

Pennsylvania Association of Resource Conservation & Development Councils



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Capital RC&D



The Capital Resource Conservation and Development (RC&D) Area Council, Inc. is a seven county, non-profit organization that networks people, resources and projects to promote responsible use and conservation of our region's natural, community and economic resources.

South Mountain GeoTrail

Launched in December 2010, the South Mountain GeoTrail is a collection of geocache sites designed to encourage exploration of the region in a fun and unique way. Geocaching is an outdoor activity utilizing a handheld Global Positioning System (GPS) device to locate caches in hidden locations. The GeoTrail currently features 22 sites that highlight cultural, historical, natural resource, and agricultural sites of importance in York, Adams, Cumberland, and Franklin counties. During its first year, 1,426 visits were logged for South Mountain cache sites on the geocaching.com website.

The trail, developed by Capital RC&D and sponsored by the South Mountain Partnership through a grant from the PA Department of Conservation and Natural Resources, promotes tourism and local interest in the area. Capital

RC&D and partners hope to add additional sites to the trail in the years to come.



Visit <http://smgeotrail.blogspot.com> to learn more or to participate in this popular activity.

South Central PA Buy Fresh Buy Local

Capital RC&D continues to coordinate this consumer awareness campaign in south central Pennsylvania. The campaign is a partnership effort, directed on a state-wide level by the Pennsylvania Association for Sustainable Agriculture. In 2011, the South Central PA Buy Fresh Buy Local (BFBL) chapter collaborated with multiple sponsors to support three successful events that reached new audiences including the PA Land Trust Association Conference farm tour, the Lebanon Valley Conservancy *Round the Valley* bike ride, and *Bee Local at Fredricksen Library* event in Camp Hill, PA. The BFBL message for all audiences points to the benefits to individuals, communities and the Capital RC&D region resulting from buying locally-produced food.



Peer-to-Peer Technical Assistance - Grazing

One of the best delivery systems for agricultural technical assistance is through experienced farmers who have adopted new technologies or management systems and can provide first-hand guidance based on their experience. Capital RC&D supports peer-to-peer assistance from “grazing advisors” to help interested farmers change and improve their livestock grazing practices. During 2011 grazing advisors visited 41 farms controlling over 2,500 acres. Funding from the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation and NRCS supported the development of the grazing advisor program.



The peer-to-peer model is also used for no-till and high tunnel assistance and has impacted several thousand acres of farmland in the RC&D region through improved farm management.

High Tunnel Technical Assistance



Capital RC&D in partnership with Penn State University high tunnel researchers, the Pennsylvania Vegetable Growers Association and NRCS staff introduced this program to provide technical assistance to Pennsylvania’s high tunnel producers in 2011/2012. High tunnels are crop production systems used to extend the growing season of vegetables, flowers, fruits and specialty crops. These plastic-covered structures support local crop production well beyond the traditional end of the growing season.

High tunnels improve plant, soil and water quality by reducing nutrient and pesticide transport. Their use has become increasingly common, particularly as NRCS approved their use as a conservation practice. The planned workshops, twilight meetings and individual assistance will help growers successfully use this practice.

Additional 2011 Capital RC&D Initiatives

- NRCS Program Awareness and Producer Readiness
- Grass Roots: 21st Century Grazing
- Park the Plow for Profit No-Till Support
- Park the Plow for Profit
- SNAP at Farmers Markets
- Weed Control & Wildlife Technical Assistance
- NRCS Easement Quality Assurance Monitor
- Conewago Soil Survey



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Community Partnerships RC&D

Pride in Community * Partnerships in Action

The 2011 year for Community Partnerships RC&D has been a wild ride as everyone has known. Between the retirement of the founding Coordinator, Larry Schardt, to the expansion of personnel there has been many ups and down throughout this year. However, the organization has moved forward and continues to look for ways to improve the well-being of Central Pennsylvania and its residents.

This year Community Partnerships RC&D in a partnership with Ensave provided energy audits to 17 farms in the states of Pennsylvania and New York. These operators are given an Agricultural Energy Management Plan or Ag EMP. The plan will provide the farmer the information on where energy can be saved on farm. We also hosted three day training in Lewistown where more Energy Data Collectors were trained to collect data from dairy farms.

The Pennsylvania Quilt and Rug Trails expanded this year. With installation of four quilt squares and the first quilt square from a rug pattern. This square which adorns the headquarters building in the Tuscarora State Park was taken from a rug pattern designed by nationally- renowned hook rug maker, Magdalena Bryner. We are hoping to move forward with this project to increase agritourism within our region.



