

Conservation in the News February 2018

List of all the Environmental rollbacks that have occurred under president # 45's tenure in office: There are 67 rulings that have been affected, this doesn't include those that were reinstated after court battles by environmental groups.

<https://www.nytimes.com/interactive/2017/10/05/climate/trump-environment-rules-reversed.html?smid=fb-share>

I received an article in my e-mail stating that the UK might adopt Norway's practice regarding recycling plastic bottles, in which a deposit or tax is paid for each bottle, but refused for clean empty bottles. The article stated that there were some U.S. States that also do this. so I Goggled what states have recycling similar to Norway. I got the following wikipedia Link:

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Recycling_in_the_United_States

Within the text they say that some of the states are: California, Connecticut, Delaware, Hawaii, Iowa, Maine, Massachusetts, Michigan, New York, Oregon, and Vermont." (They) have passed laws that establish deposits or refund values on beverage containers while other jurisdictions rely on recycling goals or landfill bans of recyclable materials. Further into the article there is an interesting paragraph on the financial implications of recycling versus landfill use. Wisconsin's Waukesha County loses about \$112 per ton by using landfills as opposed to recycling. It would be interesting to ask our local counties if they have ever done this calculation. It is noteworthy that PA is not included in the list!

Interesting ... later in the article it mentions : " Another early recycling mill was Waste Techniques, built in Conshohocken, Pennsylvania in 1972.[citation needed] Waste Techniques was sold to Frank Keel in 1978, and resold to BFI in 1981." I google BIF in Conshohocken. Got no results. We toured Covanta that does garbage to steam. Can't find if they are associated with BIF...

Short reminder of the harass in electronic waste.:

<https://www.msn.com/en-us/travel/news/why-you-should-recycle-your-old-electronics/vp-BBIPqcY>

Exciting article about discovery that industrial composting that reaches temperature of 90 degrees Fahrenheit kills antibiotic germs that collect in the feces of industrially raised farm animals. This is a great risk to human's and has been used as an argument for using chemical fertilizers instead of compost.

<https://phys.org/news/2018-02-technology-antibiotic-resistance-genes-compost.html>

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New Jersey , under the new management of Governor Murphy, who appointed Attorney General Gurbir Grewal. He is joining nine other states to sue the EPA for Trump's attempt to rolled back Obama era Clean Water act enforcement.

http://www.nj.com/news/index.ssf/2018/02/new_jersey_sues_epa_waters_of_the_us.html

It never stops. Full scale assault on our environment. Efforts to destroy endangered species act. And 10 states suing the feds. over Clean water act.

<https://www.ecowatch.com/clean-water-act-and-endangered-species-act-2532139687.html>

<https://www.globalcitizen.org/en/content/states-suing-trump-over-clean-water-act-rule/>

Continued draught predicted for 2018 in the southwest:

<http://abcnews.go.com/Technology/wireStory/water-forecast-bleak-major-reservoir-southwest-us-52914491>

Secretary Pruitt is interviews in Nevada regarding his work at the EPA. Asks if "Global warming is necessarily a bad thing."

https://www.ecowatch.com/scott-pruitt-climate-change-2532424794.html?utm_source=EcoWatch+List&utm_campaign=1cdf3f8501-EMAIL_CAMPAIGN&utm_medium=email&utm_term=0_49c7d43dc9-1cdf3f8501-85327165

Investors are increasingly aware of the scanty reporting on corporate control of Methane Leaks

https://www.ecowatch.com/methane-reporting-companies-2532153823.html?utm_source=EcoWatch+List&utm_campaign=1cdf3f8501-EMAIL_CAMPAIGN&utm_medium=email&utm_term=0_49c7d43dc9-1cdf3f8501-85327165

A leading lobbyist for the coal and oil industries, who is a staunch climate change skeptic, is a step away from being second in command at the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).

Andrew R. Wheeler's nomination by President Trump to be Deputy EPA Administrator was approved by a party-line vote in the Senate Environment and Public Works Committee Wednesday. The nomination will now go to the full Senate.

https://www.ecowatch.com/coal-lobbyist-epa-2532231925.html?utm_source=EcoWatch+List&utm_campaign=1cdf3f8501-EMAIL_CAMPAIGN&utm_medium=email&utm_term=0_49c7d43dc9-1cdf3f8501-85327165

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Problem of disposing of Fracking radioactive waste:

<https://grist.org/business-technology/fracking-produces-tons-of-radioactive-waste-what-should-we-do-with-it/>

We're making progress No plastic straws in a Hilton Hoel in Hawaii:

<http://www.hawaiinewsnow.com/story/37488759/there-are-no-plastic-straws-at-the-hilton-waikoloa-heres-why>

And now this: The crown rejects plastic straws and bottles on royal properties :

<https://www.ecowatch.com/plastic-ban-uk-2534089763.html>

A description of the vertical integration attached to the Fracking wells.:

<https://www.nationofchange.org/2018/02/15/drowning-plastic-fracking-companies-profiting/>

Federal Energy Regulation Commission (FERC) is ordering electrical utilities to open storage to wholesale markets: :

<https://www.edf.org/media/ferc-opens-wholesale-markets-energy-storage>

Forbes is discussing the move by large energy companies toward renewables:

<https://www.forbes.com/sites/peterdetwiler/2018/02/20/more-energy-giants-moving-towards-a-renewable-energy-future/#15dc36607d94>

Ikea is starting a collective program in which it seeks out 100% renewable electricity providers and offers the service to customers. It reminds of the outfit called "Ethical Electric" which tried to do something around 2012-2013. I think I will revisit the issue in the U.S., Pa specifically, as I understand that PECO has begun an big effort to encourage solar power.

<https://www.theguardian.com/business/2018/feb/20/ikea-joins-big-clean-switch-to-offer-100-renewable-energy-tariff>