

Conservation in the News: June 2018

Light pollution endangering wildlife:

<http://www.seacoastonline.com/news/20180603/light-pollution-growing-challenge>

House passes bill removing environmental standards for conventional drillers:

Within text: ““This bill is bad for the environment,” Wolf’s secretary of legislative affairs William Danowski wrote in a letter to lawmakers. “For example, the legislation allows for up to 210 gallons of crude oil or 630 gallons of brine, to be spilled without having to be reported... “HB 2154 also removes an existing requirement for drillers who damage a water supply to restore it, in some cases, to standards exceeding the Safe Drinking Water Act. Environmental groups have called the bill a “wholesale weakening of environmental standards.”

<https://stateimpact.npr.org/pennsylvania/2018/06/05/house-passes-bill-removing-environmental-standards-for-conventional-drillers/>

On June 5, 2018, Marty Moscowain had a segment on her show about the problems that are arising as a result of China changing its policies on what recyclable product they will accept from other countries. The guest referred to what she called “Aspirational” recycling(?), the guests called it “contamination” of which I must plead guilty in years gone by. However, last year I learned by going to the Chester County Landfill that such recycling is considered by recyclers to be just that. If it cannot be recycled, these products can contaminate, or make useless, the bundling in pallets that are the means by which our items are collected and sold as raw material.

Marty Moscowain’s show guests said that China no longer accepts recycled plastics #4 and above. They said that the cups we buy yogurt in, for instance are no longer accepted. It also sounded (and I may be wrong, as I was driving) that Philadelphia and the “surrounding area” sends its recyclables to China.

My husband easily eats on a container of yogurt a day, so we recycle a lot of those cups, and I had been blissfully, ignorantly, I thought, recycling those containers. So, I was worried that they have gone into the landfill after costing the county labor to remove them from the recycling.

This may still be a problem for those of you who are closer into Philadelphia than Chester County, but I just checked its webpage on recycling, and learned a lot. There were items I didn’t know I could recycle there, (for example, they will accept cell phones if delivered directly to them!) BUT, additionally they will accept recyclables 1-5 and 7. Hurray, my recycled yogurt cups are #5 and our county will accept them. You might want to check with your county or recycling company.

I am increasingly encouraged to visit this page routinely as they can update the list at any time. Last summer I was stunned to learn that we can recycle containers that are used for milk, have a waxy surface all round and are topped with a plastic ring where the milk pours out. And also, contrary to NPR, Chester County accepts additional plastic products.

<http://www.chestercountyswa.org/DocumentCenter/View/1634>

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<http://www.chestercountyswa.org/DocumentCenter/View/1646>

<http://www.chestercountyswa.org/index.aspx?nid=170>

Using energy of people exercising to create renewable energy.

<https://www.facebook.com/OurPlanetbyattn/videos/195587411270697/UzpfSTEyMDA4NTA4MTM0MjYxODoyMjgwMDAyODQyMDE3NDg3/>

Californians work to spread renewable energy throughout state. By 2020 all new homes must have solar panels. Wow! There is a statement at the end of tape saying if you want this to happen in your state share this video and tag the governor.

<https://www.facebook.com/350.org/videos/520441568357538/UzpfSTEyMTg1OTcyNzA3OIZLOjUyMDQ0MTU2ODM1NzUzOA/>

Plastic bags that are firm made from Yucca,,: edible.

<https://www.facebook.com/WeNeedThisbyattn/videos/198458580656015/>

Fishing for plastic:

<https://www.facebook.com/attn/videos/184907045672067/UzpfSTE2MDM4OTk3NzMyOTgwMzpwWSzoXODQ5MDcwNDU2NzlwNjc/>

Turning plastics that can't be conventionally recycled, into product that can be reused:

<https://www.facebook.com/BBCworldhacks/videos/10155492270113129/UzpfSTQ4NDcwMzcyODU3OjEwMTU1Nzg1OTM4NDEyODU4/>

Mariner East-2 hit by water Main Contractor

Within text : "The pipeline, which is under construction, was hit by a contractor for the water utility Aqua on May 21 along Lenni Road, a suburban street that is crossed by the pipeline route.

The contractor, Brubacher Excavating, **hit the pipeline at 6.2 feet below the surface but had been informed by Sunoco that the pipe was buried 9 feet deep**, according to a report filed with Pennsylvania One Call System Inc., a nonprofit that notifies utilities about existing underground infrastructure before they excavate."