Our Outreach and Marketing Specialist, Melissa Piper-Nelson put together an Organic Transition Field Day and Pasture Walk at a local organic dairy operation. Attendees were able to hear from members of Pennsylvania Certified Organic and NRCS field staff process to become an organic producer and funding available for transition. Also, the tour included some of the many innovative energy and water quality practices on the farm.

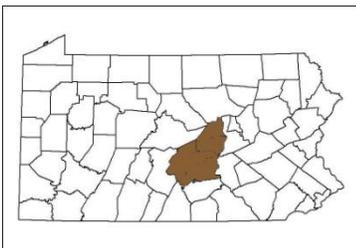
Community Partnerships RC&D fosters strong communities through: arts, aesthetics, and culture; community sustainability; conservation of natural resources; and economic improvement in Juniata, Mifflin, Perry, Snyder, and Union Counties in Pennsylvania

Community Partnerships RC&D continued its commitment to the Pennsylvania Partners in the Arts. This was our 11th year redistributing state funds to over 30 projects and this year we added two more counties to our region. One thing we as an organization were really excited about is that a regional luthier's autoharp was displayed at the State Folk Art Exhibit, *Making it Better: Folkarts in Pennsylvania Today*. We were one of many partners that helped put together the exhibit that has traveled across the commonwealth over the last year.

The Great Chip Drop took place for a 4th year. Our biggest fundraising event of the year is intending to provide a family friendly destination to ring in the New Year. Many downtown businesses enjoy the added business and the community continues to embrace this newest tradition in the Juniata Valley. This year, we were able to offer the opportunity for kids of all ages to see one of two shows by **The Zany Umbrella Circus** entitled *My Grandfather's Circus*.



Numerous other projects took place including providing regional support to all five NRCS county offices for the Conservation Stewardship Program applications and working to provide local farmers with Conservation Plans. We look forward to the future and the continued mission preserving the land and culture of our region.



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Endless Mountains RC&D

Proactive to Flooding

Interest in attending flood summits ebbs and flows as storm events pass by or threaten; so naturally, interest is on the rise again. We are continuing our ongoing flood summits; the most recent reaching a large audience of new municipal officials receiving information on stormwater management for the first time.

While rising flood waters need an immediate and emergency response, proactive planning is clearly the best solution to minimize future problems. There are several approaches that exist in our six county region that offer alternative stormwater management and low impact development (LID) techniques that are feasible in this northern tier.

As part of a multi-year and multi faceted project funded by a Growing Greener grant, we contracted with county conservation districts to implement alternative stormwater/low impact development projects. One such demonstration project was Blossburg Borough's Island Park, located in the floodplain of the Tioga River.

A natural grassed low area within the park regularly had standing water after storm events, and would overflow and flood the park. The LID solution was to replace a former drywell with a catch basin with extensions.



The new catch basin has one main pipe, with three extension pipes to allow for infiltration into the soil layers that are more permeable. The gradual recharging of groundwater also purifies it biologically, thus reducing the amount of stormwater runoff which could become polluted.



This project was tested soon after installation by a 5" rain event, and performed well.

Projects like these throughout the EMRC&D area are valuable educational opportunities for municipalities interested in incorporating these techniques into their repertoire of recommendations to a landowner/developer.



As this proactive to flooding education project is completed, these model LIDs are being incorporated into a directory of projects, with supporting photos, contact information and general information. They will be available at the various demonstration sites and on our website for reference.

Local Food Initiative

Locally produced foods, competing with lower priced, mass produced goods, are challenged in competing on many levels, including economy of scale. As a result, their added value is often overlooked. The Northern Tier Chapter of Buy Fresh Buy Local has developed 'Food Fact Cards' and a 'Local Food Guide' offering interesting information and highlighting local sources for a wide array of fruits, vegetables, herbs and meat products, and bringing a much needed focus to their added value. Endless Mountains RC&D partnered with the Northern Tier Cultural Alliance to grow those efforts, printing additional sets of the food cards to make them widely available for use in educational outreach - ie, in the classroom to:

- Create healthy menus
- Identify the difference between food groups
- Learn by playing: Charades, Crossword puzzles, etc...



