

**PENNSYLVANIA GENERAL ASSEMBLY**

**JOINT LEGISLATIVE AIR AND WATER POLLUTION  
CONTROL AND CONSERVATION COMMITTEE**

**ANNUAL REPORT**

**2011**

**April, 2012**

COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA

REPLY TO:  
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
PO BOX 202254  
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REPRESENTATIVE SCOTT E. HUTCHINSON  
CHAIRMAN

CRAIG D. BROOKS  
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Joint Legislative Air and Water Pollution Control  
and Conservation Committee

**TO: All Members of the General Assembly**  
**FROM: Representative Scott E. Hutchinson, Chairman**  
**SUBJECT: 2011 Annual Report**  
**DATE: April, 2012**

**“Problems can’t be solved at the same level of awareness that created them.”  
Albert Einstein (Theoretical Physicist)**

The Joint Legislative Air and Water Pollution Control and Conservation Committee (Committee) was created in 1968 on the premise that the Pennsylvania General Assembly, policymakers, industry, academia and other stakeholders must understand one another’s perspective and values in order to engage critical environmental issues.

Since that time the Committee has conducted itself in the belief that policy solutions to both statewide issues, such as natural gas exploration, and local issues, such as municipal waste collection and recycling, need to be approached from an integrated perspective, not solely through the lens of one stakeholder or another. And, that this should be done with an eye to the best available scientific knowledge while operating within today’s economic realities.

As the complexities of environmental issues facing Pennsylvania increase, the Committee continues to provide real-time value to the Legislature. The Committee is able to quickly draw upon the expertise of top research universities, high-tech industries and individuals and the Commonwealth’s natural resource agencies. This unique networking service is enhanced by the Committee’s structure and size, which enables it to be responsive to rapidly emerging issues.

The Committee is helping the General Assembly to look at long-term strategies for environmental stewardship and helping to build a proactive, rather than reactive, vision for handling Pennsylvania’s environmental agenda. This report details key activities and achievements of the Committee in its efforts to serve the General Assembly during the past year. The range and depth of our activities are reflected in the pages that follow, both in summaries of what we have published in recent months and in the highlights of our ongoing activities. Please take a moment to peruse the report and feel free to call with any questions, concerns or observation you have about the Committee

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**COMMITTEE MEMBERS**

**2011-2012 Session**

**Rep. Matthew Bradford**  
**Rep. Eli Evankovich**  
**Rep. Camille George**  
**Rep. Julie Harhart**  
**Rep. Scott Hutchinson, Chairman**  
**Rep. Sid Michaels Kavulich**  
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**Rep. Rick Saccone**  
**Rep. Jessie White**

**Senator David G. Argall**  
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**Senator Andrew Dinniman**  
**Senator Richard Kasunic**  
**Senator Timothy Solobay**  
**Senator Mary Jo White**  
**Senator Gene Yaw**  
**Senator John Yudichak**

**COMMITTEE STAFF**

**Craig D. Brooks, Executive Director**  
**Tony M. Guerrieri, Research Analyst**  
**Geoff MacLaughlin, Communication Specialist**

## **THE JOINT LEGISLATIVE AIR AND WATER POLLUTION CONTROL AND CONSERVATION COMMITTEE**

In 1967, legislation (Act 448, P.L. 1022) was enacted creating the Joint Legislative Air and Water Pollution Control and Conservation Committee. The Committee consists of 18 members of the General Assembly. Nine members are appointed by the President Pro Tempore of the Senate, five from the majority party and four from the minority party. The Speaker of the House of Representatives also appoints nine members, five from the majority party and four from the minority party.

