

Conservation in the News July 2018

This is a blueprint for” Pennsylvania’s Conservation Agenda” an important review as we select representative to legislate activities impacting our environment. It’s executive summary reminds us that : ”Article 1 § 27 of the Pennsylvania Constitution: The people have a right to clean air, pure water, and to the preservation of the natural, scenic, historic and esthetic values of the environment. Pennsylvania’s public natural resources are the common property of all the people, including generations yet to come. As trustee of these resources, the Commonwealth shall conserve and maintain them for the benefit of all the people.”

Please Note:

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It is signed by:

Audubon Society; Center for Coalfield Justice; Clean Air Council ;Clean Water Action; Conservation Voters of Pennsylvania; Environmental Defense Fund; Foundation for Pennsylvania Watersheds; Green Building Alliance; Green Building United; Lacawac Sanctuary; League of Women Voters of Pennsylvania ;National Parks Conservation Association; National Wildlife Federation; Natural Lands (Trust); Natural Resources Defense Council; The Nature Conservancy – Pennsylvania Chapter; PennEnvironment; PennFuture; Pennsylvania Environmental Council; Pennsylvania Land Trust Association; Pennsylvania Parks and Forests Foundation; Sierra Club Pennsylvania; Sustainable Pittsburgh; The Trust for Public Land; Women for a Healthy Environment.

<https://pennfuture.org/Files/Admin/Updated-Final-Version-of-the-PA-Common-Conservation-Agenda-5.1.18.pdf>

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This synopsis of the meeting we had on March 13, 2018 was sent to the GCA at the request of our Zone Chair, Lindsay Leisenring , who attended the meeting and was excited it.

The Weeders, Zone V, meeting with Janice Kelsey, of Solar CITIES: Home Scale



Biodigester or “Baby Dragons”

The Weeders spent the evening of March 13, 2018 listening to Janice Kelsey, co-founder of Solar CITIES (actually C3ITIES). It gets its name from an acronym*: Since waste begins locally it can be disposed of at that level as well, and that process generates residual energy: biogas, and fertilizer. It has been compared to the digestive system of animals which provides energy and food, hence the name: “Baby Dragons”.

Biogas is an important byproduct, a fiery breath, thus the “dragon”. Additionally, because the waste is stored in an anaerobic (without air, or oxygen) environment it completely digests, or converts all waste, including long-feared pathogens, into healthy ingredients. It creates a clean liquid fertilizer which is many times more productive than conventional fertilizer. The “digester “ creates the anaerobic environment that exists in large scale municipal dumps, making it possible to “compost “ certain vegetable based plastics. Individuals cannot compost these products in conventional piles exposed to air.

The Chester County Municipal dump and other landfills are drawing this gas off their land and selling the resulting methane, produced from the “biogas”, to industries nearby. Some farms are now using this technique to dispose of their waste and create an on-site energy source.

Solar CITIES is showing how to make this is a small scale technology. It’s founder, T.H. Culhane, has a video on YouTube that shows how to set up this system and buy the necessary components at a local hardware store. Solar CITIES not only provides training, but is creating partnerships to spread the use of “baby dragons”.

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Last summer Carlisle University held a day long seminar on the subject and the University of Virginia is also promoting the concept, complete with mobile labs that move from school to school.

In addition to colleges and schools, Solar CITIES is teaching refugees and people suffering from poverty and climate devastation all over the world. Those in less stressed communities who wish to “live off the grid”, and/or dispose of vegetable based plastics, produce really miraculous fertilizer, and use biogas instead of propane in their grill might also be interested. People who hope to find ways for humans to become the “probiotic of the earth” might also find this inspirational.

Janice a friend, Jodi Spragins, reap the benefits of a medium sized “baby dragon” on Spragin’s farm in East Nantmeal Township, Chester County, PA. This system is used to dispose of waste collected from a few cows and a small flock of chickens as well as that of her family. It is large enough to produce fertilizer for other farms and biogas which they use to heat their homes and kitchens. Imagine , no more deforestation, Imagine free energy to provide resources for other worthwhile projects like education and healthcare.. Imagine maintaining a stable level of CO2. Imagine the endless possibilities!