To broaden the outreach, educational programs and curriculum worksheets were created. One presentation, targeted to teachers, offers background education to help make connections between eating decisions, local food, agriculture and education; and includes take-home sheets for various grade levels listing websites and other resources they can use to help make these connections in the classroom. PA Common Core Standards were addressed to help incorporate the material into curriculum requirements.



It is hoped that the presentations may identify or inspire one or more teachers to become the foundation for school/community garden programs and increased local food use in school cafeterias.

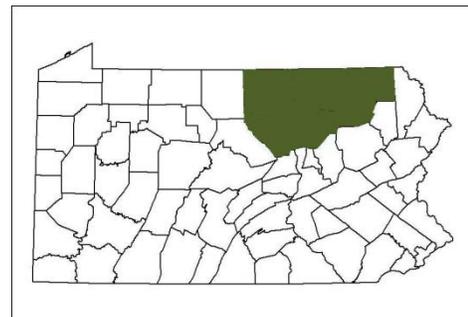
“Farmer into the classroom” presentations were done at elementary schools currently using the Food Cards, setting the stage for, and encouraging schools to invite further “introduction to gardening” programs. The primary goal is to aid the schools in making the cards more interactive, helping the students appreciate the value of local foods and agriculture.

A shortened version of the program was also created to capture a moving audience, at events, fairs, etc, to engage adults in making the connections between local food production and consumption and personal and community health and welfare.



Endless Mountains
Resource Conservation & Development Council

www.endlessmountainsrcd.org



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LYCOMING, SULLIVAN, AND WYOMING COUNTIES

Headwaters RC&D

2011 Annual Report

2011 was a year of far-reaching changes due to the loss of all federal funding, but what at first seemed disastrous has proved to be a blessing in disguise. Desperation often breeds inspiration, and that has been the case for Headwaters RC&D. Recognizing the need for more capacity to thrive in the new funding environment, the Council recruited a dynamic Executive Director, Ms. Dale E. Fox, who brings to us a dual background as an Information Technology consultant to the DuPont Corporation combined with extensive volunteer experience in conservation and community development. Dale began her non-profit career under the tutelage of Headwaters RC&D Council in 1992 with the development of the Clarion-Little Toby Rail Trail in Elk and Jefferson Counties.

2011 Headwaters RC&D Initiatives

Sinnemahoning Stakeholders Committee: The SSC is responsible for the management and distribution of funds derived from a civil settlement between the DEP and Norfolk Southern Railway. Three grant rounds have been completed where awards totaling \$373,261 have been distributed for 23 different conservation projects.



*Treatment to Control Japanese Knotweed
Cameron County, Round 3*

COLCOM Grant for Water Testing: Kelly Williams, Watershed Specialist with the Clearfield County Conservation District, partnered with Headwaters to apply for and receive \$150,000 from the Colcom Foundation to provide free water testing for 100 private drinking water sources per county.

Weed Control/Wildlife Habitat Program: Headwaters and USDA/NCRCS teamed up to provide technical assistance to non-CREP landowners on weed control methods for noxious and invasive weeds and conducted 140 landowner reviews.

Managing Heavy Corn Stalks in No-Till Systems: Partnered with Joel Myers, No-Till Producer & Consultant, USDA-NRCS, Penn State University, and Capital RC&D Council to conduct a workshop at the Snider Agricultural Arena in University Park in March 2011, with fifty-four people attending.

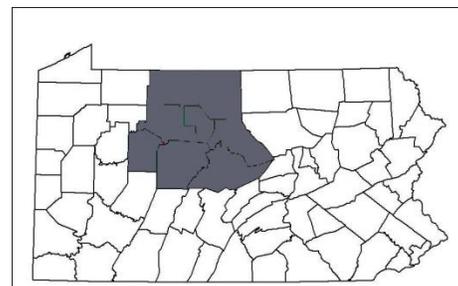
Professional Engineers Continuing Education (PECE): Headwaters entered into an agreement with USDA-NRCS to facilitate three, one-day PECE education trainings in State College to engineering staff with continuing education credits, for a total of 128 participants.

14th Annual Northwest PA Grazing Conference: In partnership with USDA-NRCS, PSU Agricultural Extension, Jefferson County and Elk County conservation districts and Headwaters RC&D, we had a record attendance of over 400 people. The keynote speaker was Dr. Temple Grandin, of Colorado State University, famous for her work on the design of livestock handling facilities.