The Committee's powers and duties according to Act 448 include:

- Conducting continuing studies of air and water pollution laws and recommending needed changes to the General Assembly.**
- Conducting continuing studies of the enforcement of air and water pollution laws, and in conjunction with such studies making necessary trips to various sections of the Commonwealth to hold public hearings.**
- Conducting continuing studies of mining practices, mining laws, and reclamation of mined lands.**
- Holding public hearings and receiving comments regarding any or all of the above subjects of study.**

Since its creation, the Committee has been instrumental in the development of Pennsylvania's environmental laws and policies. The Committee staff is available at all times to assist members of the General Assembly with environmental and conservation issues. The Committee's files and library are extensive. Also, the staff has access to information from the Department of Environmental Protection and the Department of Conservation and Natural Resources, other state and federal agencies, private industry, and trade associations.

## **Marcellus Shale Gas Boom Proceeds Amid Human Health Questions**

There is no larger polarizing environmental issue in the Commonwealth than drilling for natural gas in the Marcellus Shale basin. The Marcellus is the largest shale “play” in the U.S. and second largest in the world. It extends through two-thirds of Pennsylvania. By some estimates, the potential recoverable gas in the Marcellus basin is between 400 trillion and 500 trillion cubic feet of gas, a 20-year supply of natural gas at current rates of usage. The natural gas trapped within the Marcellus provides a potential “bridge fuel” on the path to a renewable, carbon-free economy.

Since 2008 when commercial operations began in scale, shale gas has helped reduce consumer gas prices; it has offered economic benefits such as job development and an opportunity to bring the U.S. closer to energy independence; and, it has presented an opportunity to generate electricity with a lower carbon fuel. But there are several controversies over environmental impacts. Opponents question whether the economic benefits are worth the risk they say the drilling poses.

Pennsylvania has entered a national debate on the safety standards of a specialized form of natural gas drilling that pumps chemicals and water into the ground to release natural gas trapped thousands of feet below. The debate centers on the controversial technique known as “hydraulic fracturing,” or “fracking,” in which companies drill vertically, then drill horizontally to reach natural gas deposits trapped in a shale formation. A mixture of water, chemicals and sand then is pumped into the shale with great force, breaking up the rock and releasing the gas. The technology allows drillers to extract previously inaccessible natural gas deposits and has opened huge tracts of Pennsylvania’s landscape to drilling.

While policymakers have spent years mulling the environmental impacts of shale gas development, the potential human health impacts have been given short shrift, according to health advocates.

Whether gas drilling affects health has led to heated debates. Environmentalists and people living near drilling sites say the risks include contaminated water wells and air pollution. The industry says those fears are exaggerated and that the process has been used safely on tens of thousands of wells.

While both sides can debate the merits of their views, future development of the Marcellus Shale rests largely with Pennsylvania’s General Assembly. On June 2, 2011 the Committee traveled to South Park Township (Allegheny County) to hold a public hearing on economic and potential public health impacts from unconventional gas drilling operations. The hearing featured testimony from a diverse group of speakers including Mr. James Ladlee, Marcellus Shale Education and Training Center, Penn State University Cooperative Extension Service; Mr. Jeffrey Kimball and Ms. Tanya McCoy-Caretti of L.R. Kimball & Associates; Mr. Brian Bagby, executive vice president at H2O Resources LLC; and Mr. Douglas Hill, executive director of the County Commissioners Association of Pennsylvania. Also testifying at the hearing was Mr. Geoffrey Butia, Chief of Public Drinking Water for the Allegheny County Health Department.

Witnesses discussed the economic significance of the development of the Marcellus Shale in Pennsylvania. The economic impacts of the Marcellus Shale development

focused on indicators such as employment, business volume, employee compensation, and selected state taxes. Natural gas production in the Marcellus Shale play has led to a significant economic and revenue impact for the state, contributing to a significant amount of job creation and inducing much economic activity in other sectors of the economy.

Also discussed during the hearing were concerns about the impact on community services posed by hundreds of new workers enlisted by natural gas operators, and what to do about chemical-laced water that drillers pump underground to frack the shale and release natural gas.

Transcripts of the public hearing and additional information concerning Marcellus Shale issues may be obtained from the Committee office.

The Committee anticipates that the discussion over Marcellus Shale will be an ongoing one. In 2012, the Committee will continue to address the environmental and economic concerns facing natural gas exploration and drilling in Pennsylvania.

