



Welcome to PennFuture's monthly newsletter, *PennFuture Citizen*, in which you will learn the latest from all aspects of the organization, including our policy work in Harrisburg, advocacy work on the ground with citizens like you, and legal work in which we hold big polluters accountable, protecting public health and safeguarding our land. Enjoy and be sure to join us on [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#) as we continue these important conversations!

## **PennFuture Celebrates Legal Victory for Exceptional Value Streams in the Poconos**

*By Jacquelyn Bonomo, President and CEO, PennFuture*

Some of the cleanest water in Pennsylvania flows from the Poconos – the headwater streams of our majestic Delaware River. PennFuture, representing itself and Brodhead Watershed Association, won a significant legal victory earlier this month when the Environmental Hearing Board (EHB) dismissed a challenge to the classification of four of those headwater streams as Exceptional Value.

Adding to a long list of legal wins over PennFuture's 20 year history, this decision by the EHB held back an attack by a group of resorts and developers who challenged the process by which the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection classifies waters for protection. In this instance, the four streams under scrutiny – Swiftwater Creek, Paradise Creek, Tunkhannock Creek and Devil's Hole – will receive the highest level of protection from degradation through the Exceptional Value classification. And that's a really good thing, because there is a very long list of communities, livelihoods, economies and critters who benefit from this cleanest of water. [READ MORE.](#)



## **PennFuture and Brodhead Watershed Association Earn Legal Victory for Exceptional Value Streams**

(Oct. 11, 2018) Mount Pocono, Pa. – Today, PennFuture and the Brodhead Watershed Association (BWA) won a battle for clean streams in the Poconos when a challenge to the "Exceptional Value" of four streams was dismissed by the Environmental Hearing Board (EHB).

The case was brought by a coalition of Monroe County developers and businesses, spuriously calling themselves the Monroe County Clean Streams Coalition, who challenged the PA Department of Environmental Protection's (DEP) independent analyses and conclusions that four streams in Monroe County had an existing use of "Exceptional Value," which affords those streams the highest protections from degradation.

"Today, clean water advocates and businesses that rely on clean water for their existence – the true protectors of Pocono's streams – prevailed," said Jacquelyn Bonomo, PennFuture President and CEO. "PennFuture knows that clean streams are important to our environment, our health, and our economy. We will continue to stand up against those who threaten our most pristine Pennsylvania resources." [READ MORE.](#)

## **Become an Informed Voter. Go Vote.**

***By Diana Dakey, PennFuture Board Member***

Voting is one of the most important rights and obligations you have as a citizen. The leaders you elect make decisions that affect you, your family, as well as your community, country, and world.

U.S. Citizens, at least 18 years old, can vote. You must be a Pennsylvania resident for 30 days prior to the November 6th election. You will register for the address where you will live for the 30 days prior to the election. If you have recently moved, you should update your voter registration.

All of the information you need can be found at [www.VotesPA.com](http://www.VotesPA.com), the official Pennsylvania website. Here, you can register to vote, confirm your registration, update your address, and locate your polling place. If you prefer to register in person or on a paper form, applications may be completed at your County Department of Elections, whose address can be found at VotesPA.com.

Be an Informed Voter. Democracy is not a spectator sport. It needs your input, in the form of your vote. Voting is your chance to choose the decision makers who will advocate for sound policies, beneficial to all of society and consistent with your values. [READ MORE.](#)



## **Legislative Session Closes with Significant Environmental Fight**

***By Ezra P. Thrush, Director of Policy, PennFuture***

With the close of legislative session in Harrisburg last week came significant victories for SPennsylvania's environmental protection, as two harmful bills were halted thanks to our work in the Capital, and thanks to the many citizens who took action by contacting their elected officials.

**Senate Bill 652, which aimed to silence those protesting pipelines, and House Bill 2154, which sought to roll back protections and regulations for the conventional oil and gas drilling industry, have both officially been defeated for this legislative session.**

This would not have been possible without the advocacy and hard work from PennFuture staff, members, supporters, and partners across the environmental community in Pennsylvania. Through action alert emails that engaged citizens with their elected officials, in-district constituent meetings with members of the General Assembly, calls to offices, sign-on letters with partner organizations and coalitions, and multiple lobby days, our presence and direct opposition to these bills truly had an impact. [READ MORE.](#)



## Post-Election Forum: The State of Pennsylvania's Environment

*Thursday, Nov. 15, 5:15 p.m. to 8 p.m.  
University of the Arts, Philadelphia, Pa.*

### **What happened during the 2018 elections nationally and in PA? How will it impact environmental policymaking and what should we expect in the coming years?**

The last two years have ushered in historic attacks on environmental laws. For many voters across the state, the political threats against our basic rights to clean air, pure water, stable climate, and the preservation of natural lands, have become a clarion call for changes in the capitol buildings in Harrisburg and Washington, D.C. For many of the folks running for office, challenging the threats against the environment are about defending our families, our children, and the health and safety of our communities. Please join PennFuture and Conservation Voters of Pennsylvania for the evening to discuss the results of the November 6th elections and what it means for environmental protection and climate action.

