to streams and rivers in their backyard, and to urge them to take action. Our staff will also meet with elected officials in Harrisburg to garner support for Growing Greener, and raise public awareness by focusing media attention on the issue.



Staff

### more online

◀ Rep. Bob Brady (center right) with, from left, PennEnvironment's John Cross, Erika Staaf and Charley Dorsaneo in Washington, D.C.

Visit our website to find out how you can take action to protect our local streams and rivers: [www.PennEnvironment.org/clean-water/streams](http://www.PennEnvironment.org/clean-water/streams)



## To our members

In just the first few months of 2011, Gov. Tom Corbett moved to repeal new limits on air pollution from Marcellus Shale gas drilling, threatened to roll back an Executive Order putting our state forests off limits to further gas leases, and proposed funding cuts for the Department of Environmental Protection by 16 percent. Meanwhile, the U.S. House voted to roll back the Clean Air Act and Clean Water Act. And now, Pennsylvania lawmakers are on the verge of letting Growing Greener, our state's top conservation program, expire.

I don't know about you, but I don't think that's what most Pennsylvanians voted for last November.

With your ongoing support, my staff and I are watchdogging these threats and others. We face tough battles in Harrisburg and in Washington, D.C., and defending the environmental protections we've fought for won't be easy. But I'm confident that in times like these, our tough-minded advocacy, and your engagement and activism, can make the difference.



David Masur  
Director

## Recent action

### Solar hot water could save \$10 billion

Americans could save nearly \$10 billion annually on their energy bills by using solar water heaters in their homes and businesses, according to a new report from the PennEnvironment Research & Policy Center.

The report, "Smart, Clean and Ready to Go," also found that the widespread use of cost-effective solar hot water technology could cut our dependence on coal and other fossil fuels, and reduce Pennsylvania's global warming pollution by the equivalent of taking nearly 275,000 cars off the road each year.

PennEnvironment's Matt Ward released the report at Plumbers Local Union No. 27's training center in Pittsburgh, noting that "We have long had the technology and the know-how to harness the free heat of the sun to get hot water, and more than ever we have a workforce that is ready to install these affordable solar panels on roofs across the state."

### Clean Air Act and Clean Water Act under attack

This spring, Pennsylvania Reps. Jim Gerlach, Pat Meehan, Mike Fitzpatrick and others passed a budget in the U.S. House representing the most concerted attack on environmental protections in over 30 years. PennEnvironment joined forces with allies nationwide to strongly oppose the rollbacks.

The House budget proposal would slash Environmental Protection Agency funding, and block them from regulating air pollution like mercury, arsenic and carbon dioxide from power plants, threatening the health of the nearly 1 million Pennsylvanians who suffer from asthma. It would also prohibit the EPA from restoring Clean Water Act protections to our rivers and streams, putting the drinking water of 8 million Pennsylvanians at risk.

PennEnvironment helped drum up grassroots opposition by holding events around the state to inform the public about the measure's impacts, and publishing editorials in the Philadelphia Inquirer and Pittsburgh Post-Gazette. As Congress continues its attack, our staff will keep up the pressure.



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# Delaware River: Next Marcellus Shale drilling target?

The Delaware River currently enjoys protections from Marcellus Shale gas drilling. But with oil and gas companies pushing to expand into the region, and new proposals to open up the area to drilling, those protections are under attack. PennEnvironment is working to keep the Delaware off limits to drilling.

## Drilling proposed 500 feet from river

The Delaware River is one of the state's natural treasures, running from New York through Pennsylvania, New Jersey and Delaware. The Delaware supplies drinking water to more than 15 million people and provides important habitat for hundreds of wildlife species. Millions of people visit the river every year to go hiking in the Delaware Water Gap, fishing in the Delaware Bay or tubing near New Hope.

With so much at stake, we cannot afford to allow gas drilling—and all of the toxic pollution that could come with it—near the Delaware. That's why PennEnvironment's staff and activists took immediate action when the Delaware River Basin Commission, the multi-state agency that oversees protection of the Delaware River Valley, proposed to allow drilling as close as 500 feet from the river.