## **FOREST RESOURCE MANAGEMENT**

### **Legislative Forestry Task Force**

Forests have long defined Pennsylvania's natural, economic and cultural landscape. Pennsylvanians look to forests as a source of timber, recreation, clean air and water, and fish and wildlife habitat. The forest industry is a major contributor to the economy of Pennsylvania and is the key economic driver for many rural communities.

As Pennsylvania grows, and as its economic base changes and its cultural values shift, the relationship Pennsylvanians have with forests becomes increasingly complex. Seeing through that complexity to a more complete understanding of the issues and forest conditions is critical to making informed decisions about Pennsylvania's forest landscape.

Because of the importance of the forest industry to the economy and its rural communities, the Legislative Forestry Task Force and Advisory Committee were first established in 1994, pursuant to House Resolution 263, Printer's Number 4110. The resolution itself was introduced after three statewide public hearings held by the Committee.

For almost two decades, the Forestry Task Force has been composed of four members of the Pennsylvania General Assembly; two member of the Senate and two members of the House of Representatives. A special collection of advocates, the 14-member Advisory Committee plays a pivotal role in guiding the Task Force into the future. Advisory Committee members hail from a range of backgrounds, including the Pennsylvania Department of Conservation and Natural Resources (DCNR), education, the forest products industry, the Pennsylvania Game Commission and others. They share the common goal of helping the Forestry Task Force advance as a center for forestry excellence.

Since its inception in 1994, the Task Force had continued to work through a series of legislative resolution enacted in succeeding legislative sessions, with staff assistance from the Committee. Each resolution set an ambitious agenda of topics for the work of the Task Force.

The Pennsylvania House of Representatives considered a resolution re-establishing the Task Force and its Advisory Committee during its 2009-2010 session in the form of House Resolution 429, Printer's Number 2795 sponsored by Representative Gary Haluska (Cambria County). The resolution was referred to the House Environmental Resources and Energy Committee which did not take action, meaning the resolution was not considered by the full House of Representatives during the session.

As a result, the Forestry Task Force had the flexibility and discretion to consider topics for study based on the relevancy to the forest community until such time as a new resolution is enacted. After careful consideration and consultation with the Task Force and Advisory Committee, five priority topics were chosen. They include:

- 1. The impacts of forest buffer zones in Pennsylvania;**
- 2. The role of state forests in carbon sequestration;**
- 3. The development of the Marcellus Shale reserve and its impact on Pennsylvania's state forest;**
- 4. The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) proposed Boiler Maximum Achievable Control Technology (Boiler MACT) standards; and**
- 5. The role and utilization of woody biomass in alternative energy production.**

The Task Force conducted five public meetings between February 2009 and December 2010 in State College, Pennsylvania. Each meeting provided Task Force and Advisory Committee members with a background presentation about one of the issues and offered the opportunity for comment.

On July 8, 2011 the Forestry Task Force issued its report. The report contained 16 recommendations that are predicated on the information gathered from a variety of organizations, including DCNR's Bureau of Forestry, Penn State University's School of Forest Resources and others, and reflect the comments and discussions by Task Force and Advisory Committee members. Some recommendations are aimed at state and federal agencies, laws and regulations, and others at forestland owners, educational institutions and private organizations. Key recommendations include:

- The Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) should maintain the current 25 acre earth disturbance threshold in its Chapter 102 regulations.**
- The Commonwealth should continue to monitor development of private and government-endorsed carbon credit markets and the financial opportunities that they might provide to the state's public and private forest owners.**
- Encourage DCNR and Penn State University to expand their public outreach efforts to present facts and dispel myths on the impacts of Marcellus Shale extraction on state and private forests.**
- Continued monitoring of the implementation of the Boiler MACT strategy as the EPA attempts to craft rules that are achievable and protective of public health without sacrificing economic recovery.**
- Support the passage of "Fuels for Schools" legislation which will encourage institutional buildings to convert their power systems to biomass.**

The 2011 Forestry Task Force Report is available on the Committee's website at <http://jcc.legis.state.pa.us>, or by calling the Committee office.