<https://stateimpact.npr.org/pennsylvania/2018/06/06/officials-water-main-contractor-struck-mariner-east-2-in-delaware-county/>

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ARE THE FEDS CHERRY-PICKING DATA TO FORCE PIPELINES THROUGH VULNERABLE COMMUNITIES?

<https://psmag.com/environment/feds-cherry-picking-data-to-force-pipelines-through-vulnerable-communities>

FERC (Federal Energy Regulatory Commission) and Climate change:

FERC is rolling back requirements for pipelines to estimate the amount of CO2 pollution they will generate from the proposed pipeline. The rollback is expected to be challenged in court.

<https://www.eenews.net/stories/1060083465>

Slow April for US renewables, gas brings 99% of new capacity:

<https://renewablesnow.com/news/slow-april-for-us-renewables-gas-brings-99-of-new-capacity-615393/>

You, too, can host a solar tour:

2018 NATIONAL SOLAR TOUR LOCATION MAP

There is a site in Philadelphia:

Address: 566 Jamestown St, Philadelphia, PA 19128

Open House Date: Saturday, October 6

Open House Time: 10:00 AM - 2:30 PM

Year installed: 2018

System size (kW): 6

Solar Installer: Solar States

Description of solar home: Ballasted system connected to first floor apartment in a two-story row home. Excess credited to owner's residence about 10 houses away in the same block. In Pennsylvania. This is called virtual meter aggregation. The house with the PV system is at a very busy, very visible corner.

RSVP Link: <http://bit.ly/solaropenhouse-36>

Philadelphia Solar Energy Association

<https://nationalsolartour.org/>

<https://stateimpact.npr.org/pennsylvania/2018/06/05/chester-county-commissioners-slam-sunoco-for-appalling-lack-of-pipeline-information/>

Chester County commissioners slam Sunoco for 'appalling' lack of pipeline information
Letter urges PUC to uphold judge's order halting Mariner East construction:

<https://stateimpact.npr.org/pennsylvania/2018/06/05/chester-county-commissioners-slam-sunoco-for-appalling-lack-of-pipeline-information/>

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SOLAR: Developers say Trump administration tariffs have prompted the freezing or cancellation of \$2.5 billion in large solar installations, more than double what is expected to be invested in new domestic manufacturing. (Reuters)

<https://energynews.us/digests/developers-trump-tariffs-have-scuttled-2-5-billion-in-solar-projects/>

Plastic waste in Antarctica reveals scale of global pollution.

“We may think of the Antarctic as a remote and pristine wilderness,” Frida Bengtsson of Greenpeace’s Protect the Antarctic campaign said in a statement about the findings.

“But from pollution and climate change to industrial krill fishing, humanity’s footprint is clear,” she said. “These results show that even the most remote habitats of the Antarctic are contaminated with microplastic waste and persistent hazardous chemicals.”

<https://nypost.com/2018/06/07/plastic-waste-in-antarctica-reveals-scale-of-global-pollution/>

World Oceans Day: Tourists creating a 'toxic legacy' of plastic waste in the **Mediterranean Sea**.

<https://www.telegraph.co.uk/travel/news/plastic-pollution-in-the-med-reaches-record-level/>

Lawsuits Launched to Prevent L.A. Plastic Makers From Polluting Waterways:

Monitoring records indicate that discharges from the plastic facilities’ storm water runoff are exceeding pollution limits. Today’s notices state that the companies also have inadequate management plans and pollution control technologies to prevent water pollution, including measures that could prevent plastic pellet pollution.

“Plastics increasingly litter our oceans and coastlines, harming wildlife. There’s a plastic pollution crisis, and it needs to be stopped at the source,” said Emily Jeffers, a staff attorney with the Center. “We intend to hold these companies accountable and prevent plastic from polluting the Los Angeles River, the Dominguez Channel and the Pacific Ocean.”

http://www.biologicaldiversity.org/news/press_releases/2018/plastics-pollution-06-07-2018.php

Ohio River May Lose Its Regional Water Quality Standards, Vote Suggests

<https://insideclimatenews.org/news/07062018/ohio-river-pollution-control-standards-orsanco-vote-clean-water-act-coal-fired-power-plants-epa>

Ikea to ban single-use plastic from stores and restaurants:

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“The products the furniture giant will stop selling include straws, plates, cups, freezer bags, garbage bags, and plastic-coated paper plates and cups. Company-owned restaurants will also stop giving out plastic straws, cups, plates, cutlery, drink stirrers and plastic containers.”

