

Curious About Conservation in the News? January 2019

PLEASE READ THIS ON YOUR COMPUTER. PART OF CONSERVATION INCLUDES LESS PAPER. DON'T PRINT CASUALLY!

Recycling in Chester County:

RECYCLING & SAFE DISPOSAL OPPORTUNITIES FACT SHEETS:

The following fact sheets are provided as a public service by the Chester County Solid Waste Authority. No companies are endorsed or recommended.

- [Automotive Waste \(PDF\)](#)
- [Batteries \(PDF\)](#)
- [Cell Phones \(PDF\)](#)
- Drywall-Can be brought to the landfill for a fee. Must be clean. No paint or wallpaper. Recycled into gypsum product.
- [E-waste \(tv-computers etc\) \(PDF\)](#)
- [Upcoming E-waste collection events.](#)
- [Fire Extinguishers \(PDF\)](#)
- [Fluorescent tubes/CFLs \(PDF\)](#)
- [Freon®Recovery \(PDF\)](#)
- [Donations/Miscellaneous \(PDF\)](#)
- [Hazardous Waste Collection \(PDF\)](#)
- Companies
- [Metals \(PDF\)](#)
- [Mercury Thermostats/CO2 \(PDF\)](#)
- [Paint Disposal Instructions \(PDF\)](#)
- [Polystyrene Package \(PDF\)](#) [Peanuts/Block Styrofoam \(PDF\)](#)
- [Printer Cartridges \(PDF\)](#)
- [Tank Disposal \(PDF\)](#)-Helium, Propane and Other Gas Cylinders
- [Smoke Detectors](#)

Tires - Residents should return tires to a tire dealer. There will be a small fee. Larger numbers of tires may be taken to a company on the attached list.

- [Prescription Drugs and Sharps Disposal](#)

- [VideoTapes/CDs/DVD's](#)
- [X-Rays](#)

[Carton Recycling](#)

[Plastic Bag Recycling](#)

<https://www.chestercountyswa.org/176/Recycling-Safe-Disposal-Opportunities>
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=u5Os6H79h0Q&feature=youtu.be>

Recycling in Montgomery County

PLEASE CLICK ON THE A-Z RECYCLING LINK BELOW AND GO TO "ELECTRONIC EQUIPMENT" IF YOU NEED TO RECYCLE TV'S, MONITORS OR COMPUTERS.

[A-Z RECYCLING: WHAT TO DO WHEN YOU'RE DONE WITH IT](#)

COUNTY RECYCLING EVENTS

- [2018 Household Hazardous Waste Events in Montgomery County](#)
- [2018 Household Hazardous Waste Events in Southeastern PA](#)
- [2019 Tire Collection Events](#)
- [Campaign Sign Recycling Program for 2018](#)
- [Community Document Shredding](#)
- [Electronic and Television Recycling](#)

WASTE LESS. RECYCLE MORE.

- [Recycling at home, work and school](#)

FLYERS FOR COUNTY OFFICES DOCUMENT DESTRUCTION & RECYCLING PROGRAM

- [Montgomery County Offices Document Destruction](#)
- [Montgomery County Offices Recycle Program](#)

CONTACT US

If you have questions about recycling in Montgomery County, please call the Recycling line at [610-278-3618](tel:610-278-3618) or email at recycling@montcopa.org.



: <https://www.montcopa.org/637/Recycling-Information>

Delaware County Solid Waste and Recycling

What You Can Recycle In Delaware County

How it Should be Prepared for Recycling

Aluminum

Recyclable – All aluminum beer and soda cans are presently accepted at participating curbside and drop off locations.

Non-recyclable – Aluminum trays, pie tins, ice cube trays, aluminum siding, storm doors, windows and gutters, lawn furniture are currently not accepted at participating curbside or drop off locations.

Hint – If a magnet does not stick to the side of the can, it's made from aluminum.

Bimetallic Cans

Recyclable – Soup, tuna, and cat food cans just to name a few can be recycled in your participating curbside program.

Hint – If a magnet sticks to the side of the can it's a bimetallic can.

Glass

Recyclable – Glass containers (clear, amber or brown, and green)

Non-recyclable– Milk white glass, pottery, plate glass, mirrors, light bulbs, fluorescent bulbs, crystal, ceramics, plate glass.

How to Prepare for recycling – Rinse all bottles and jars. Labels can stay on. Always remove metal caps. (If your municipality co-mingles ~ simply remove the lid and place it in the same recycling container.) If required by your municipality, separate by color. Store all glass intact – do not break.

Paper

Recyclable – Newsprint, office paper, junk mail, catalogs, magazines

Non-recyclable– Waxed or plastic coated paper

How to Prepare for recycling – Keep clean and dry. No need to remove cellophane window. Some municipalities prefer you stack paper and tie with twine or pack in paper bags (please do not place in plastic grocery bags) and place next to your recycling bin. Other municipalities allow you to mix paper with other recyclables in one container. This is called Single Stream Recycling.

[Check with your municipality.](#)

Cardboard

Recyclable – Shipping boxes, food preparation boxes such as cereal, crackers and packing cardboard.

Non-Recyclable – Wax coated boxes; e.g. boxes holding produce.