The most recent resolution, House Resolution 309, Printer's Number 1969, again establishes a Legislative Forestry Task Force and Advisory Committee, and sets forth the issues that the Task Force will consider in the 2011-2012 legislative session. The issues

reflect current and ongoing conditions and developments related to forests in the Keystone State. These issues are as follows:

- 1. The impact of cash flow and working capital shortages on forest product companies and future forestry activities;**
- 2. The negative impacts of Marcellus Shale drilling-related road postings, both state and local, on forest product companies;**
- 3. The policies and training of individuals engaged in gas-related land clearing on DCNR lands, focusing on the benefits of land clearing operators for the Marcellus industry being held to the mandated training standard required for loggers;**
- 4. The impacts of declining state support for forestry and forest-related research; and**
- 5. The current and future impacts of invasive forest pests on Pennsylvania's forests.**

One of the biggest issues regarding the development of the Marcellus Shale in Pennsylvania is road utilization. The Marcellus Shale development has significantly increased the amount of natural gas traffic within the state. On October 13, 2011 the Task Force met at State College to discuss road posting and road bonding. Issues such as road conditions and truck weight are major concerns facing local municipal officials. The Task Force had previously been a catalyst for positive changes to road posting and bonding regulations.

Mr. David Mallin, programs section chief for the Pennsylvania Department of Transportation's (PennDOT) Bureau of Maintenance and Operations, provided an overview of the department's approach to posting roads and how bonding plays a role in the process. Mr. Terry Stockdale, president at BWP Hardwoods, and Mr. Tom Detwiler, Domtar's Johnsonburg paper mill manager, addressed the challenges that come from shale gas exploration and its link with the timber industry. The meeting concluded with a presentation by Mr. Mike Lester, assistant state forester with DCNR's Bureau of Forestry (Bureau), who spoke on how road posting impact timber sales in Pennsylvania.

As chairman of the Committee and the Task Force, Representative Scott E. Hutchinson (Venango County) drafted a letter to Governor Tom Corbett on behalf of the Task Force, requesting the opportunity to discuss the state of Pennsylvania's forest products industry and to discuss possible options to alleviate the significant costs and liability this industry is facing.

Upon completion of the research, the findings and recommendations of the Task Force will be issued in a report to the General Assembly. By improving the General Assembly's ability to understand the forest environment, the Forestry Task Force plays a role in shaping effective management and policy decisions. For more information concerning the Legislative Forestry Task Force, please contact the Committee office.

## **POLLUTION PREVENTION**

### **Waste Tires**

The history of Pennsylvania's tire pile cleanup program is one of great success for the Commonwealth. In 1996, DEP estimated that there were about 36 million waste tires on priority piles throughout the state. The Committee members and staff worked with the Governor's Office, the General Assembly, DEP, and the tire industry to develop the state's Waste Tire Recycling Act (Act 190 of 1996) to eliminate the waste tire problem in Pennsylvania and help create markets for recycled tires. The cleanup efforts in Pennsylvania have included the removal of some large piles and the use of innovative solutions.

The Committee took an active role in developing a follow-up measure to expand the original law (Act 111 of 2002). Act 111 improved and expanded the original act by focusing on smaller piles and the prevention of new piles. By 2004, it was estimated that there were only 12.5 million tires in smaller piles located throughout the state.

Because Pennsylvania's waste tire program continues to be a work in progress, the Committee held a public hearing in Harrisburg (Dauphin County) on April 11, 2011. The purpose of the hearing was to review the state's waste tire efforts, assess waste tire markets, and obtain suggestions for program improvement. During the hearing the Committee heard testimony on the use of crumb rubber in asphalt and other projects that promote the use of waste tires. Representatives of DEP, the Pennsylvania Recycling Markets Center, the Institute of Scrap Recycling Industries, the Rubber Manufacturers Association and Liberty Tire Recycling presented testimony.