It is a technology that has been in existence in the East for decades. (T.H. Culhane, co-founder with Janice, said the science originated in China) It’s an exciting idea being used increasingly here and abroad.

*(C3ITIES stands for "Connecting Community Catalysts Integrating Technologies for Industrial Ecology.) She and her friend, Jodi Spragins gave a TED Talk on the subject at Villanova University. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zNDPDBmBPzU>

“The group is a 501C3 providing ‘green-collar’ training for environmental services and technologies that solve energy, water, food, shelter and waste challenges at the local level through infrastructure built and installed ‘of the people, by the people, for the people.’”

EPA, Army corps move forward with plan to repeal clean water rule: (published by the Natural Gas Intelligencer:
<http://www.naturalgasintel.com/articles/114938-epa-army-corps-move-forward-with-plan-to-repeal-clean-water-rule>

CLEAN WATER ACT

Trump admin faults Obama rule's reliance on science report

<https://www.eenews.net/greenwire/2018/07/03/stories/1060087683>

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<https://stateimpact.npr.org/pennsylvania/2018/07/12/a-company-cut-trees-for-a-pipeline-that-hasnt-been-approved-the-landowners-just-filed-for-compensation/>

“The Energy 202: Interior lacks permanent leaders for key agencies controlling roughly 500 million acres of public land.”

https://www.washingtonpost.com/news/powerpost/paloma/the-energy-202/2018/07/03/the-energy-202-interior-lacks-permanent-leaders-for-key-agencies-controlling-roughly-500-million-acres-of-public-land/5b3a2a141b326b3348addc47/?noredirect=on&utm_term=.e46fd9a192b4

Clean Break: Kennedy Supreme Court Exit Could Upend Environmental Safeguards (Published in the Scientific American)

<https://www.scientificamerican.com/article/clean-break-kennedy-supreme-court-exit-could-upend-environmental-safeguards/>

East Goshen takes the lead in helping to fund a risk assessment

<https://dragonpipediary.com/2018/07/04/east-goshen-takes-the-lead-in-helping-to-fund-a-risk-assessment/>

Some of what we are conserving: Hummingbird pictures from Audubon

“Jewels of the Sky”

https://www.audubon.org/news/jewels-of-the-sky?ms=digital-eng-email-ea-x-20180716_jewelofthesky-

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Sweden to reach its 2030 renewable energy target this year

<https://www.businesslive.co.za/bd/world/europe/2018-07-04-sweden-to-reach-its-2030-renewable-energy-target-this-year/>

Sierra Club Study Indicates Lower Cost For Renewable Energy

Within text: “The report said there is potentially \$700 million in savings if coal is replaced with solar energy, and even more savings if coal is replaced with wind power. Fisher said consumers can take an active role in demanding their power comes from renewable sources.

‘So even if a consumer doesn’t have the wherewithal to install solar on their own rooftop or find another way to be able to mitigate it themselves, I think it’s actually more important that the utility itself takes steps to change and turn around its own fleet,’ Fisher said ...” There is a link to full report at end of report.

<http://upr.org/post/sierra-club-study-indicates-lower-cost-renewable-energy>

Japan aims for 22-24% renewable energy but keeps nuclear central

Within text: “The plan aims to have 22-24 per cent of Japan's energy needs met by renewable sources including wind and solar by 2030, a figure critics describe as unambitious based on current levels of around 15 per cent...Japan's own foreign minister Taro Kono earlier this year called the goal "significantly low" and described the country's commitment to renewables as ‘lamentable’.”

<https://www.businesstimes.com.sg/energy-commodities/japan-aims-for-22-24-renewable-energy-but-keeps-nuclear-central>

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Film and transcript for How to remove CO2 from atmosphere.

https://www.ted.com/talks/jennifer_wilcox_a_new_way_to_remove_co2_from_the_atmosphere?utm_source=newsletter_daily&utm_campaign=daily&utm_medium=email&utm_content=image_2018-07-05

This Country (Bhutan) Isn't Just Carbon Neutral It's Carbon Negative

https://www.ted.com/talks/tshering_tobgay_this_country_isn_t_just_carbon_neutral_it_s_carbon_negative

Pope Francis calls for people power ahead of climate summit: September 8.

https://350.org/press-release/pope-francis-calls-for-people-power-ahead-of-climate-summit/?akid=47354.690699.-_pinq&rd=1&t=14&utm_medium=email&utm_source=actionkit

Administration says in ruling on wetlands preceding one placed too much emphasis on science

<http://www.sciencemag.org/news/2018/07/obama-s-wetlands-protection-rule-put-too-much-emphasis-science-trump-officials-argue>

Summer Dead Zones in the Chesapeake Break Up Earlier: Low oxygen areas are disappearing almost a month earlier than they did 30 years ago.