Plastic

Plastics #1 & #2

[Recyclable – HPDE #1 and #2, PET #1 and #2. The Plastics Council advises, the way to identify bottles that can and should be recycled is simple. Any bottle whose neck is smaller than the bottom can be recycled all others should be discarded with your household trash.](#)

Plastics #3 thru #7

Currently, Plastic #3-#7 food containers are accepted in some municipalities.

[Please check prior to recycling.](#)

Non-Recyclable– Plastic Shopping Bags are not accepted in any curbside recycling program. However, they can be recycled at your local

supermarket. Look for a bin right inside their door. You can also recycle dry cleaners and circular bags.

How to Prepare for recycling – Rinse all containers, labels can stay. Remove all lids. This will allow for plastic to be crushed as the first step in its recycling process.

In Delaware County, NO curbside program currently accepts Styrofoam, plastic toys, furniture or gadgets.

<http://www.co.delaware.pa.us/recycle/whatshould.html>

Philadelphia:

ARTICLES ABOUT [RECYCLE](#)



RECYCLING IN PHILADELPHIA: HOW OUR SINGLE-STREAM SYSTEM WORKS

January 16, 2019

If you're a resident of the Philadelphia area, it's probably old news to you that this city has a trash...



[WHO'S REALLY TO BLAME FOR PHILLY BURNING 50% OF ITS RECYCLABLES?](#)



[WHERE CAN I BUY REPURPOSED FURNITURE IN PHILADELPHIA?](#)

January 2, 20190

If you're looking for a sustainable way to spruce up your home or your business, purchasing repurposed furniture is one...



[WHERE TO RECYCLE THAT CHRISTMAS TREE](#)

December 26, 20180

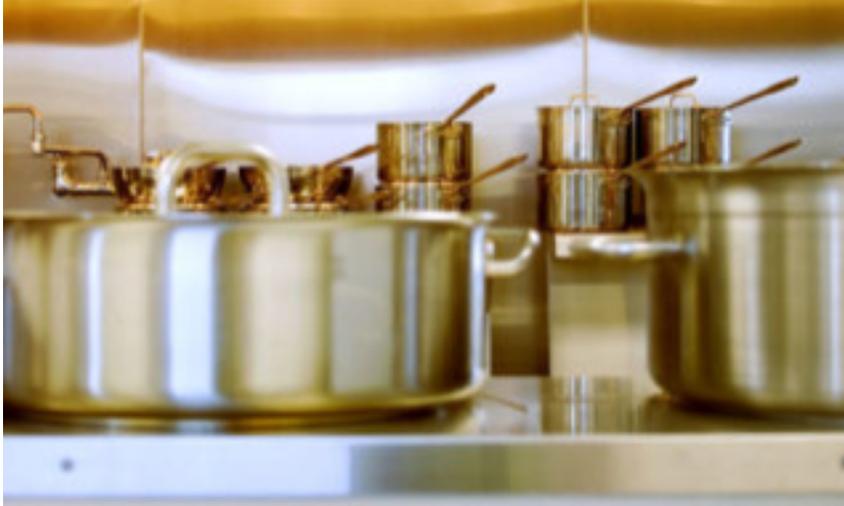
Where can you recycle your christmas tree? Find all the pickup, drop off and range of options.



[CAN YOU RECYCLE DIAPERS?](#) **NO!**

December 12, 20180

We get a lot of questions about what can and can not be recycled. I can't believe this Where Can...



[WHERE TO RECYCLE A STAINLESS STEEL POT OR PAN?](#)

December 5, 2018

“What is the best way to recycle a stainless steel pot or pan. I am asking about a pan that...Stainless steel pots and pans can't be put in single-stream recycling bins.

Instead, you can drop it off at a metal recycler. Not sure where there's a metal recycler? Good news, we did a [previous recycling post](#) on that!

As a last resort, (sadly) throw it in the trash.



[WHERE TO DROP OFF BAGGED LEAVES IN PHILLY – 2018](#)

November 28, 2018

Although we've already had snow in Philly, there's still leaves around! The 2018 Philadelphia Bagged Leaf Recycling Program is back....



[DONATE TO TALLER PUERTORRIQUEÑO'S THANKSGIVING DRIVE](#)

November 14, 2018

Before you give thanks, give back — and donate clothes and food to those in need. Taller Puertorriqueño is accepting...



[READER QUESTION: ARE PLASTIC BAGS EVER OK IN RECYCLING BINS? NO!](#) You should **never** put plastic bags — regardless of size, shape, color, gender, etc., — in single-stream recycling bins (i.e. the free City of Philadelphia blue ones.) Plastic bags get caught in the MRF when processing single stream recycling.

(Clogging the wheels of a recycling facility can cause it to shut down until it can be repaired, costing thousands of dollars, possibly put them out of business.)



[WHERE TO RECYCLE PACKAGING MATERIAL IN PHILADELPHIA](#)

September 26, 2018

After you spend an agonizing five days tracking its journey, that goodie you bought online finally arrives on your doorstep....