According to the testimony, currently there are 2.43 million waste tires remaining in small piles across the state. In addition, the roughly 12 million "new" waste tires that are created each year in Pennsylvania are not going into new piles, but are being remediated each year, many through recycling and reuse.

DEP is now focusing its efforts on 17 priority piles containing about 1.45 million of the abandoned tires that remain and is currently soliciting bids to clean up two of the remaining piles. There are an additional 15 commercial tire pile sites with about 700,000 tires and 70 smaller piles of fewer than 10,000 tires each where there are about 280,000 tires total.

The Committee also heard about a number of civil engineering uses for waste tires, the use of crumb rubber in athletic fields, flooring and car stops and some newer processes and applications, including the use of cryogenics to mill tires into a fine powder and the use of crumb rubber as a water filtration media.

In order to build a successful waste tire recycling program in Pennsylvania, it is critical that there are stable end-use markets for waste tires. According to one presenter, diversification of markets is the key, noting that tire derived fuel applications have traditionally been the "base market or anchor" for waste tires, allowing other niche markets to develop.

The testimony also advocated the use of crumb rubber in asphalt mixes in highway construction. Presenters cited a number of states where the use of rubberized asphalt has been enormously successful, not only in improving highway surfaces in terms of wear and tear, but also in improving safety and reducing noise.

Copies of the public hearing transcript and additional information concerning waste tires may be obtained from the Committee office.

As part of its ongoing commitment to waste tire recycling, the Committee toured a small waste tire pile in Northumberland County on June 7, 2011. Pennsylvania's waste tire cleanup program has successfully cleaned up the state's largest waste tire piles, including the Starr tire pile in Columbia County, and most of the large illegal disposal sites in the Commonwealth. This has enabled the DEP to turn its attention to cleaning up smaller piles located in rural locations and along roadways and stream banks. The Committee visited the site at the invitation of Representative Kurt Masser of Northumberland County.

In addition to its events, Committee staff attended a number of waste tire recycling related events during 2011. For example, on July 27, Committee staff attended a DEP public information meeting and hearing on the proposed \$350 million tires-to-energy plant for Crawford County. The meeting focused on the plant's air quality permit. It included an overview of DEP's air quality plan review and updates on the status of additional permits required for the plant addressing tire storage and processing, stormwater, wetlands and other issues. The plant would chop and burn about 900 tons of waste tires each day to produce 90 megawatts of electricity, or enough to power about 75,000 homes.

The Committee's efforts in the past have helped raise awareness and visibility of the state's waste tire market development programs. The Committee plans to continue its discussions and work on waste tire issues in 2012. For more information, please contact the Committee office.

### **Mandatory Solid Waste Collection**

Across Pennsylvania, communities and rural areas have chronic illegal dump sites, where everything from trash bags to refrigerators to tires is discarded. Most commonly, these items are dumped along roadsides, in wooded areas and even on public lands such as state parks and forests. Illegal dumps cost Pennsylvania taxpayers millions of dollars each year.

The Committee is aware of the economic and environmental challenges of illegal dumping and littering and has met several times over the past few years with representatives of Keep Pennsylvania Beautiful, the Professional Recyclers of Pennsylvania, Pennsylvania Cleanways, DEP and other interested stakeholders concerning development of practical solutions. Since the initial meeting hosted by the Committee in 2005, there have been various meetings, summits and workshops including an Environmental Issues Forum in 2010.

Many of the meetings, summits and workshops included discussions on mandatory waste collection programs and their potential to reduce illegal dumping in Pennsylvania.

The Committee held two public hearings to discuss whether or not Pennsylvania should implement mandatory trash collection in the state. The hearings were held on:

**August 18, 2011 – Hamburg, Pennsylvania**  
**September 13, 2011 – Harrisburg, Pennsylvania**

The Committee received testimony on the advisability of instituting a mandatory trash collection system, the pros and cons of such a system, the effect it might have on municipalities, illegal dumping, littering and recycling in Pennsylvania, and what such a system might include.