"The gas drilling industry's track record in Pennsylvania has been abysmal—from leaks and spills of toxic drilling fluid, to the hundreds of violations of our cornerstone environmental laws and even explosions and other accidents," said Erika Staaf, PennEnvironment's clean water advocate. "That's why PennEnvironment is calling for no gas drilling near our treasured Delaware River."

PennEnvironment has grave concerns about the DRBC's proposal. In addition to allowing drilling just 500 feet from the river banks, the proposed regulations would also fail to restrict the often-toxic chemicals that gas companies use to drill the wells, and permit drillers to store hazardous drilling wastewater in

open-air pits that could easily spill into nearby rivers and streams, or leak into our groundwater.

## 35,000 stand up for Delaware

Over the course of the spring, PennEnvironment and our coalition partners collected thousands of letters from concerned citizens from all over Pennsylvania, urging the DRBC not to allow drilling anywhere near the Delaware River. We hand-delivered the messages to the DRBC on their April 15 deadline. With more than 35,000 comments, it was the largest public comment period in the history of the DRBC—and a record-breaking show of public support for the Delaware.

With the DRBC expected to make a final decision later this year, our staff is continuing our efforts to mobilize grassroots support against drilling near the Delaware River.

"We have come a long way toward cleaning up and protecting the Delaware," said Staaf. "We cannot allow Marcellus Shale gas drilling to reverse all of that progress and threaten the quality of the waterway now and for future generations."



## Marcellus Shale drilling

To see the effects Marcellus Shale gas drilling has had on people across Pennsylvania, visit [www.PennEnvironment.org/marcellus-shale-videos](http://www.PennEnvironment.org/marcellus-shale-videos)



## Protecting open spaces helps protect our pocketbooks

*Whether it's Valley Forge, Point Park or a local forest, park or stream, Pennsylvania's open spaces are crucial to our quality of life. And while most of us don't need another reason to see them protected, a new study shows that protecting our open spaces is as good for our pocketbooks as it is for our peace of mind.*

*The report, released by the GreenSpace Alliance of southeastern Pennsylvania and the Delaware Valley Regional Planning Commission, concluded that protected open spaces in the five-county southeast region:*

- Add more than \$16 billion to the value of the region's housing stock and \$240 million in property tax revenue to local governments and school districts;
- Save more than \$132 million in reduced air and water pollution cost savings, and avoided flooding;
- Generate more than \$560 million at our local parks, trails, farms and other outdoor destinations in the region; and
- Result in nearly \$1.3 billion in savings due to improved health, increased productivity, and prevented medical costs.

*PennEnvironment holds a seat on the GreenSpace Alliance board of directors, and we were proud to be part of this important study, which underscores the urgency of our push to protect Pennsylvania's threatened open spaces and wild places.*

To view the full report, visit [www.GreenSpaceAlliance.org](http://www.GreenSpaceAlliance.org)

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# PennEnvironment

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## PennEnvironment

### Our mission

We all want clean air, clean water and open spaces. But it takes independent research and tough-minded advocacy to win concrete results for our environment, especially when powerful interests stand in the way of environmental progress.

That's the idea behind PennEnvironment. We focus exclusively on protecting Pennsylvania's air, water and open spaces. We speak out and take action at the local, state and national levels to improve the quality of our environment and our lives.

## Governor rolls back Marcellus Shale protections

In February, barely two months after guidelines were put in place to limit air pollution from Marcellus Shale gas drilling sites, Gov. Tom Corbett suspended these much-needed safety regulations.

"It's outrageous that as one of Gov. Corbett's first policies, he suspends clean air standards that will protect public health and help us reduce asthma and other respiratory ailments in Pennsylvania," said PennEnvironment's Erika Staaf.

Deep-well gas drilling operations have been linked to a number of dangerous air pollutants, such as smog-forming emissions, diesel soot, carbon monoxide, and dangerous air toxins like benzene. The pollution comes from several sources, including the industrial equipment used on-site, the hundreds of diesel-fueled trucks that haul supplies, and the diesel-powered drilling equipment that can run all day and all night.

"The governor's decision means that we need to redouble our efforts in working toward strong regulations that address this growing source of air pollution," said Staaf.



PA State Senate

◀ PennEnvironment Clean Water Advocate Erika Staaf testifies on gas drilling before the Legislature.

➡ To learn more and get involved, go to [www.PennEnvironment.org](http://www.PennEnvironment.org)