What To Do With Packing Peanuts

- **Shipping centers:** Sadly, most recycling plants don't accept these pesky little things, so don't try to throw them in your bin. Instead, you can drop them off at shipping centers that participate in the national [Loose Fill Reuse Program](#). Philadelphia's locations include:
 - Philadelphia Mailroom (8001 Castor Ave., [215-745-1100](tel:215-745-1100))
 - Northern Liberties Mailbox Store (702 N 3rd St., [215-627-6215](tel:215-627-6215))

You can also call your [local UPS Store](#) to see if they accept drop-offs.

(My opinion, If you can, discourage the use of peanuts, maybe with an opinion to the packager. Styrofoam breaks down into minute pieces infuriating our environment and harming wildlife. There are some research projects exploring how to dispose of it, in one case I discovered in recent months, a school student and his class discovered how to convert it to carbon for carbon filters. But other than recycling it where allowed, which are few and far between, attempt to refuse styrofoam peanuts, and other forms of the stuff. Chester County and some centers in Philadelphia will accept the large blocks

from TV packaging but you have to bring it to the recycling facility. The Chester County does not accept food containers regardless how washed they may be. You risk contaminating recycling bins, forcing manual sorting followed by forcing the recycler to send it finally on a trip to the landfill., which a simple toss into the garbage would have curtailed. **One of the most difficult lessons to learn may be: "When in doubt throw it Out!"**
<https://www.greenphillyblog.com/philadelphia-recycling-guide/>

Editorial: Why you need to smartly recycle, limit plastic

Unfortunately, the recycling business faces as least two major challenges right now. Too many of us are wishful recyclers, tossing items into our blue bins that aren't really recyclable. This happens, in part, because the guidelines can be a bit confusing ..Portage County accepts aluminum and tin cans, cardboard, cartons for liquids and paper, including our print newspaper. (See box for more details.) ...But all of those wishful items — especially plastic bags containing recyclables — present a major challenge to every recycling program as they must be sorted out and disposed of properly. Processors charge Portage County an extra \$120 per ton when more than 20 percent (soon to be 15 percent) of the recycling stream has trash. (Plastic store bags can often be recycled at stores.) ...It would be helpful if everyone paid closer attention to what's accepted curbside... There's also a cold reality confronting the recycling business. People are struggling to make money turning our recyclables into a reusable format. China has stopped accepting massive amounts of recycled items from the United States. Prices also have fallen for items such as steel cans, which now earn \$35 per ton, down from more than \$300...The "60 Minutes" report even raised questions about whether all of the recyclables we're collecting are ever recycled into a new product... Regardless, there's no doubt we need everyone to behave differently when it comes to plastic. For example, simply avoiding or greatly limiting your use of one-time plastic bottles and cups can make a difference.
<https://www.record-courier.com/opinion/20190127/editorial-why-you-need-to-smartly-recycle-limit-plastic>

PLASTIC:

A plastic problem: Towns ask residents to separate what's recyclable, what's not



Pittsfield transfer station administrator Lisa Stevens holds up pieces of plastic that will no longer be able to be recycled in the high quality bin. GEOFF FORESTER / Monitor staff > [Buy this Image](#)

... Back in 2010, China would buy almost anything to use as raw material in manufacturing. Back then, Stevens said, she could sell virtually every bit of plastic that residents dropped off, even large, bulky “rigid plastic” items like chairs, buckets and toys.

But China has gotten much, much pickier. Today, [bales of plastic going to market have to be pristine, consisting only of types 1 and 2 plastic such as water bottles or milk bottles, if there's any hope of selling them.](#) All the other types of plastic – there are seven of them – that are tossed in B.C.E.P.'s recycling bin has to be separated out by staff and sent to the landfill.

...“I can get maybe 3½ to 5 cents a pound” for most types of plastic if they can be sold at all, said facility administrator Lisa Stevens, whereas for the best type of plastic, known as numbers 1 and 2, “I can get 29 to 42 cents a pound.”

Want more numbers from the Pittsfield facility, which also takes trash from Chichester, Epsom and Barnstead? How about these:

In 2010, the facility sold 79 tons of plastic. Last year, it sold only half as much, 42 tons, even though the amount of plastic being brought to the transfer station keeps increasing...With less plastic being sold, more is being shoved into landfills. The facility doesn't measure how much plastic gets trashed, but here's an indication: In 2010, the facility landfilled a total of 2,583 tons of waste. In 2018, it sent 14 percent more: 2,945 tons....

<https://www.concordmonitor.com/recycling-plastics-22816834>

Resistance to plastic packaging grows in organics

More organic produce consumers are pushing back against the use of plastic in packaging, but will it matter?

Gene Versteeg, produce sales manager at Market of Choice, Eugene, Ore., said consumers at his store have expressed preference for other options besides plastic for organic produce — which accounts for half of the store's produce.

"This year especially it's the most vocal I've ever heard people be about it," he said "We have organic salads in the plastic clam shells and plastic bags, but we also have them in bulk (salad) bar where people can either use one of our recyclable bags or bring their own bag and they can buy in bulk."

The bulk salad includes spring mix and spinach, he said.

"It seems like that bulk bar is increasing at a faster rate than the clamshell packs," Versteeg said...Versteeg said he hasn't seen a lot of innovation in packaging to answer rising consumer resistance to plastics.