AMD projects: The Trust received a DEP non-point source grant to upgrade four sites in Jefferson County. Construction work was completed on the first three sites (Filson 5/6, Bog and Morrow) in 2011, and plans are underway to begin the fourth (Filson 4) in 2012.



Filson 5/6 Acid mine drainage sites in Jefferson County Mill Creek Watershed



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Penn Soil RC&D

GeoWoodstock IX Event Pumps Two Million Dollars into Northwest PA Economy



On behalf of three regional geocaching groups, Penn Soil RC&D agreed to serve as the financial agent and to coordinate the development of a new regional tourism project to benefit northwestern Pennsylvania by bringing 5000-6000 geocachers to our area for an international geocaching event lasting three days. In 2009, Penn Soil RC&D received and accepted a proposal to coordinate the development of a written bid to be submitted to host either the 2010 or the 2011 International geocaching event in the vicinity of the Allegheny National Forest. Penn Soil submitted the bid proposal and the proposal was subsequently accepted by the GeoWoodstock National Committee to host the GeoWoodstock IX Event at the Warren County Fairgrounds on the weekend of July 2-4, 2011.

GeoWoodstock is a family oriented recreational and social gathering that invites geocachers from all over the world to converge at a location to meet and greet other players of the game, to make new friends, connect with old friends, learn from a variety of educational classes and workshops, and visit with the largest collection of geocache enthusiasts and vendors in the world. From the first gathering at a small park in Kentucky attended by 75 people, the event has grown by 20-30% annually and has now reached attendance levels of 5000 or more at the 2011 event held in Warren County, PA. This event attracted visitors from all fifty states in the U.S. and from many foreign countries. Many people came to the region and spent anywhere from 3 days to two weeks vacationing and geocaching in the region, filling hotels and campgrounds, dining out, and supporting the many businesses in the entire region. The project also helped local non-profit organizations raise funds to support their programs as well by participating in the event as vendors or supplying services to the event participants.



Geocaching is an entertaining outdoor adventure game for Global Positioning System (GPS) users in which the participants seek out hidden geocaches by navigating to certain GPS coordinates provided by the person who hid the cache. The coordinates are posted on an internet website and can be downloaded to your GPS unit when you wish to search for a geocache. Geocaching is a great way to take advantage of the features and capabilities of a GPS unit, but it is also a great way for someone to navigate their way to find noteworthy attractions and hidden areas that might not be readily found by those casually passing through an area. Geocaching combines the love of the outdoors, hiking, sightseeing, wildlife watching, and nature study with the innovative electronic gadgetry of a GPS receiver to result in a high tech scavenger or treasure hunt enjoyed by young and old alike. Over 5 million people in the world are now participating in geocaching.

North Country Connector Trail Project

Penn Soil RC&D was awarded a \$10,000 Northwest Greenways Block Grant to assist a multi-agency partnership complete the missing link in a 6.2 mile connector trail from Chapman State Park to the North Country National Scenic Trail in Warren County. The North Country National Scenic Trail (NCNST) is the longest of the eleven National Scenic Trails authorized by Congress. Passing through the states of New York, Pennsylvania, Ohio, Michigan, Wisconsin, Minnesota, and North Dakota, the NCNST connects more than 160 public land units, including parks, forests, scenic attractions, wildlife refuges, game areas, and historic sites. Within the Penn Soil RC&D Area, the trail passes through Warren, Forest, Clarion, and Lawrence County. The grant received by Penn Soil RC&D was used to rehabilitate a 1200 foot section of an old railroad grade in Chapman State Park from the campground to the boundary of State Gamelands #29, where the PA Game Commission took over construction of the trail. The Trail continues through the Gamelands and then the U.S. Forest Service will take over construction through the national forest property to its junction with the North Country National Scenic Trail at Dunham Siding.



Upper Shenango River Water Trail



Penn Soil RC&D was one of many partners in a project that came together to open up the Upper Shenango River from Pymatuning State Park to the City of Greenville's Riverside Park to restore this section of stream to being navigable by canoe or kayak as a preliminary step to getting this section of the Shenango River designated as a PA Water Trail. This section of the Shenango River had been rendered impassable by a minimum of 49 separate channel obstructions of fallen trees and large woody debris obstacles to navigation. The \$67,000 project consisted of cutting and removing the obstacles and re-establishing a channel opening that would provide safe boating access to the public.



The mission of Penn Soil RC&D is to provide the local leadership necessary to develop and implement a plan that will improve the economy, environmental, and social well being of the people through accelerated planning and development of the natural resources in the project area consisting of Clarion, Crawford, Erie, Forest, Lawrence, Mercer, Venango, and Warren Counties.