The hearings included testimony that raised issues of local authority. With more than 2,500 local government units in Pennsylvania, attempting to find a one-size-fits-all approach to waste collection is very difficult. A significant percentage of Pennsylvania's population lives in rural areas where lack of population density per square mile is one of the single most critical issues affecting the cost of waste collection. Many hearing participants expressed the belief that a mandated collection system would be best implemented at the municipal level.

The Committee will work to improve realization and understanding of the complexities of mandatory waste collection and illegal dumping issues and looks forward to working with organization like Keep Pennsylvania Beautiful and its partners in 2012. Copies of the public hearings transcripts may be obtained from the Committee office.

### **Utilization of Slate Waste**

Pennsylvania is home to an active slate mining industry, producing quality products for a variety of building uses. However, the slate industry is endangered not only by a poor economy, but also because of a lack of uses for the waste by-products produced by mining. The piles of slate waste are environmental and safety threats, as well as eyesores in the local communities. The growing quantity of the waste is cause for concern and an impetus to seek alternative uses for the by-product.

On September 21, 2009 the Committee met with representatives of Pennsylvania's slate mining industry and with PennDOT officials in Slatington, Pennsylvania to discuss the challenges of recycling slate spoil as an aggregate in highway construction. Of primary concern were the properties of the processed slate spoil and the standards needed for construction materials. The Committee visited Slatington at the invitation of Committee member, Representative Julie Harhart (Northampton County), in whose district Slatington is located.

In February, 2011 Representative Harhart introduced a resolution requesting PennDOT to conduct a study of the slate industry to devise the best means of utilizing slate waste by-product as a component in highway construction and civil engineering projects. House Resolution 70, Printer's Number 604 was adopted by the House of Representatives on December 6, 2011 with a vote of 192 to 1.

## **FUTURE COMMITTEE ACTIVITIES**

### **Marcellus Shale and Invasive Species Among Key Issues**

The Committee will continually identify key environmental issues for the General Assembly's attention. Activities range from information sharing and discussion to roundtables or public hearings. Committee members have looked ahead to identify issues where they might request Committee attention (or in some cases, additional Committee attention) in 2012. While the list is not intended to be comprehensive, it is illustrative of the range of issues that the Committee addresses. Good or bad, these are environmental

issues that are most likely to reverberate in the world of environmental news in 2012 and beyond.

A big target for 2012 and 2013 is likely to be Marcellus Shale. In 2012, expect to see more peripheral shale natural gas issues making headlines. For example, natural gas compressor stations, which compress gas to get it to move through pipelines, release air pollutants that could compound the state's long-standing ozone problem. The gas industry has made major reductions in compressor station pollution by using better technology over the past 10 to 15 years.

A related issue concerns natural gas pipeline projects. Increased shale gas drilling could require up to 25,000 miles of new pipeline snaking across Pennsylvania and through the booming shale region, according to a 2011 report by The Nature Conservancy. The report focused on pipe laying in Bradford County, which has the state's most Marcellus Shale wells.

Invasive species are a continuing problem for Pennsylvania's natural resource agencies. The emerald ash borer, a small glitter-green insect, has killed more than 50 million ash trees in the Midwest. The borer was first detected in 2007 in western Pennsylvania. It has since spread as far east as Bucks County. Along municipal streets, many of the chestnuts that were lost in the early 1900s to a blight and many of the elms lost in the 1970s to Dutch elm disease were replaced by what was thought to be a hardy survivor – the ash. Within the state's forests, ashes make up about 4 percent of the trees (or 300 million trees). The ones in the northern tier of the state are an important commercial stand.

The Committee looks forward to working closely with the General Assembly, other key governmental agencies and stakeholders on important environmental issues during 2012.

## COMMITTEE ACTIVITIES

**January 24, 2011** – The first Environmental Issues Forum of 2011 featured Ms. Marci Mowery, president of the PA Parks and Forests Foundation. Ms. Mowery presented a program on the Goddard Legacy Project, a multi-year campaign celebrating the accomplishments of Maurice K. Goddard.