"Finding alternative materials which are sustainable and ocean degradable material seems becoming a trend and I believe the continued work in using renewable resources may yield a better material."

<https://www.produceretailer.com/article/news-article/resistance-plastic-packaging-grows-organics>

Samsung is getting rid of plastic packaging for phones, tablets and TVs

The world's largest smartphone maker is starting to ditch the plastic packaging typically used to wrap and protect electronic devices and appliances.

Starting in the first half of this year, Samsung phones, tablets and wearable devices will be packaged in paper, pulp molds and bio-based or recycled plastics, the company [said in a statement Sunday](#). It will also alter the design of its phone charger, replacing the glossy exterior with a matte finish and ditching plastic protection films.

A company spokeswoman said the reduction of single-use plastics in Samsung's packaging will progress "gradually," adding that there is no timetable for when they will be phased out completely.

<https://www.cnn.com/2019/01/28/business/samsung-plastic-packaging/index.html>

The Natural products that could replace plastic

...scientists, engineers and designers are shifting their focus to ecologically friendly alternatives that create circular, low-waste ecosystems — liquid wood, algae insulation, and polymer substitutes made from fermented plant starch such as corn or potatoes, for example.

These alternatives do more than stem the growing tide of plastics: they also address issues such as safely housing a growing population, offsetting carbon emissions, and returning nutrients to the earth.

<http://www.bbc.com/future/story/20190125-the-natural-products-that-could-replace-plastic>

Global Commitment

A line in the sand: Global Commitment to eliminate plastic pollution at its source

The New Plastics Economy Global Commitment unites businesses, governments, and other organizations behind a common vision and targets to address plastic waste and pollution at its source.

Signatories include companies representing 20% of all plastic packaging produced globally, as well as governments, NGOs, universities, industry associations, investors, and other organizations...Signatories include companies representing 20% of all plastic packaging produced globally, as well as governments, NGOs, universities, industry associations, investors, and other organizations. The New Plastics Economy Global Commitment is led by the [Ellen MacArthur Foundation](#), in collaboration with UN Environment.

<https://newplasticseconomy.org/projects/global-commitment>

Acting EPA Head Wheeler Downplays Climate Crisis at Confirmation Hearing

Acting U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Administrator and former [coal](#) lobbyist [Andrew Wheeler](#) downplayed the threat of [climate change](#) and defended his deregulatory record at the first Senate confirmation hearing [on his nomination to officially run the agency](#) Wednesday. It was a hearing that some activists and Democrats did not even think should take place, given that business as usual at the EPA [has been hampered](#) by the ongoing government shutdown.

https://www.ecowatch.com/andrew-wheeler-epa-hearing-2626251299.html?utm_source=EcoWatch+List&utm_campaign=bde4241e50-EMAIL_CAMPAIGN_COPY_01&utm_medium=email&utm_term=0_49c7d43dc9-bde4241e50-85327165

Melting glaciers, warmer oceans, and endangered species are this generation's '10-year challenge'



The real [#10yearchallenge](#)? Climate change. According to [#SR15](#), we have just over 10 years to [#ActOnClimate](#) before we cause irreparable damage to our planet. Take our free course on [#ClimateAction](#) and become a part of the solution. Enroll now!

(link: http://bit.ly/ClimateAction_tt)
[bit.ly/ClimateAction ...](http://bit.ly/ClimateAction...)

<https://pop.inquirer.net/69257/melting-glaciers-warmer-oceans-and-endangered-species-are-this-generations-10-year-challenge>

Climate Change Is Already Driving Mass Migration Around the Globe

The [U.S. Government Accountability Office](#) (GAO), a nonpartisan agency that analyzes and audits federal policy to ensure its efficiency and cost-effectiveness, isn't going to let the topic go unaddressed. In [a report to Congress](#) last week, the GAO criticized the manner in which the Trump administration has sought to remove any acknowledgement of climate change from our foreign policy and diplomatic strategies, keeping experts in the dark about an issue that's growing only more urgent as a shifting climate—and all that comes with it—displaces millions of people and disrupts societies across the globe.

https://www.ecowatch.com/climate-migration-2627183114.html?utm_source=EcoWatch+List&utm_campaign=f97c4d963c-EMAIL_CAMPAIGN_COPY_01&utm_medium=email&utm_term=0_49c7d43dc9-f97c4d963c-85327165

The Next Financial Crisis Could Be Caused by Climate Change...After wildfires bankrupted a major utility, there's concerns that more severe natural disasters will lead to economic devastation.