<https://www.insidescience.org/news/summer-dead-zones-chesapeake-break-earlier>

Judge questions Delaware River Basin Commission's ability to fight fracking

<http://www.mcall.com/news/local/mc-nws-court-drbc-wayne-mineral-group-fracking-20180715-story.html>

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Check out this website that discusses the effort to end the use of plastic straws

<https://thelastplasticstraw.org/>

...and also give links to books of related topics.

Such as: “Blue Minds”

https://smile.amazon.com/Blue-Mind-Surprising-Healthier-Connected/dp/B00LOQ799Y/ref=sr_1_1?ie=UTF8&qid=1533317238&sr=8-1&keywords=blue+mind

“Plastic a Toxic Love Story:

https://smile.amazon.com/Plastic-A-Toxic-Love-Story/dp/B00567U9JY/ref=sr_1_1_twi_audd_2?ie=UTF8&qid=1533318940&sr=1-1&keywords=plastic+a+toxic+love+story+freinkel%2C+susan

TED talk, Beth Terry: Living plastic Free:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3JXWRVrFiKs>

Book by Beth Terry: “Plastic Free How to Kick Plastic Habit” available in kindle, Audible and paperback.

https://www.amazon.com/Plastic-Free-How-Kicked-Plastic-Habit/dp/163220665X/ref=as_li_ss_tl?_encoding=UTF8&qid=1475452412&sr=1-1&linkCode=sl1&tag=plasticfreepage-20&linkId=28c23502e309d9234fd2671f16b159c1

More on straws the internet:

<https://strawfree.org/https://strawfree.org/>

Now Brita gets Beth Terry’s issue as theirs too!

“7 Easy Ways to Break Up With Single-Use Plastic (and Be the Environment's Hero)”

<https://greatist.com/live/plastic-alternatives-reduce-single-use-plastic>

Saving our shores:

<http://saveourshores.org/cleanshores/>

“Renewable Energy:Europe keeps setting New Records”

<https://qz.com/1328344/renewable-energy-europe-keeps-setting-new-records-and-killing-off-coal/>

Careful of those Ground Bees. If you can avoid them, do: They are pollinators and they kill insects that don't (pollinate) the article also implies that they help aerate the soil.

<http://www.goerie.com/entertainmentlife/20180714/watch-out-for-stinging-insects-in-ground>

Bubble Bees are pollinators and on the endangered species list:

https://auburnpub.com/lifestyles/eco-talk-the-benefits-of-bumblebees-and-how-you-can/article_f85280a9-4294-5537-a3d3-b67cd38a085b.html

Organic solutions to garden pest problems:

<https://www.irishnews.com/lifestyle/2018/07/14/news/gardening-advice-three-common-problems-you-need-to-keep-on-top-of-in-summer-1379002/>

Help track and conserve the dwindling Bumble Bee:

<https://www.bumblebeewatch.org/>

Wineology: Let's talk organic wine:

“not all vineyards here in the valley choose to be certified organic. It can be a costly process to transition this way. And while many vineyards have been technically farming sustainably or organically for years, the idea of not being able to protect their vineyards against a possible sudden onslaught of rain or the introduction of a vineyard pest we have never seen before is too great a risk when considering going fully organic.

Fortunately, we have a climate here in the Okanagan that favors a vineyard regime of reduced spraying of herbicides and pesticides. It is dry enough that mildew is not as much of an issue and while vineyards pests and insects exist, they do so in an amount that is manageable.

Many vineyards and wineries have chosen to participate in the [Environmental Farm Plan](#), which is a government run, voluntary assessment of an agricultural property. They assess factors such as air quality control, soil quality, water usage and storage, composting programs, building designs and more.”