For Information Contact:

Penn Soil RC&D Council

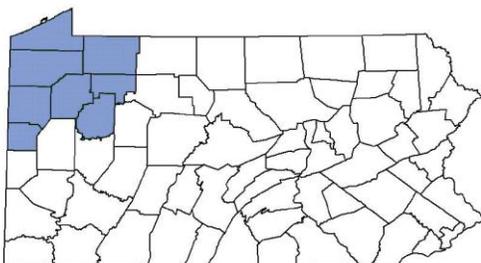
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Penn's Corner RC&D

2011 Accomplishments

Our Vision: Complete restoration and ongoing conservation of natural resources, in harmony with strong productive communities.

2011 Farmers Outreach and Technical Assistance

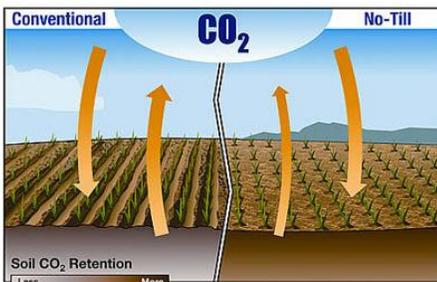
The Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP) is a working lands conservation program administered by the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) and available on a nationwide basis. CSP offers technical and financial assistance to farmers for maintaining high standards of environmental stewardship. Assistance is available for both the active management of existing conservation systems and for implementing new conservation activities on land in agricultural production. Armstrong, Beaver, Butler, Greene, Washington, and Westmoreland Counties held numerous workshops throughout 2011 to educate farmers on the benefits of this program and other approved NRCS programs such as EQIP, CREP, AMA, and WRP.



Core-4 Calendar- There was 10,000 copies printed statewide. They were distributed through the RC & D's, the NRCS offices, and the Conservation Districts. The planner was specifically designed for PA producers with tips and reminders that help with livestock and crop production, soil and water conservation, and as an on farm recordkeeping tool for grazing and nutrient management. Greene County Conservation District brought it to the Penn's Corner as an official project.



2011 No Till Conference – “Feeding Your No Till Plants” was held at Stint Vincent's College on February 2, and had over 160 attendees. This conference is a collaboration of partners ranging from NRCS, Penn's Corner, Westmoreland Conservation District, PA No-Till Association, and Penn State Cooperative extension.



The Penn's Corner Resource Conservation & Development Council is a community resource providing expertise in resource management and development throughout a nine county area of Southwest Pennsylvania. The Council mission is to enhance the area's natural resources and build strong communities by fostering regional partnerships, securing resources, and delivering needed services and programs.

Grassland Evaluation Contest- The 2011 Pennsylvania Grasslands Evaluation Contest was held on May 3 at Penn State University Snider Agriculture Arena. There were several teams represented and Cambria County 4-H team took first place. The teams consist of three-four students either enrolled in FFA or 4-H programs. First place team members will receive a \$500 scholarship, second place receives \$250 scholarship, the highest scoring individual receives \$500, and the first place team is also eligible into the Annual Mid America Grassland Evaluation Contest. Penn's Corner administers the grants for eligible recipients and has awarded over \$18,000 in scholarship.



On-Lot Septic Workshops- An on-lot septic system workshop was held in Greensburg, PA the evening of July 28, 2012. The participants learned how septic systems work, proper maintenance of septic systems, what to do if you need to repair or replace your system, alternate options to traditional septic systems, and opportunities for funding assistance. The workshop had over 25 attendees and was by hosted by Penn State Cooperative Extension and supported by Penn's Corner, USDA, DEP, PENNVEST, and the Westmoreland Conservation District.



Raccoon Creek, Butler, and Grisby AMD Site Maintenance- Penn's Corner RC&D oversees the operation and maintenance of several abandoned mine drainage treatment systems in the region and has worked with its partners to ensure the systems are functioning appropriately. These systems have resulted in turning streams that had once been lifeless to healthy habitats. Penn's Corner will continue work with partners to install and operate systems throughout the nine county area.