When: Thursday, Nov. 15, 5:15 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.

Where: University of the Arts Caplan Studio Theater for the Performing Arts - 17th Floor, [211 S. Broad St., Philadelphia, PA 19107](#)

Who: Panelists to be announced soon! Stay tuned.

[REGISTER TODAY.](#)

**Thank You to Our Sponsors:**



**More than 120 guests gathered at the National Aviary in Pittsburgh on Friday, Oct. 26 in celebrating the distinguished career of PennFuture's retiring President Emeritus, Larry J. Schweiger.** In addition to previously serving as PennFuture's President & CEO, Larry also previously served as President and CEO of the National Wildlife Federation for a decade, and worked for 14 years as the federation's senior vice president of conservation programs and in other capacities.

*Pictured: Jacquelyn Bonomo, PennFuture President and CEO; Andy Loza, Pennsylvania Land Trust Association; Cynthia Carrow, Western Pennsylvania Conservancy; Scott Tobe, Signature Financial Planning; Andrew McElwaine, The Heinz Endowments; Larry J. Schweiger, former CEO of PennFuture and former CEO of National Wildlife Federation; Char Margaro, PennFuture Board Chair; The Honorable Cindy Adams Dunn, Secretary PA Dept. of Conservation and Natural Resources; Fred Kraybill, PennFuture's President's Leadership Council; Hon. Lori K. Serratelli; Steven J. Schiffman.*

# Join Advocacy Training Workshop with PennFuture and Trout Unlimited in Harrisburg

Join PennFuture, Trout Unlimited and fellow advocates from the capitol region for a morning of workshops, networking, and conversations about ways you can advocate for Pennsylvania's clean water heritage in your community on Saturday, Nov. 10 from 9:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. This event will be held at Wildwood Park - [Wildwood Way 100, Harrisburg, 17110, PA.](#)

Following the morning's training, we will have legislative staff from your local representatives on hand to share their experiences and listen to your concerns about Pennsylvania's waterways.

Attendees can expect to discuss Pennsylvania's stream upgrade process, the Farm Bill, and other clean water legislation both at the state and federal level. Workshops will include print and digital media outreach, meetings with your legislator, and other advocacy tools used to get our message and mission in front of key decision makers.

**Lunch is provided and admission is free. Contact PennFuture's Campaign Manager for Watershed Advocacy Taylor Nezat at [nezat@pennfuture.org](mailto:nezat@pennfuture.org) to register today.**

## Lancaster County's Road to Water Restoration

***[By Taylor Nezat, Campaign Manager for Watershed Advocacy, PennFuture](#)***

Back in April when I first began my journey at PennFuture, I published the blog Building a Community Clean Water Toolbox: How PA Will Meet its Goals. During the time, Pennsylvania had just launched its pilot program in Franklin, Adams, York, and Lancaster counties to meet its Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) requirements set forth by the Environmental Protection Agency. Since this time, significant progress has been made by each of these counties in the development of action plans to reduce pollution runoff going into our local waterways.

Franklin and Adams counties have been meeting with the Department of Environmental Protection's (DEP) Chesapeake Bay office to develop their toolboxes; York County has been hosting bi-weekly meetings to develop their pollution diet plan, with only a few meetings left until they release their plan to the public. Lancaster County Clean Water Partners have been convening every two weeks in the development of their toolbox, and officially released their draft strategy for restoring local water quality on Wednesday, Oct. 3. **[READ MORE.](#)**



## **PennFuture Issues Statement on Need for Climate Action as EPA Administrator Andrew Wheeler Addresses Shale Insight 2018 Conference**

(Oct. 23, 2018) Pittsburgh, PA – Shale Insight™ 2018, a major shale industry conference organized in part by the Marcellus Shale Coalition, is taking place Oct. 23–25 at Pittsburgh's David L. Lawrence Convention Center. Andrew Wheeler, Acting Administrator of the U.S. Environment Protection Agency, is delivering the keynote address. Jacquelyn Bonomo, president and CEO of PennFuture, a statewide organization leading the transition to a clean energy economy in Pennsylvania, issued the following statement:

"PennFuture remains deeply troubled by the direction and policies of the U.S. EPA under President Trump, as carried out by Acting EPA Administrator and former coal industry lobbyist, Wheeler, and previously by disgraced but equally as dangerous former Administrator Scott Pruitt. As the EPA continues to cater to the wishes of the fossil fuel industry, it is showing virtually no regard for the long-term health and quality of life of the American people and the health of the environment it is charged to protect." [READ MORE.](#)

## **With New Climate Report, PennFuture Continues Legacy of Work**

***By Jacquelyn Bonomo, President and CEO, PennFuture***

I've waited five days to write something about the October 8 Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) document, The Special Report on Global Warming of 1.5°C. This time around, the panel uses its powerful voice and platform to pronounce that we are living through the impacts of 1 degree change. This time, the IPCC makes its case that limiting global warming to 1.5 degrees above pre-industrial levels is the best pathway to avoid the irreversible impacts of climate change. The panel makes no bones that to get there will be extremely challenging, and that no sector of society can sit out doing its part to greatly limit its carbon footprint.