<https://www.saobserver.net/opinion/wineology-lets-talk-organic-wine/>

Connecticut thinks of banning single use plastic

Towns in Connecticut have also been scrutinizing the use of plastics, which are classified as pollutants under the federal Clean Water Act. The law allows states and local governments to reduce aquatic trash through the use of trapping technologies, and by setting rules that aim to reduce trash loadings into the water.

Late last month, South Kingstown became the eighth town in Rhode Island to enact a ban on retail carryout plastic bags, to take effect in 2019. In Connecticut, Westport, since 2009, has been the only municipality with such a ban, but other towns are gradually following suit. Greenwich will ban plastic bags in the fall, Mansfield and Waterford are mulling the idea, and in Stonington, the Board of Selectmen — prodded by residents — voted this week to form a committee that will study a ban on carryout plastic bags distributed by retail stores, and straws and takeout containers used by restaurants. The committee will also be asked to encourage the use of reusable bags and biodegradable straws.

<http://www.norwichbulletin.com/opinion/20180714/our-view-towns-should-mull-banning-plastics>

Nathaniel P. Reed, leader in efforts to protect endangered wildlife and wetlands, dies at 84.

https://www.washingtonpost.com/local/obituaries/nathaniel-reed-leader-in-efforts-to-protect-endangered-wildlife-and-wetlands-dies-at-84/2018/07/13/ae25a46a-86a7-11e8-8f6c-46cb43e3f306_story.html?utm_term=.ee61f05e13f5

Appellate Court supports Drillers in Fracking lawsuit in Delaware River Basin:

<https://www.thetimes-tribune.com/news/appellate-court-reinstates-federal-lawsuit-over-fracking-in-delaware-river-basin-1.2361698>

In Australia Government inaction fueled the renewables boom.

<http://www.abc.net.au/news/2018-07-16/how-government-inaction-fuelled-the-renewables-boom/9996458>

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“Ontario's new Progressive Conservative government is cancelling 758 renewable energy contracts in what it says is an effort to reduce electricity bills in the province... John Gorman, president of the Canadian Solar Industries Association, called the government decision to cancel the projects ‘rash.’

‘This is not about big business,’ he said. ‘This is about small rooftop projects that are owned by farmers and school boards and municipalities and First Nations groups. The folks that will be hurt are the installers and contractors and the engineers: the local guys, the little guys who have built up experience in building solar over the last few years.’

Gorman said the decision will likely lead to lawsuits, and said cancelling the contracts will not bring hydro prices down.”

”

<https://www.niagarathisweek.com/news-story/8740816-ontario-cancels-758-renewable-energy-deals/>

“33 of 35 county schools actively composting” (New York)

<https://www.recorder.com/franklin-county-schools-pitch-in-with-recycling-18773690>

“Cutting waste-haste”:

Group recycles compostable materials before it reaches landfill to create compost for locals.

“OffBeet Compost diverts household, restaurant and small business food scraps and other materials from going to waste facilities, like landfills and incinerators, according to Bascom. After collecting the materials, they are brought to a site in Haverhill where they go through a process of being broken down into nutrient-rich compost.

The compost is then redistributed to participants and sold to local farmers, gardeners and landscapers, and added to the soil.”

http://www.lowellsun.com/news/ci_32009249/their-mission-cutting-waste-haste#ixzz5LvR3PWTU

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“Why 96 million plastic ‘shade balls’ dumped into the LA Reservoir may not save water”

<https://www.pbs.org/newshour/science/why-96-million-plastic-shade-balls-dumped-into-the-la-reservoir-may-not-save-water>

The Renewable Energy Jobs Myth:

...”Environmental Defense Fund Program Director Delaney also mentions that “70% of the 2.2 million Americans who work in jobs related to energy efficiency are employed by companies with 10 employees or fewer.” These are small businesses, hiring American workers, in one of the fastest growing sectors of the economy. In addition, according to Delaney these jobs are also more difficult to outsource because “many sustainability jobs involve installation, maintenance, and construction.” The renewable energy sector is encouraging small business development in America.”