**March 1, 2011** – The Committee hosted a Freshman Legislators Breakfast in Harrisburg (Dauphin County). It was an opportunity to introduce and promote the Committee as a valued partner in environmental matters affecting Pennsylvania to incoming members of the state legislature.

**March 7, 2011** – The March Environmental Issues Forum featured a presentation by Dr. David Sheridan, executive director of the Green Building Association of Central Pennsylvania. Dr. Sheridan discussed the mission and activities of the association and highlighted current trends in the green building industry regionally and statewide.

**April 11, 2011** – The Committee held a public hearing in Harrisburg, Pennsylvania to examine waste tire recycling in Pennsylvania, receive an update on the state of the industry, its progress, its funding, market development and whether changes are needed to the Waste Tire Recycling Act of 1996.

**June 2, 2011** – The Committee held a public hearing in South Park Township, Allegheny County to discuss the economic and public health issues of the Marcellus Shale industry. The hearing was intended to collect information on the future of the Marcellus Shale industry and the industry's economic contributions, while addressing concerns over the methods used to tap the Marcellus.

**June 7, 2011** – Committee staff toured a small waste tire pile in Northumberland County. While the number of scrap tires has been reduced over the years, some smaller piles remain.

**June 13, 2011** – The June Environmental Issues Forum featured presentations by the principals of the Pennsylvania corporation U-Go Stations, headquartered in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. U-Go Stations is involved with the development of an electric vehicle public charging station infrastructure.

**July 19, 2011** – Committee staff attended a presentation by the Pennsylvania Recycling Markets Center launching the development of a system to certify products with recycled content. The certification is expected to help Pennsylvania companies and products that use recycled materials become more competitive in the marketplace.

**July 27, 2011** – Committee staff attended the DEP's public information meeting and hearing on the proposed tires-to-energy plant for Crawford County. The meeting focused on the plant's air quality permit. It included an overview of DEP's air quality plan review and updates on the status of additional permits required for the plant.

**August 18, 2011** – The Committee held the first of two public hearings to discuss whether or not Pennsylvania should implement mandatory trash collection in the state. The purpose of this hearing in Hamburg, Pennsylvania (Berks County) was to receive testimony on the advisability of instituting a mandatory trash collection system, the pros and cons of such a system, the effect it might have on municipalities, illegal dumping, littering and recycling in Pennsylvania, and what such a system might include.

**September 13, 2011** – The Committee held the second of two public hearings into mandatory trash collection in Pennsylvania, this one in Harrisburg.

**October 13, 2011** – The Legislative Forestry Task Force and Advisory Committee met in State College, Pennsylvania to discuss road posting and road bonding and its impact of the forest products industry.

**October 17, 2011** – The October 2011 Environmental Issues Forum featured a presentation on electronic recycling and data security by Mr. Joseph Harford, the vice-president and co-founder of Reclamere of Tyrone, PA. Reclamere is a leader in data security and IT asset management.

## **COMMITTEE LIBRARY**

The Committee maintains an extensive reference library of environmental materials. A valuable resource on environmental protection, the library currently holds over 1,200 publications, many of which are unavailable elsewhere. The library holds materials that Committee staff uses for their research, as well as material useful to the public.

## COMMITTEE WEBSITE

The Committee also maintains a worldwide website. On this site you can access the Committee's newsletter, the **Environmental Synopsis**, and view archived issues as well. The website also contains information regarding current Committee activities, reports, and the Environmental Issues Forums.

The Committee hopes you will use the website to not only find information, but also to contact the Committee and utilize our resources. Your comments about the information posted, as well as suggestions to improve the site are welcomed.

We invite you to learn more about the Committee and the issues we are following by visiting the Committee's website: <http://jcc.legis.state.pa.us>.

## ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES FORUMS

Over the past year, the Committee has worked to connect its environmental research with public audiences. This is reflected in a number of efforts. One way in which the Committee accomplishes this is through its Environmental Issues Forums. The forums are public informational sessions at which prominent guest speakers present information on topics of interest related to the Committee's mission.