By now, millions will have said something about the report on social media, or to their friends and family. I can't offer anything original or that hasn't been said many, many times since last Saturday. So, I find myself asking how, if, the report changes the world for PennFuture? If I am going to be honest with my answer, it doesn't. We operate from the same pronounced, crucial and excruciating imperative to act on climate this week, as we did when we formed as an organization 20 years ago. [READ MORE.](#)



## A Successful Forum to Celebrate the Delaware River Watershed

*By Emily Rinaldi, Campaign Manager, Northeast Region, PennFuture*

The Coalition for the Delaware River Watershed (CDRW) celebrated its sixth annual Delaware River Watershed Forum in Cape May, NJ on September 25 and 26. As attendees walked through the doors of the conference center at the Grand Hotel, there was an aura of victory amongst them. In the last year, this same group of people have celebrated wins and advanced new priority goals while swimming through a very challenging political climate.

In March 2018, for the first time in history, the Delaware River Basin Restoration Program (DRBRP) received \$5 million in funding as part of the Fiscal Year 2018 Omnibus spending bill approved by Congress and signed by the President. Because of this, dedicated funds will now go to on-the-ground projects designed to conserve and restore wildlife and fish habitats, improve water quality, and increase public access to the Delaware River and its tributaries. [READ MORE.](#)

## Artists Interpreting Climate Change, Part II

*By M. Travis DiNicola, Director of Development, PennFuture*

A few weeks ago, [I wrote a blog about how artists are interpreting climate change](#), and what some artists are doing to prevent it. Since then, I've heard from a number of people about other creative projects dealing with these issues. I quickly realized that I needed to write a sequel blog on the subject.

Not all artists use paint and canvas to pay attention to climate change.

One of the most amazing uses of creative technology, which many of us recently saw, was when [The Weather Channel used augmented reality graphics](#) to demonstrate the possible effects of Hurricane Florence's storm surge. Meteorologists were surrounded on screen by the rising water, carrying floating cars and other debris, while they

explained the potential danger of the surge. The Weather Channel is partnering with The Future Group to take an "Unreal Engine" (originally created for video games) and use it as "immersive mixed-reality technology" to improve their viewers' understanding of weather phenomena. Michael Potts, TWC's vice president of design, said that this technology, which wasn't even available a few months ago, "allows us to paint pictures" unlike anything anyone has ever seen. These are high-tech artists at work. [READ MORE.](#)

## **PennFuture Hosts Clean Energy Panel in Philadelphia**

Philadelphia, PA (Oct. 23, 2018) – PennFuture hosted a panel discussion at the Delaware Valley Regional Planning Commission Conference Center in Philadelphia on Tuesday to discuss the Trump administration's recently proposed rollbacks of environmental standards and their impact on the environment, economy, and public health.

The panel of experts examined how weaker standards pose risks to health and the climate, discussing how investments in clean energy and other innovative technologies could mitigate climate impacts.

Rob Altenburg, Director of the PennFuture Energy Center moderated the panel, which included Saleem Chapman, Deputy Director of the City of Philadelphia's Office of Sustainability; Mollie Michel, PA Field Organizer for Moms Clean Air Force; and Dr. Walter Tsou, Executive Director of Philadelphia Physicians for Social Responsibility.

"Trump's 'Safer Affordable Fuel Efficient (SAFE) Vehicles' rule, is clearly a disaster for air quality. Since it does not advance the mission of protecting the environment for which the agency was created, the EPA has shifted its focus. Our new vehicles will chug out more smog-forming pollutants, cancer-causing particulates, and greenhouse gases, but the EPA claims (with little justification) that those new dirty vehicles will be safer and cheaper," Altenburg said. "We must do everything we can at the state level to fight this rollback, among others, to safeguard the air citizens breathe and the water they drink." [READ MORE.](#)

## **Shop on AmazonSmile through Nov. 2 + Support PennFuture!**

Something on your "wish list" calling your name? Need to restock on supplies? Do it now and feel good for supporting clean air, clean water, and clean energy in Pennsylvania. **AmazonSmile is increasing its donation rate by TEN TIMES from now through Nov 2** – 5% of your purchase will go directly to support PennFuture when you shop at [smile.amazon.com/ch/31-1607866](https://smile.amazon.com/ch/31-1607866), or just designate "Citizens for Pennsylvania's Future" when you log in to your AmazonSmile account. Shop more, do good!

## **Work with PennFuture in Philadelphia!**

PennFuture seeks a Campaign Manager to lead a high impact campaign around clean water issues in Philadelphia, with a focus on green stormwater infrastructure. The Campaign Manager will develop and lead a bold, sophisticated, and integrated campaign that will elevate green stormwater solutions and infrastructure as a key environmental issue among Philadelphia's municipal leadership and residents, including around projects like the Rebuild Initiative. [CLICK HERE FOR MORE INFORMATION.](#)