<https://www.sandersinstitute.com/blog/the-renewable-energy-jobs-myth>

Letter to the editor: Renewable energy critical for future generations:

“In an effort to protect Pennsylvania, a group of bipartisan legislators have introduced a proposal to transition the state to 100 percent clean energy: **House Bill 2132 and Senate Bill 1140.**

This is bipartisan legislation, folks. Call or write your representative and senator and urge them to support these bills. Use the purpose but also site the bill’s number. that gives clout to your request.

<https://triblive.com/opinion/letters/13877004-74/letter-to-the-editor-renewable-energy-critical-for-future-generations>

“Tax Equity Financing For Utilities: Another Helping Of Renewable Energy, But Hold The Tax Credits”

Interesting discussion of the financing for renewable energy in this administration.

<https://www.forbes.com/sites/brianpotts/2018/07/18/tax-equity-financing-for-utilities-another-helping-of-renewable-energy-but-hold-the-tax-credits/#aeaf4de743b4>

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Marriott is latest company to eliminate plastic straws:

Also makes note of the company's effort to end other single use plastics: "it began replacing small bottles of shampoo and conditioner with in-shower dispensers at many of its hotels. The company says it will have the dispensers in 1,500 hotels by the end of this year, which will eliminate 35 million plastic toiletry bottles annually."

<http://www.chicagotribune.com/business/ct-marriott-plastic-straws-20180718-story.html>

Your guide to navigating the anti-plastic straw movement:

<https://mashable.com/2018/07/18/plastic-straw-ban-guide/#e6LMrvB7gaqZ>

DOE rolls out \$2B loan guarantee program for renewable energy on tribal lands

<https://www.utilitydive.com/news/doe-rolls-out-2b-loan-guarantee-program-for-renewable-energy-on-tribal-land/528197/>

"Keep funding watershed conservation efforts" Interesting to see this article about the Delaware Watershed published in "Lancaster Online"

https://lancasteronline.com/opinion/letters_to_editor/keep-funding-watershed-conservation-efforts/article_86feeeca-8c36-11e8-bbff-af4e9b2a246b.html

"The EPA's acting head is as much a foe of Obama's regulations as Pruitt was"

Within the text:

" 'This indefensible gutting of our nation's first-ever coal ash pollution control rule cements the shameful environmental legacy of the Trump Administration,' said Lisa Hallowell, a lawyer with the Environmental Integrity Project, a group co-founded by a former director of the agency's office of civil enforcement."

<https://legalinsurrection.com/2018/07/epas-acting-head-is-as-much-a-foe-of-obamas-regulations-as-pruitt-was/>

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Measures that dimensions of the plastic pollution. It takes your breath:

“Plastic pollution risks 'near permanent contamination of natural environment'”
...”This new study found that growth in plastic production has been driven largely by packaging and the rise of single-use containers, wrapping and bottles. It found some of the only materials to outstrip plastic production over the past 70 years are used in the construction sector, such as steel and cement.”

<https://www.theguardian.com/environment/2017/jul/19/plastic-pollution-risks-near-permanent-contamination-of-natural-environment>

Video of flooded stream:

Karen Feridun shared a [video](#).
7 hrs ·

[visitPA](#) This isn't the new normal, according to climate experts. Things are going to get worse. Fracking in PA is only helping to exacerbate global warming. Our state's \$40 billion tourism industry is going to be hit hard.

<https://www.facebook.com/PennLive/videos/10155785800231647/UzpfSTE0NDkxODY0MDk6MTAyMTU1NDk1OTQwODAxNjY/>

“Russia's ties to U.S. Natural gas and Petrochemical Industries.”

Within text:

“ Since the Obama administration, exporting Liquefied Natural Gas to Eastern Europe has been promoted as a way to contain Putin. As recently as this March, Department of Energy Secretary Rick Perry **told** the Senate Armed Services committee that "an energy policy where we can deliver energy to Eastern Europe, where we are a partner with people around the globe, where they know that we will supply them energy and there are no strings attached is one of the most powerful messages that we can send to Russia.”

It's a plan likely to backfire if the companies delivering that American energy are, in fact, Russian.

How many more reasons do we need to ban fracking?

<https://www.dailykos.com/stories/2018/7/22/1782715/-Russia-s-Ties-to-U-S-Natural-Gas-and-Petrochemical-Industries>

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Water is killed by a thousand cuts:

Within text: "The proposal to dismantle the Clean Water Act is an effort to shift costs away from industry and developers and place that burden onto citizens. These regulations are in place to protect YOU! Without them, your drinking water will be at risk."