... [California utility PG&E](#) in mid-January. Fire investigators [found that](#) its power lines and transformers started at least 17 of the 21 major state fires of 2017, and potentially several more in 2018 that turned into massive wildfires because of hot and dry conditions [worsened by a warming climate](#). PG&E suddenly [faced liabilities](#) of \$30 billion and 750 lawsuits; investors freaked and the utility, [formerly beloved](#) by hedge funds, declared bankruptcy. Its market value plummeted from \$25 billion to less than \$4 billion....The Next Financial Crisis Could Be Caused by Climate Change...After wildfires bankrupted a major utility, there's concerns that more severe natural disasters will lead to economic devastation....Yet it's especially relevant to Florida. Since 1980, the state's population [has doubled](#) to 20.7 million residents, many of whom live in coastal areas. And despite the risk of catastrophic floods and hurricanes, Miami is at the center of a real estate boom financed in part by overseas investors. None of this would be possible without a massive insurance market that (theoretically) [insures homes worth a total of \\$2.1 trillion](#) from disaster. Local insurers have in recent years been reselling insurance to buyers on Wall Street and around the world, drawing comparisons to the lending models that helped cause the 2008 crash. Additionally, the [National Flood Insurance Program](#), a federally funded program [that insures 1.7 million Florida households](#), is in close to [\\$21 billion of debt](#)...The hurricanes that batter Florida each year are getting stronger and longer, a phenomenon [linked to](#) climate change. The state's system for managing risk works for now. But Wara thinks the wrong combination of factors—for example a Category 4 hurricane [tearing into Miami](#) along with a major storm surge—might cause major financial disruptions. [“You could easily see the state of Florida go bankrupt,”](#) he said.

https://www.vice.com/en_us/article/59xpxa/the-next-financial-crisis-could-be-caused-by-climate-change

United Nations Development Programme

The **United Nations Development Programme** (UNDP) is the United Nations' global development network. Headquartered in New York City, UNDP advocates for change and connects countries to knowledge, experience and resources to help people build a better life for themselves.

<https://sdgs.undp.org/>

FOSSIL FUELS

U.S. Oil and Gas Industry Is Drilling Us Towards Climate Disaster

As the 116th Congress commences, in the wake of [dire reports](#) from [climate](#) scientists, the debate over U.S. climate policies has taken a welcome turn towards bold solutions. Spurred on by grassroots pressure from Indigenous communities, the youth-led Sunrise Movement and communities from coast to coast fighting [fossil fuel](#) infrastructure, Capitol Hill is alive once again with [policy proposals](#) that edge towards the scale required to address the crisis we're in.

<https://www.ecowatch.com/us-fossil-fuels-climate-change-2626171901.html>

Colorado is ready for local control over oil and gas drilling and fracking

The state's high court ruled unanimously Jan. 14 that current law does not permit Colorado oil and gas commissioners to make health and environmental concerns a priority. When regulating the oil industry, impact on business, human health and the environment all must get equal consideration, state law says, and all justices agreed.

<https://www.sentinelcolorado.com/opinion/editorial-colorado-is-ready-for-local-control-over-oil-and-gas-drilling-and-fracking/>

Sunoco's Mariner East 1 pipeline shut down after new sinkhole found

WEST WHITELAND — Sunoco/Energy Transfer Partners took more than six hours to completely shut down product shipments through the Mariner East 1 pipeline after another sinkhole developed and exposed active pipe along Lisa Drive.

The Public Utility Commission Safety Division was notified of the new 10-foot deep sinkhole at 4:40 p.m. Sunday.

A PUC release states that the PUC's Independent Bureau of Investigations immediately dispatched a safety engineer to the site.

About two hours after notification, the PUC shut down shipments, and at 7:30 p.m., Sunoco initiated the stoppage through this section.

https://www.dailylocal.com/news/sunoco-s-mariner-east-pipeline-shut-down-after-new-sinkhole/article_c3d71066-1e8f-11e9-af8f-9f8c6111d445.html

U.S. said to be targeting state powers to block pipelines

President Donald Trump's administration is considering taking steps to limit the ability of states to block interstate gas pipelines and other energy projects, according to three people familiar with the deliberations.

<https://www.arkansasonline.com/news/2019/jan/26/u-s-said-to-be-targeting-state-powers-t/>

LAWS AND REGULATIONS, PIPELINE DANGERS

How About A Real Emergency Plan For Those Who Need It Most?

.....Because sometime during the course of this massive failure of an experiment that is Mariner East, Sunoco told all of us to self-evacuate upwind at least a half-mile... and it stuck. So let's begin by dismantling the notion that this is an acceptable course of action because it is not. If it doesn't work for a considerable percentage of the population, then it isn't really a plan.

In an emergency, who gets abandoned? We live in a post-9/11 and post-Hurricane Katrina world. Some of the most important lessons learned from these catastrophes were that in times of crisis and widespread emergency it was the elderly, infirm, poor, and people with disabilities that were affected most severely, left behind, and experienced higher death tolls. According to 2018 data from the CDC, 1 in 4 US adults has a disability. Mobility issues being the leading impairment so many persons with disabilities (PWDs) are unable to exit their homes on their own. Others, who are blind or hearing-impaired have difficulty contacting and communicating with emergency responders, and often use assistive technology. Even in best-case scenarios, emergency response communication systems are pushed to their limits when responding to a large scale event...The judge found that the City of New York's emergency response plans failed to comply with the Americans with Disabilities Act, the Rehabilitation Act, and the NYC Human Rights Act. The ruling found that the emergency plans were inadequate to ensure that

PWDs are able to evacuate before or during an emergency, that accessible shelters were available, that PWDs were not adequately informed of the availability or location of these services.