Serving Allegheny, Armstrong, Beaver, Butler, Fayette, Greene, Indiana, Washington, Westmoreland Counties

Pocono Northeast RC&D

Agricultural Best Management Practices (AG BMP's) are integral to reducing non-point source pollution from entering local waterways and degrading their water quality and ultimately water quality downstream. When implemented, AG BMP's address and improve resource concerns that will significantly reduce water quality degradation. Implementing such things as installing forested riparian buffers, enhancing or restoring wetlands, fencing livestock out of environmentally sensitive areas, establishing stabilized livestock laneways, installing watering systems, and improving pasture systems to reduce the amount of soil and nutrients that are entering local waterways and the Chesapeake Bay as a non-point source pollutant.



Under a grant from the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation, the Pocono Northeast RC&D Council worked very closely with several local partners on a project relating to local and regional watershed goals by several agencies and organization which include the strategic plans to address environmental concerns specifically addressing improving water quality within our local area.



Council conducted a call for projects/request for proposals by contacting landowners within the Briar Creek, Catawissa Creek, Chillisquaque/Limestone Creek, Fishing Creek, and Roaring Creek Watersheds in Columbia and Montour Counties, for the installation of AG BMP's integral to reducing non-point source pollution from entering local waterways and degrading their water quality. Sixteen applicants were scored on the merits of their projects, with ten being funding to a maximum of \$12,500.

Site and field verifications were scheduled, and project partners developed a Conservation/Resource Management Plan for the land that was associated with any and all of the AG BMP's implemented through this program. Project participants agreed to allow their portion of the property, where the AG BMP's are located, to be open to the project partners for data collection, educational field trips, pasture walks, and training sessions associated with the project.



Participants of this project will operate and maintain the AG BMP's for not less than 10 years from the completions of their project. Regular inspections (no less than monthly) and repairs will be the responsibility of the landowner. Ten projects have been completed, with the following improvement results:

66 miles of riparian buffer established
44.88 tons of soil saved
17,220 ft of fence installed
42.5 acres of pasture seeding/enhancement

8.24 acres of wetland enhanced/restored
26,790 ft² of stabilized laneway/heavy use area
15 watering systems installed

Council identified stormwater management as a major issue within our area, an issue that affects individuals, communities, and municipalities. Working with local partners, under a League of Women Voters – WREN Grant, PNE developed and then presented storwater/Rain Barrel Workshops in Carbon, Northumberland, and Luzerne Counties.

These workshops covered such topics as: “What is stormwater and its impacts?” - “Who is responsible for stormwater management acts?” - “Stormwater best practices” - as well as information about and construction of rain barrels. Over 150 people attended these three hours sessions. Participants left with their rain barrels and a data sheet, documenting three rain events, to be completed once their rain barrels were installed.

Council distributed 150 rain barrels, with the capacity of detaining over 7,500 gallons per storm event. In addition to the environmental benefits, these citizens took the first step to make a difference in how we manage our waters in the Commonwealth, which averages 140 rainy days a year. Therefore, these training events had the potential for preventing the waste of up to **1,000,000 gallons of “freshwater” per year.**

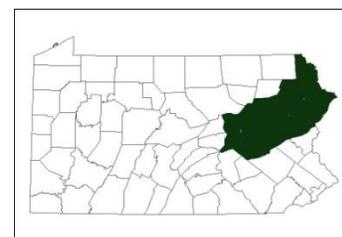
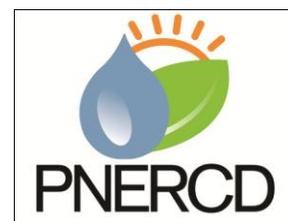
**The Answer: Take the first Step
INSTALL SOME RAIN BARRELS**

*Serving Carbon, Columbia, Lackawanna,
Luzerne, Monroe, Montour, Northumberland,
Pike, Schuylkill & Wayne Counties*

PA Farm Show

For our second year, Council participated at the Pennsylvania Farm Show. Our hope was to again display our pelletizer, but it had not yet returned from Ossian, Indiana, where it was being modified with the addition of a steam generator and a six foot feedstock conditioning auger. Undaunted Council members still manned our area with lots of literature and our Biomass Display.

New additions this year included a local Harman Stove dealer (Hoffman’s), who brought four pellet stoves, one pellet boiler, and a very knowledgeable sales person. A second local stove dealer supplied a Bixby Multi Fuel pellet stove, which is one of the few pellet stoves able to burn 100% grass pellets. Our display also included NRCS Native Grasses for Energy education board, mobile pelletizer video and literature from USDA/NRCS, Pocono Northeast RC&D Council and the Ernst Seed Company.