<http://www.goupstate.com/opinion/20180722/robbins-water-is-killed-by-thousand-cuts>

YIPPEE! This is our "GCA" bill which we have discussed in the past. The bill was cosponsored by Senators Van Hollen (D-MD), Whitehouse (D-R.I.), and Duckworth (D-IL). It would be great if you could contact your Federal Representative and senators and request they sponsor this bill.

Hirono Introduces Bill to Prioritize Native Plants Legislation Promotes Botanical Research and Directs Federal Departments to Provide Preference to Native Plant Materials

<https://www.hirono.senate.gov/news/press-releases/hirono-introduces-bill-to-prioritize-native-plants>

"Is there a serious risk of death by pipeline explosion. Heres how we can tell whether e should worry"Discussion of the concerns of families , businesses and schools in the path of Mariner east 1, 2 and 2x pipelines...."**Sunoco knows, but they're not telling.** Apparently, Sunoco has already done this kind of risk assessment. They have even shown some of the reports to some town officials, but only after the officials have been sworn to secrecy and have been prevented from taking notes or otherwise recording the data. At least, that's what I hear."

<https://dragonpipedairy.com/2018/05/09/is-there-a-serious-risk-of-death-by-pipeline-explosion-heres-how-we-can-tell-whether-we-need-to-worry/>

Here's Why the Endangered Species Act Was Created in the First Place

<http://time.com/5345913/endangered-species-act-history/>

(Delaware) County council OKs \$115,000 risk assessment study on pipeline

<http://www.delcotimes.com/general-news/20180725/county-council-oks-115000-risk-assessment-study-on-pipeline>

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“Unconventional Farmers”: Using beneficial insects and plants that discourage pests in the garden.

“ providing the right cultural environment for the beneficial insects, predators and soil microbes that produce the highest quality foods. They appreciate the many co-workers whom they pay a very fair wage — the worms, bees and butterflies.”

<https://www.theunion.com/entertainment/patti-bess-unconventional-farmers/>

Destroying North America's Natural Wonders to Own the Lib:
The "conservative" party moves to gut the Endangered Species Act.

https://www.esquire.com/news-politics/politics/a22550919/republicans-endangered-species-act/?src=nl&mag=esq&list=nl_enl_news&date=072618

PIPELINE DANGERS

“Quantitative risk assessment”, “hazards analysis”, and the concept of acceptable risk

<https://dragonpipediary.com/2018/07/24/quantitative-risk-assessment-hazards-analysis-and-the-concept-of-acceptable-risk/>

These New Jerseyans want to bring bomb trains to a halt:

(You are probably aware that the trains moving along the Schuylkill river often carry crude oil from the Bakken's too.)

<https://www.nrdc.org/stories/these-new-jerseyans-want-bring-bomb-trains-halt>

California City Passes Bill That Could Lead to Jail Time for Selling Plastic Straws

<https://people.com/food/santa-barbara-plastic-straw-ban-bill-jail-time/>

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Defending your home against the stink bug

“Just as you start to believe all hope is lost in combating the BMSB, a tiny samurai wasp was discovered in an orchard in Lancaster County, Pennsylvania! These non-stinging wasps are native to Asia and have successfully controlled the BMSB populations there. Just as the BMSB found its way to the U.S. is unknown, how this tiny wasp, the size of a sesame seed, got here is also unknown. This wasp provides hope, with more being found as researchers look for them.”

https://auburnpub.com/lifestyles/eco-talk-defending-your-home-against-the-stink-bug/article_679a07f9-a5c2-5c97-8d04-3b71fce460ab.html

LAWS AND REGULATIONS

Did the DEP issue flawed pipeline permits, and if so, why? Now, those questions won't be answered.

<https://dragonpipediary.com/2018/07/28/did-the-dep-issue-flawed-pipeline-permits-and-if-so-why-now-those-questions-wont-be-answered/>

“A company cut trees for a pipeline that hasn't been approved. The landowners just filed for compensation.