The City's evacuation plans were found to "fail almost entirely" for PWDs. Over the course of the next year, the two sides worked together to reach a settlement that would address the deficiencies, including the creation of a high-level position within the office of Emergency Management to address the specific needs of PWDs.

Lessons for us. How often have you heard the question "what is it going to take before someone does something about Mariner East?" or "it's not until somebody dies that Governor Wolf is going to do something about this." Isn't there synergy between the cases mentioned above and the formal complaints pending in front of the PUC over lack of a credible safety plan? These landmark cases show that heart-wrenching stories of lives lost are not the prerequisite for the courts to order sweeping, systemic changes. Certainly, state and local government entities would be well advised to learn from these landmark cases and test the emergency programs for compliance, making critical revisions now.

The laws behind these court cases are federal laws, and they apply in Pennsylvania. If our state and local officials fail to come up with adequate emergency plans, they may find themselves in the same legal jeopardy as officials in California and New York. There is no time to waste: this issue must be addressed now

<https://dragonpipediary.com/2019/01/28/how-about-a-real-emergency-plan-for-those-who-need-it-most/>

LIFE

* Coral Microbiomes Offer Clues for Resilience and Conservation

...Some scientists, not willing to throw up their hands and call it quits on saving coral, are seeking out a more strategic plan of action by trying to identify species that can tolerate warmer, more acidic water and figure out why they survive. Driving conservation efforts toward these more tolerant species might secure the crucial ecosystem functions that reefs provide, like housing fish and protecting coastlines...Some scientists, not willing to throw up their hands and call it quits on saving coral, are seeking out a more strategic plan of action by trying to identify species that can tolerate warmer, more acidic water and figure out why they survive. Driving conservation efforts toward these more tolerant species might secure the crucial ecosystem functions that reefs provide, like housing fish and protecting coastlines... "Maintaining coral species diversity is probably a bit of a losing battle," Grottoli said. "I just don't know if it's practical with limited dollars."...She hasn't finished analyzing the results yet but said that her preliminary data do show some clear winners. "Because there are so many species from so many sites, we can make broader statements about resilience, adaptation, and acclimation," she said.

<https://eos.org/articles/coral-microbiomes-offer-clues-for-resilience-and-conservation>

Half of Michigan's Bumblebee Species in Decline, One Extinct

The bee, identified by its reddish abdomen, was once common and abundant across 28 states from Connecticut to South Dakota, the District of Columbia and two Canadian provinces, but its population plummeted by 87 percent since the late 1990s... There are many factors tied to Michigan's disappearing bumblebees, Michigan Radio reported, including loss of flowers, destruction of prairie and wooded areas that provide habitat for insects, as well as a controversial class of insecticides called [neonicotinoids](#) that have been linked to bee deaths around the world... "Bumblebees are especially good pollinators; even plants that can self-pollinate produce more and bigger fruit when pollinated by bumblebees," the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service [said](#). "Each year, insects, mostly bees, provide pollination services valued at an estimated \$3 billion in the United States."



https://www.ecowatch.com/half-of-michigan-bumblebee-species-in-trouble-2626169790.html?utm_source=EcoWatch+List&utm_campaign=bde4241e50-EMAIL_CAMPAIGN_COPY_01&utm_medium=email&utm_term=0_49c7d43dc9-bde4241e50-85327165

* Despite attacks, the US Endangered Species Act is working

Doing better now. US populations of manatees are improving thanks to the protections afforded by the Endangered Species Act.
GREGORY SWEENEY

<https://cosmosmagazine.com/biology/despite-attacks-the-us-endangered-species-act-is-working>

The largest organism on Earth is dying



"While Pando has likely existed for thousands of years – we have no method of firmly fixing its age – it is now collapsing on our watch,"

"This work further argues for 'mega-conservation' as a departure from traditional individual species-habitat approaches. It would be shame to witness the significant reduction of this iconic forest when reversing this decline is realisable, should we demonstrate the will to do so."

<https://cosmosmagazine.com/biology/the-largest-organism-on-earth-is-dying>

* **Legislator looks to delist Grizzlies from endangered species list**

The grizzly bear population in Yellowstone has been listed as threatened under the Endangered Species Act since 1975. Since then the population has grown from 136 to just over 700...Republican Senator Mike Cuffe from Eureka, is proposing a resolution that would delist the grizzlies from the endangered species list state wide. The next step on the docket is moving the recommendation forward, and getting the Montana congressional delegation to have federal agencies remove the grizzlies from the list... "If we don't move ahead with the steps to delist, my concern is the endangered species list becomes endangered itself. The Endangered Species Act loses credibility, and I want to see the grizzly bear recovery celebrated," said Cuffe.

https://www.abcfoxmontana.com/helena/legislator-looks-to-delist-grizzlies-from-endangered-species-list/article_d90a9980-1de5-11e9-b73b-4ffebd128145.html

Birds Can See a 'Color' Humans Can't. Now Scientists Have Revealed This Hidden World

<https://www.sciencealert.com/birds-can-see-uv-light-now-scientists-can-show-us-what-that-looks-like>



Sea Turtles and Marine Mammals Are Recovering, Thanks to



Endangered Species Protection

According to the findings, which were just published in the journal [PLOS ONE](#), the ESA has been incredibly successful. Since being protected, 78 percent of marine mammals and 75 percent of sea turtles increased their population size. The only species to decline were Hawaiian monk seals and [southern resident killer whales](#).