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Southeastern Pennsylvania RC&D

2011 Accomplishments

SEPA RC&D established a shared Stormwater Management Program for the Eastern Delaware County Council of Governments; The Boroughs of Collingdale, Sharon Hill, and Yeadon and Upper Darby Township signed an Eastern Delaware County Stormwater Collaborative Intergovernmental Agreement. Elected officials formally adopted the agreement at public meetings in November.

By working together as a group, the Collaborative municipalities are able to more efficiently and economically address stormwater problems while complying with DEP stormwater permit requirements. Through this multi-municipal partnership, the four municipalities will work together to conduct required training programs for municipal staff and contractors, host education and outreach events, enlist involvement from residents and other constituents, and take advantage of economies of scale for educational publications and other permit-related activities.



SEPA RC&D completed a Rainwater Harvesting Demonstration Project—Spring-Ford Intermediate School 5/6 Center. The Rainwater Harvesting Project won the 2011 Schuylkill Scholastic Drinking Water Award. The school's rain harvesting project provides environmental sustainability by recycling and reusing water- a precious and limited resource.

Spring-Ford Intermediate School 5/6 Center

Rain Harvesting Project



Reusing rainwater reduces:

- the school's dependence on the public water supply;
- the school water bills;
- wastewater treatment facility costs;
- flooding and erosion; and
- water pollution in the local watershed.

The mission of the Southeastern Pennsylvania Resource Conservation and Development Council is to promote conservation and enhancement of natural and community resources. Southeastern PA RC&D Council is an organization that others value for its ability to effectively bring people and organizations together to get things done.

SEPA RC&D introduced the Conservation Planting Trailer Program with DEP Growing Greener funding and Partner sponsorships. The Trailer can be used in any of the seven counties with in the Council's Service Area.

The Trailer is home to two string trimmers; chain saw; portable water pump; power auger; 12 shovels; 4 garden rakes; 2 pole saws; 2 post hole diggers; 2 - sledge hammers; 2 - post drivers; 2 - Wheel Barrows; 1 - tree cart; safety equipment, and much more.



SEPA RC&D Council Members get FREE use of the trailer and equipment. Join the Council today and use the trailer and equipment for you municipal or community group's project next weekend.



Transitioning to Organic Farm Tour 11/15/11

SEPA RC&D offered Conservation Outreach to farmers to educate and assist them in their transition to organic, as well as understand and use the available USDA farm programs.

Ian Phelps, SEPA RC & D Council Conservation Outreach Specialist, educates farmers on NRCS conservation contracting, cover crop rotational management, and organic transition conservation activity plans. Additional information is available on organic methodologies for orchard management, seasonal high tunnels, integrated pest management, pollinator habitat development and no-till farming systems.

The Southeastern PA RC&D Council offered two "Guide to Finding & Getting Grants" workshop on June 20, 2011 and November 17, 2011 and one six hour session of "Fundamentals of Fundraising" on October 17, 2011 to area Watershed Organizations and Environmental Advisory Councils.



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Southern Alleghenies RC&D

Lake Koon Disabled Fishing Pier



For more than 5 years, the Evitts Creek Steering Committee had worked on funding for a handicap fishing pier on Lake Koon in Southern Bedford County. This project was a challenge due to the fact that the property, while being located in Pennsylvania, is owned by a Maryland entity. Funding came from several sources, PA Fish and Boat Commission, PA Department of Community and Economic Development, PA Department of Environmental Protection and the City of Cumberland, Maryland. Southern Alleghenies RC&D Council provided support when needed on the project.

The pier, which includes a kayak launch and a fishing platform, was started in July of 2011 and completed in September of 2011. A native planting was held on September 21 with volunteers from REI, Southern Alleghenies Conservancy, and the City of Cumberland. A dedication was held on October 13, 2011.



REI volunteers

Evaluation and Protection of Drinking Water Sources in Blair County, Pennsylvania

The Altoona Water Authority (AWA) is the largest, publicly owned, dual operating authority (water and wastewater) between Pittsburgh and Harrisburg, PA. There are 12 water supply reservoirs in the system serving 60 percent of Blair County residents with drinking water. The authority is interested in collecting background data for the streams that flow into these water-supply reservoirs prior to Marcellus Shale gas development. Similarly, other Blair County headwater streams are underlain by the Marcellus Shale and are also at risk for impacts from natural gas activity.