Family contends the line will never be built. “

For those who have not followed this story from the beginning: Watching this unfold has been very painful. These syrup farmers have withstood amazing pressure from the Williams Pipeline company, from occupation to finally watching as their private woodland of over 500 trees with some over 200 years old, be cut down, only to have New York State reject the pipeline, making the project worthless, and devastating. This is typical of the way pipelines move.

<https://stateimpact.npr.org/pennsylvania/2018/07/12/a-company-cut-trees-for-a-pipeline-that-hasnt-been-approved-the-landowners-just-filed-for-compensation/>

Sharing the “Bed with a Baby Elephant” : Funny, serendipitous situation to be saved and protected... another reason for conservation!

<https://www.facebook.com/ScaryMommyTimeOut/videos/2181939058705208/UzpfSTEWMDIyMDI1Mzc6MTAyMTM5ODI1NjU1MzA1MzI/>

100+ Gardening Vocabulary Terms You Need to Know in 2018

All the garden jargon you need to know in one handy place.

Jamie Hooper / shutterstock.com

“Humus” sounds like something you spread on crackers, but, at least when spelled with a single “m,” humus is a substance found in fertile soil. Deadheading? Well, it has nothing to do with Jerry Garcia, but everything to do with a beautiful flower garden.

<https://modernfarmer.com/2018/07/100-gardening-vocabulary-terms-you-need-to-know-in-2018/>

Boston Hospital promotes patient health with its own roof top garden

“What was once a flat, black roof provides prime real estate for roughly 25 varieties of fruits and vegetables that feed hospital patients, visitors and employees. The farm is considered the first of its kind in New England.”

<https://www.pri.org/stories/2018-07-28/boston-hospital-promotes-patient-health-its-own-rooftop-farm>

“Turning Its Back On Nuclear, TEPCO Plans 7 Gigawatts Of Renewable Energy”

Japan is planning to use floating wind power as the deep waters around it have made stationary , dug in platforms prohibitively expensive.

<https://cleantechnica.com/2018/07/27/turning-its-back-on-nuclear-tepco-plans-7-gigawatts-of-renewable-energy/>

Karnataka Now Produces More Renewable Energy than Netherlands and Denmark

<https://www.news18.com/news/buzz/karnataka-now-produces-more-renewable-energy-than-netherlands-and-denmark-1826473.html>

I had no idea where this “state “within India was located. If you’re interested, it’s on the western shore of the country. Here is a map:

<https://www.mapsofindia.com/maps/karnataka/>

Conservation in the News July 2018

Almost 90% of Ukrainians support renewable energy - survey

Almost 90% of Ukrainians say they have a positive attitude towards renewable energy, and another 75% support the introduction of a green tariff for green energy producers.

<https://www.ukrinform.net/rubric-society/2506821-almost-90-of-ukrainians-support-renewable-energy-survey.html>

Arizona's nuclear power caught in crossfire...

A renewable energy ballot measure could up the state's reliance on cleaner energy.

<https://www.hcn.org/articles/energy-industry-arizona-nuclear-power-caught-in-crossfire>

Australia's Alinta Energy seeks renewable energy projects:

"July 27 (Renewables Now) - Australian natural gas and electricity supplier Alinta Energy on Friday asked for expressions of interest (Eoi) for renewable energy projects over 50 MW in the National Energy Market.

The company, which has recently reached 1 million customers, said it wants to secure additional generation to provide more affordable energy to its growing customer base. 'We're taking on around 2,000 customers a day at the moment, and we're working to deliver 1,000 MW of owned and contracted renewable generation by 2020,' commented managing director and chief executive Jeff Dimery."

<https://renewablesnow.com/news/australias-alinta-energy-seeks-renewable-energy-projects-621502/>

(Interesting to see how the financing of the extremely important projects are being dealt with by other countries:)

Uganda-takes-major-step-in-de-risking-future-renewable-energy-projects:

“The RLSF has an initial capacity equivalent to \$74 million and is designed to provide a solution to a the requirement of independent power producers to provide project lenders with a liquidity guarantee; a significant obstacle that IPPs operating in Africa currently face.

“ ‘RLSF is a tool that can ensure more renewable energy projects reach financial close,’ commented George Otieno, ATI’s Chief Executive Officer. ‘For Africa, small and mid-sized projects may be a better fit to the current environment requiring less financing and they can be implemented much quicker.