Some of the species who have especially benefited include green sea turtles who were protected in 1978. They've since increased from 464 nests on Florida beaches in 1989 to 39,000 in 2017. Eastern Steller sea lions living on the Pacific coast grew from 19,103 in 1990 to 59,968 by 2013. Southern sea otters along California's coast who were once devastated by the fur trade have also grown from 1,443 in 1979 to 2,688 as of 2017, while Hawaiian humpback whales have increased from just 800 individuals in 1979 to more than 10,000 in 2005. They were officially declared recovered in 2016 and delisted...Despite its successes, and broad public [support](#) for maintaining it, it's still continued to face an onslaught of [attacks](#) in recent years that put it at risk of being weakened in ways that would make it harder to list new species at risk, protect species impacted by climate change, designate critical habitat and protect threatened species.

Hopefully this study will help increase support for maintaining it, and implementing it effectively, to keep imperiled [species](#) from disappearing forever.

<https://www.care2.com/causes/sea-turtles-and-marine-mammals-are-recovering-thanks-to-endangered-species-protection.html>

Air and Water

How Humans Get in the Way of Clean Water

For more than 2 billion people, safe drinking water isn't a given. Not for them a clean, reliable supply of treated water splurting out on demand from a kitchen tap—instead, they face often long treks to wells, rivers, pools of rainwater or faucets that yield water laced with disease-transmitting feces and other contaminants...In 2015, member states of the United Nations set [a package of development goals](#) including universal safe water by the end of the next decade, with the ideal being safe, piped water delivered to homes and communities. [The world is nowhere near on track](#). .. “One thing we know from the social sciences is people are not all the time driven and exclusively by health considerations,” she says. “Every single person I know has a gym membership they don't use, including myself.” How then, she asks, is it practical to expect a person with fewer resources and more daily chores to take on the additional burden of treating water? Lugging and treating water can be a “painful chore that has to be repeated every day,” she says, one that typically falls to women. “And that means her body is [acting as infrastructure, covering for a piece of pipe](#).” ...skipping treatment of high-risk

water just 10 percent of the time would result in a [96 percent drop in the potential health benefits](#). In a similar vein, a 2018 study sought to identify common features of successful drinking water systems by analyzing shared characteristics of 20 cases across the globe. Though the researchers couldn't consider all the factors they were interested in, they did identify [good financial management and community involvement](#) in project decisions as two critical ingredients... "In the US you have a municipal system, and there are all sorts of regulatory bodies, and we have water meters, and we have people checking on things and making sure the treatment is adequate," Chatterley says. "We forget that we rely on these systems, and we go into low-income countries and we think the infrastructure is going to be enough."... "You would think with all the resources and knowledge in the world, we would be able to figure it out by 2030," Chatterley says. "But when you look at the reality of things, then it does feel really daunting."

<https://www.scientificamerican.com/article/how-humans-get-in-the-way-of-clean-water/>

Small streams and wetlands are key parts of river networks – here's why they need protection

The Trump administration is [proposing to redefine](#) a key term in the [Clean Water Act](#): "Waters of the United States." This deceptively simple phrase describes which streams, lakes, wetlands and other water bodies qualify for federal protection under the law.

Government regulators, landowners, conservationists and other groups have struggled to agree on what it means [for more than 30 years](#). Those who support a broad definition believe the federal government has a broad role in protecting waters – even if they are small, isolated, or present only during wet seasons. Others say that approach [infringes on private property rights](#), and want to limit which waters count... The Trump proposal goes completely against scientists' understanding of how rivers work. In my view, the proposed changes will strip rivers of their ability to provide water clean enough to support life, and will enhance the spiral of increasingly damaging floods that is already occurring nationwide. To understand why, it's worth looking closely at how connected smaller bodies of waters act as both buffers and filters for larger rivers and streams... The fact that something is unseen does not make it unimportant. Think of your own circulatory system. You can see some veins in your hands and arms, and feel the pulse in your carotid artery with your finger. But you can't see the capillaries ... Small channels in a river network are points of entry for most of the materials that move through it, and also sites where potentially harmful materials can be biologically processed. The unseen portions of a river below the streambed function like a human's liver by filtering out these harmful materials. In fact, this metaphor applies to headwater streams in general. Without the liver, toxins would accumulate until the organism dies.