<http://thehill.com/homenews/391209-ikea-to-ban-single-use-plastic-from-stores-and-restaurants>

Is the Tide Turning on Our Plastic Addiction? Overview of our polluting ways...

<https://www.nrdc.org/onearth/tide-turning-our-plastic-addiction>

This is what countries are doing to fight plastic waste

<https://www.weforum.org/agenda/2018/06/how-the-world-is-fighting-plastic-pollution>

Seaweed, Indonesia's answer to the global plastic crisis:

<https://www.weforum.org/agenda/2018/06/seaweed-indonesia-s-answer-to-the-global-plastic-crisis/>

Facebook Page for Solar CITIES: Janice Kelsey, who spoke at our March meeting is part of this project. She and Jodi Spragins are using biogas in East Nantmeal, near my home.

<https://solarcities.blogspot.com/2016/04/culhanes-solar-cities-presentation-to.html>

Samsung going renewable by 2020:

<http://www.wired.co.uk/article/wired-awake-150618>

Water collection in desert with no energy: Pretty Cool!

<https://techcrunch.com/2018/06/08/this-box-sucks-pure-water-out-of-dry-desert-air/>

Reduce and reuse the recycle with care!

<https://dailygazette.com/article/2018/06/10/greenpoint-reduce-and-reuse-first-then-recycle-with-care>

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India moves ahead in renewable energy at rate far faster than anyone thought possible:

<https://cleantechnica.com/2018/06/10/india-increases-its-massive-2022-renewable-energy-target-by-28/>

Maybe this is how India has outstripped their own goals: "Reasons to invest in renewable energy stocks":

https://www.indiaonline.com/article/news-personal-finance/reasons-to-invest-in-renewable-energy-stocks-118060800397_1.html

Clean energy: government wants to make it easier for Hong Kong schools to sell electricity to the public

Officials seek to make feed-in tariff scheme less bureaucratic amid complaints from educational institutions and non-profit groups:

<http://www.scmp.com/news/hong-kong/health-environment/article/2149965/clean-energy-government-wants-make-it-easier-hong>

Bahrain praising efforts in renewable energy:

<http://www.bna.bh/portal/en/news/844522>

Concerns about draught focuses India on estimates that using solar power could save its water usage:

https://www.business-standard.com/article/current-affairs/achieving-renewable-energy-targets-to-help-india-reduce-water-consumption-118061000170_1.html

Relationship between composting and water retention. Group reclaims water and ends dependence on water trucks accessing water 3000- 400 feet below surface. Now homes have access to potable water 15 feet below surface. Composting well appears to be a key. Makes sense!

<https://mumbaimirror.indiatimes.com/others/sunday-read/the-changemakers/articleshow/64525743.cms>

Composting helps runner beans harvest through November (in the UK!) and other garden and plant tips, Problems from bringing vegetation home with you: importing pests inadvertently.:

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<http://www.dailymail.co.uk/home/gardening/article-5827309/Action-plan-Nigel-Colborns-essential-jobs-garden-week.html>

“Temperature measurement and performance assessment of the experimental composting bioreactor”

Experimental Effort to capture heat from composting to heat water and other uses:

https://www.epj-conferences.org/articles/epjconf/pdf/2018/15/epjconf_efm2018_02003.pdf

“Pet Alert! Blue-green algae in lake water is toxic to dogs”: I had green algae in my lily ponds which are in full sun. With a bubbler, the water is now clear, but I get a small leafed plant on top with some seaweed type growth below. Out comes my skimmer a lot more frequently now!

<http://cnycentral.com/news/local/pet-alert-blue-green-algae-in-lake-water-is-toxic-to-dogs>

“Southeastern Nebraska lake gets toxic algae health alert”:

This looks like my pond did until I got a bubbler....hmmm. Now I'm skimming the tiny plants off the surface, but the water is now clear.

<http://www.ketv.com/article/southeastern-nebraska-lake-gets-toxic-algae-health-alert/21246751>

(a pond technician came out today and said that the tiny leafed plant is called duck weed and a sign of a healthy pond. So, my concern is reduced...)