Forum programs are open to the public and are intended to reach a wide audience. Participant in the forums include policy makers, scholars and business and community leaders. Forums are as diverse as the speakers themselves. Topics in 2011 included green building practices, the development of electric car charging stations, and electronic recycling and data security.

The forums are held on legislative session days and are normally conducted once a month in those months in which the General Assembly is in voting session. The exchanges that occur in these gatherings play an important role in maintaining the Committee's reputation as a crucible in which ideas are tested.

Please check the Committee's website for upcoming forums, or contact the Committee office for information.

## COMMITTEE NEWSLETTER

### Environmental Synopsis

For more than 30 years, the Committee has published the **Environmental Synopsis** which richly deserves its reputation as a preeminent environmental newsletter in Pennsylvania. The newsletter covers state, national, and international environmental issues. Articles covered in 2011 included a diversity of topics ranging from disposal of controlled drugs to military use of alternative fuels.

The **Environmental Synopsis** is distributed to all members of the General Assembly and to more than 400 other recipients including business and industry, environmental organizations, government agencies, colleges and universities and citizens.

Over the years, the **Environmental Synopsis** has been greatly expanded significantly to include photographs and research information, and readers have expressed gratification of the Committee's ongoing effort to provide its members with timely information on upcoming events, reports on events that recently concluded, and other interesting features. Information in the synopsis does not necessarily reflect the opinions or policies of the Committee or the Pennsylvania General Assembly.

The **Environmental Synopsis** is available in an electronic version via e-mail and on the Committee's website. Please contact the Committee office if you wish to be included on the electronic mailing list. Back issues are available upon request.

## COMMITTEE REPORTS

The Committee has a library of more than 70 reports its staff has researched and prepared on a variety of environmental issues. They include:

1. Comprehensive Review of the Water Pollution Enforcement Program, 1970.
2. Comprehensive Review of Municipal Solid Waste Management, 1975.
3. Integrated Flood Management: A Pennsylvania Perspective, 1981.
4. Public Utility Commission Regulation of Water Supply Systems, 1982.
5. Research Monograph: Safe Drinking Water Act, April, 1983.
6. Coal Reclamation Report: Part I. Remining Previously Affected Areas, 1984.
7. Coal Reclamation Report: Part II. General Reclamation Program, 1984.
8. Low-Level Radioactive Waste Disposal: A Special Briefing on the Proposed Appalachian Compact, 1985.
9. Research Monograph: Pennsylvania Hazardous Waste Treatment and Disposal Facility Siting Criteria, September/October, 1985.
10. House Resolution No. 6, Land Application of Sewage Sludge: Part I: Administrative Issues, 1986.
11. House Resolution No. 6, Land Application of Sewage Sludge: Part II: Technical Criteria, 1986.
12. Research Monograph: Protecting Water Quality With Well Construction And Location Standards, May/June, 1986.
13. Research Monograph: Resource Recovery: An Examination Of Current Technologies, Environmental Factors, And State Air Emission Standards, October, 1986.
14. Pennsylvania's Water and Sewerage Infrastructure Needs, 1987.
15. Research Monograph: The Safe Drinking Water Amendments of 1986, February/March, 1987.

16. Research Monograph: The State Role In The New Federal Superfund Program, May/June, 1987.
17. A Review of the Pennsylvania Oil and Gas Act, Act 223 of 1984, as amended, 1988.
18. Pennsylvania State Parks, 1989.
19. Watershed Protection and Senate Bill 1012 of the Session of 1989, 1990.
20. The Use and Regulation of Roadside Springs in Pennsylvania, 1990.
21. Research Monograph: Endangered Funds For Species of Special Concern: A Review Of Pennsylvania's Wild Resource Conservation Act, May, 1990.
22. Research Monograph: Urban Storm Water Management, May, 1991.
23. Septage Management and Disposal in Pennsylvania, July, 1991.
24. A Review of PENNVEST - The Pennsylvania Infrastructure Investment Authority Program, 1991.
25. Water Resources Management in Pennsylvania, 1992.
26. 1991 Annual Report, January, 1992.
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