“ ‘This could be a model that works in many other African markets that may just pave the way for an expansion of the facility or other such initiatives. ‘ ”

<https://www.reinsurancene.ws/uganda-takes-major-step-in-de-risking-future-renewable-energy-projects/>

OES Releases Spotlight on Ocean Energy Report”:

Ocean Energy Systems, an intergovernmental collaboration consisting of over 20 member countries including the United States, has released the **Spotlight on Ocean Energy** report, which provides detailed analysis and insights into 20 ocean energy projects and five policy-based initiatives spread among member countries. The report also contains an extensive list of active ocean energy test sites.

Twelve U.S. facilities are highlighted, including the U.S. Navy Wave Energy Test Site (WETS) in Hawaii, the Southeast National Renewable Energy Center - Ocean Current Test Facility in Florida, and the Jennette's Pier Wave Energy Test Facility in North Carolina. The **Water Power Technologies Office** (WPTO) together with the national laboratories supplied input for the U.S. portion of OES's report.

While marine energy is at an earlier stage of development relative to other renewables, OES's report provides examples of not only active projects and testing capabilities, but also of American contribution and leadership within the context of international marine energy development.

https://www.renewableenergymagazine.com/ocean_energy/oes-releases-spotlight-on-ocean-energy-report-2018072/

Terra Firma Sells Solar Energy Portfolio to F2i for \$1.5 Billion

“Terra Firma, based in London, UK, has entered into an agreement to sell RTR, the Italian solar energy platform, to F2i, the Italian infrastructure investor in a deal worth €1.3 billion (\$1.5 billion). With this acquisition, F2i becomes Europe's third largest producer of electrical power from solar energy.”

https://www.renewableenergymagazine.com/pv_solar/terra-firma-sells-solar-energy-portfolio-to-20180727

Finnish Ice Hockey Team Switches to Biogas-Powered Cars:

“SaiPa's goalkeeper Frans Tuohimaa has been driving the car for a month and said, “The introduction...has been easy and driving characteristics are no different from my previous cars. Refueling is also easy. So far, I have driven on 100 percent biogas, while filling stations are conveniently located along the way. “

<https://www.renewableenergymagazine.com/biogas/finnish-ice-hockey-team-switches-to-biogaspowered-20180727>

Ameren Missouri Offers New Renewable Energy Program:

“The Renewable Choice Program recently was approved by the Missouri Public Service Commission (PSC) and is an innovative way for large commercial and industrial customers as well as municipalities to receive up to 100 percent of their energy from clean, renewable resources.

“Ameren Missouri is authorized to acquire ownership of up to 200 megawatts (MW) of new renewable energy. This program also allows Ameren Missouri to purchase through power supply agreements an additional 200MW of renewable energy generation to serve customers. This new renewable energy generation is in addition to the company's existing renewable energy strategy set forth in its 2017 Integrate”d Resource Plan—a 20-year plan that supports cleaner energy in Missouri, including major expansions of solar and wind energy. The IRP, which is filed every three years with the Missouri PSC, examines electric customers' projected long-term energy needs.”

http://www.eei.org/future/Pages/story.aspx?sid=120_Ameren%20Missouri%20Offers%20New%20Renewable%20Energy%20Program

Conservation in the News July 2018

JALGO collaborates with Solar Head of State to promote renewable energy in Jamaica”sponsor trophies for the winners of the Jamaica Solar Challenge held earlier this year, targeting youth and young adults between 12 and 26 years old.”

<http://www.world-psi.org/en/jalgo-collaborates-solar-head-state-promote-renewable-energy-jamaica>

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<http://bigbughunt.com/>

Three E&Ps Ordered to Plug 1,000-Plus Abandoned Wells in Pennsylvania: The Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) has ordered CNX Resources Corp., XTO Energy Inc. and Alliance Petroleum Corp. to plug more than 1,000 abandoned wells across the state.

The agency issued separate administrative orders to the exploration and production (E&P) companies earlier this month and said that each has failed to follow state law by not plugging the wells.

<http://www.naturalgasintel.com/articles/115211-three-eps-ordered-to-plug-1000-plus-abandoned-wells-in-pennsylvania>