The Southern Alleghenies Conservancy (SAC), U. S. Geological Survey (USGS), Blair County Conservation District (BCCD), and Trout Unlimited (TU) are partnering with AWA to collect data for determination of baseline water quality conditions. Baseline data collections include water quality, stream flow, fish (some streams have naturally reproducing brook trout populations) and macro-invertebrate communities, and habitat assessments for each stretch of stream surveyed. This data would serve as baseline data for future evaluations of changes in water quality.

	Stream Name	Tributary to	Drinking Water Source
1	Sink Run	Tyrone Reservoir	Yes
2	Tipton Run	Tipton Reservoir	Yes
3	Bells Gap Run	Bellwood Reservoir	Yes
4	Dry Gap Run	Mill Run Reservoir	Yes
5	Mill Run	Mill Run Reservoir	Yes
6	Glenwhite Run	Kittanning Reservoir	Yes
7	Sugar Run	Beaverdam Reservoir	Yes
8	Blair Gap Run	Plane Nine Reservoir	Yes
9	Poplar Run	Frankstown Branch	No
10	South Poplar Run	Frankstown Branch	No

Other Active Projects:

- Restoration of the Sugar Run Watershed
- Trout Run AMD Passive Treatment Project
- South Fork Conemaugh River Watershed Project
- Prospect Area Corner Store & Community Center
- Food Desert Project: Identifying Local Food Retail Outlets for Southern Alleghenies Farmers



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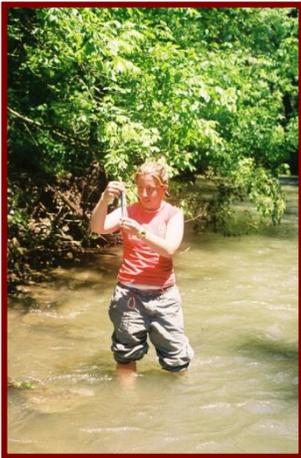
702 W Pitt Street, Fairlawn Court, Suite 8, Bedford, PA

Phone: 814-623-2394 * Fax: 814-623-2394

Statewide Projects

Consortium for Scientific Assistance to Watersheds (C-SAW)

Pennsylvanians are faced with significant environmental challenges in the 21st Century. To help prepare them to meet those challenges, the Consortium for Scientific Assistance to Watersheds (C-SAW) has, since its inception in 2001, developed and implemented a successful capacity-building model that provides watershed groups the necessary programmatic and technical assistance to effectively address local water-quality concerns across the state. The willingness of private citizens to take action to protect and restore local streams, as evidenced by the many groups looking to the C-SAW program for support, is improving water quality and preserving streams throughout the Commonwealth.



C-SAW is guided and administered by Pennsylvania's Resource Conservation and Development (RC&D) Councils, with the help of a group of service providers that collaborate with watershed organizations and municipalities to enhance the group's programmatic and technical skills to successfully monitor, protect, and restore Pennsylvania's waterways for the long term.

C-SAW's multi-disciplinary team offers three levels of technical assistance, each customized to meet the group's specific, and changing needs: (1) watershed-specific (short-term) technical assistance; (2) mentoring (long-term) assistance; and (3) quality assurance/quality control assistance.

Many of the groups that apply for C-SAW assistance have only recently formed and require assistance with organizational development and program management before they can effectively proceed with watershed monitoring and assessment. For more seasoned organizations, the request for C-SAW assistance can include organizational development and program management. Consortium partners collaborate with C-SAW recipients to build ownership, capacity and confidence. This approach sends ripples far beyond the individuals and organizations assisted, and helps to build stronger individuals, stronger watershed organizations and stronger.



Since its beginning the project partners provided technical assistance to a total of **594 organizations, 4,336 consultations, hosted 810 workshops and trainings, with over 39,945 individuals receiving assistance** as a direct result of C-SAW assistance being provided.

During FY-2011 the C-SAW Program assisted **71 organizations, 358 consultations, 358 workshops and training, with over 2,653 individuals** receiving assistance.

Pennsylvania Association of RC&D Councils

Capital RC&D

Bicky Redman, Chairperson
Susan Richards, Executive Director
Kathy Greiner, Program Administrator
Cheryl Burns, Outreach Specialist

Penn Soil RC&D

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Community Partnerships RC&D

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Manager
Mike Lennartz, Conservation Administrator & Taylor
House Manager
Sharon Lee, PA Quilt Trails Administrator
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Alleghenies Conservancy)

Headwaters RC&D

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