As an illustration, consider how rivers process nutrients such as nitrogen and phosphorus, which are essential for plant and animal life but also have become [widespread pollutants](#). Fossil fuel combustion and agricultural fertilizers have increased the amount of nitrogen and phosphorus circulating in air, water and soil. When they accumulate in rivers, lakes and bays, excess nutrients can cause algal blooms that deplete oxygen from the water, killing fish and other aquatic animals and [creating "dead zones"](#). Excess nitrogen in drinking water is also a [serious human health threat](#)... Other critical processes, such as flood control, take place in small upstream river channels. When rain concentrates in a river fed by numerous small streams, and surrounded by bottomland forests and floodplain wetlands, it moves more slowly across the landscape than if it were running off over land. This process reduces flood peaks and allows more water to percolate down into the ground. Disconnect the small streams from their floodplains, or pave and plow the small channels, and rain will move quickly from uplands into the larger channels, causing damaging floods... [Scientific sleuthing with chemical tracers](#)

has shown that wetlands with no visible surface connection to other water bodies are in fact connected via unseen subterranean pathways used by water and microbes. A river network is not simply a gutter. It is an ecosystem, and all the parts, unseen or seen, matter. I believe the current proposal to alter the Clean Water Act will fundamentally damage rivers' ability to support all life – including us.

<http://theconversation.com/small-streams-and-wetlands-are-key-parts-of-river-networks-heres-why-they-need-protection-110342>

·Art : Photography / Curious about Conservation in the News? January 2019

Check this photo out. I can't get it to transfer...:-)

Taken yesterday in downtown Minneapolis-
Nicholas J Narog Photography-

<https://www.facebook.com/photo.php?fbid=2109021679192440&set=a.511584792269478&type=3&theater>

Conservation:

SCA: Student Conservation Association

7 out of 10 SCA alumni are in careers or studies that make the planet more sustainable.



This year, members volunteered **1.5 million hours** of conservation service to public lands.

SCA experiences strengthen **life skills** that are crucial to prospering in school, work and home.

SCA volunteers served in **all 50 states** including the top 35 most visited National Park sites and America's top 12 leading cities.

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

Tyler Lau Just Completed a Calendar-Year Triple Crown

[@hikingprodigy](https://www.instagram.com/hikingprodigy).

Looking to jumpstart your career? Browse [SCA internships](#) at national parks, forests, and other protected lands across the country.

Douglas Brinkley on the nation's 'first conservation president'

As a result of the government shutdown, most of the national parks are operating with greatly reduced services. This is the subject of a book by historian Douglas Brinkley.. entitled "The Wilderness Warrior: Theodore Roosevelt and the Crusade for America," ...If he were still alive, former President Theodore Roosevelt would be one of the most disappointed about ..this (government shutdown). His appreciation for nature and his efforts to protect public lands and wildlife are legendary....(he called T. Roosevelt)"the nation's first conservation president" and said the former president called wilderness and wildlife America's "heirlooms.

https://www.mprnews.org/story/2019/01/22/douglas_brinkley_on_theodore_roosevelt

Tyler Lau Just Completed a Calendar-Year Triple Crown



Only nine other people on record have traversed the 7,900 miles in one calendar year. *The Prodigy* (inspired by Lau's trail name) chronicles this remarkable accomplishment. Created by filmmaker [Lewis Rapkin](#), it shows the mental and physical strength required for such a journey. The film also encourages an appreciation of the simple things that we may take for granted in our daily lives off of the trail. "Nature doesn't care who you are, it doesn't care where you're from, what job you have, or how popular you are on Instagram," Lau says. "No matter what, nature is going to be nature."

And if you watch closely, you might catch a glimpse of an SCA shirt in the video!

https://www.thesca.org/connect/blog/tyler-lau-just-completed-calendar-year-triple-crown?utm_source=generalnewsletter012419&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=hands_on&utm_content=image

A Summer of Trail Maintenance with the Student Conservation Association : Video

Matthew Christiansen spent his summer digging ditches, cutting tree branches, and maintaining trails for the Student Conservation Association and U.S Forest Service in West Virginia's Monogahela National Forest. Moving to Action is a tribute to conservation and National Public Lands Day that tells Christiansen's story and aims to inspire others to get outdoors.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=O2GWwA6c-Oc>

National Parks

Park Rangers Return to Work to Assess ‘Irreparable’ Damage as Government Shutdown Ends (for Now)

The deal will put some 800,000 federal workers, who have now missed two paychecks..over funding for the wall that would put 93 species at risk from extinction. But the fix, which ends the longest government shutdown in U.S. history, is only temporary... "The damage done to our parks will be felt for weeks, months or even years. We want to thank and acknowledge the men and women who have devoted their careers to protecting our national parks and will be working hard to fix damage and get programs and projects back up and running," National Parks Conservation Association President Theresa Pierno said in a statement. "We implore lawmakers to use this time to come to a long-term funding agreement and avoid another disaster like this. Federal employees, businesses, communities and national parks deserve better."

https://www.ecowatch.com/national-parks-conservation-trump-shutdown-2627304417.html?utm_source=EcoWatch+List&utm_medium=Social+Media

Renewable Energy

Budweiser’s Clydesdales Are Back for a Renewable Energy Message With a Bob Dylan Soundtrack Beer behemoth will offset power used during Big Game

Budweiser will tout its commitment to sustainable energy in its Super Bowl spot. The beer giant has brought back its famous Clydesdales—they only appeared in a bumper spot last year—for the ad, which uses Bob Dylan’s “Blowin’ in the Wind” to illustrate the brand’s point about renewable energy sourced from wind farms.

<https://www.adweek.com/brand-marketing/budweisers-clydesdales-are-back-for-a-renewable-energy-message-with-a-bob-dylan-soundtrack/>