“Tangier, the Sinking Island in the Chesapeake:

“A combination of storm-driven erosion and sea-level rise, which are both increasing as climate change advances, may soon swallow the island entirely... Tangier has lost two-thirds of its land since 1850... land loss on Tangier currently averages around fifteen feet per year.”

https://www.newyorker.com/news/dispatch/tangier-the-sinking-island-in-the-chesapeake?mbid=nl_Daily%20061018&CNDID=40484428&spMailingID=13666481&spUserID=MTMzMTg0Nzg4MDk2S0&spJobID=1420901052&spReportId=MTQyMDkwMTA1MgS2

“Study: Nutrient Pollution Worsens Ocean for Coral Reefs:

“... alumni and students from the University of Hawai at Mānoa’s School of Ocean and Earth Science and Technology (SOEST) shows that nutrient pollution from human activities on land may be accelerating the negative impacts of ocean acidification on coral reefs...’both local management efforts such as reducing nutrient runoff and seepage into groundwater, and global actions, such as reducing global carbon dioxide emissions, are required to protect reefs from rapidly declining.”

<http://bigislandnow.com/2018/06/10/study-nutrient-pollution-worsens-ocean-for-coral-reefs/>

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“G7 leaders release tepid plans for addressing climate change and ocean plastic pollution – Greenpeace response:

“five countries and the European Commission — excluding the United States and Japan — endorsed a G7 Ocean Plastics Charter and “commonly resolved to eradicate plastic pollution and create a lifecycle economy by investing \$100 million to protect coasts and oceans,” as stated by Prime Minister Trudeau. According to his announcement at the closure of the summit, the charter will encourage further recycling and repurposing of all single-use plastic...’It’s time for the world’s largest economies to recognize that we cannot simply recycle our way out of this problem while we keep churning out so much throwaway plastic in the first place. Governments must move beyond voluntary agreements to legislate binding reduction targets and bans on single-use plastics, invest in new and reuse delivery models for products, and hold corporations accountable for the problem they have created.”

<https://www.greenpeace.org/international/press-release/17041/g7-leaders-release-tepid-plans-for-addressing-climate-change-and-ocean-plastic-pollution-greenpeace-response/>

We no longer catch fish’ — Balikpapan fishermen gripe about sea pollution:

“Fishermen in Balikpapan, East Kalimantan, are complaining about sea pollution they claim has been caused by the loading and unloading of coal at sea, saying they “no longer catch fish or shrimp, but only coal...The practice of loading and unloading coal at sea started in 2017 and has become more common since, especially after the oil spill caused by a broken pipeline belonging to state-owned energy company Pertamina in April, which prompted the closure of Balikpapan for any unloading activity, the fishermen said.

They further claimed that coal transported by the barges often spilled into the ocean, and that every time they went fishing, coal would get caught up in and even tear the fishing nets.”

In their biggest protest so far, some 400 fishers blockaded the shipping lane used by coal-carrying barges, locally known as tongkang. “We want the activity of loading coal in the middle of the sea to stop, because it not only pollutes the sea, but is also killing our jobs,” Sakirang, 50, the coordinator of the protest, said on Saturday...Coal, which contains pyrite or Iron sulfide, will produce high concentrations of sulfuric acid when mixed with water. Sulfuric acid is dangerous for sea creatures like fish and coral reef, Rupang said...According to the 2016 Law on Fishermen Protection, local and central governments had the obligation to keep fishing areas free from pollution...He said officials from local administrations and the central government had held a meeting to discuss the issue on Saturday...Coal carriers in the Balikpapan Bay and the Makassar Strait are owned by several parties. The coal is transported from Balikpapan to other islands, particularly Java, where most coal-fired power plants are located. It is also exported to other countries, such as Taiwan and the Philippines. (hol/ahw)”

<http://www.thejakartapost.com/news/2018/06/10/we-no-longer-catch-fish--balikpapan-fishermen-gripe-about-sea-pollution.html>

Reduce **pollution** with plants:

“When choosing houseplants, select varieties that will withstand adverse growing conditions such as low light intensity and dry air. To be satisfactory, houseplants must do more than

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merely survive under indoor conditions. They must maintain an attractive appearance with a minimum of care. Air conditioning and gas appliances, as nice to have as they are, may be rough on houseplants...Consider such plants as bromeliads, aglaonema, aspidistra, dracaena, monstera, peperomia, philodendrons, nephytis, sansevieria, bird nest fern, Boston fern or rhapsis palm. These plants don't seem to mind low light intensity or warm, dry rooms. In fact, they are sometimes called "cast iron" types...Plants that will grow in high light include asparagus ferns, strelitzia, crotons, aralia or panax, philodendron, wandering jew and sansevieria. Plants that will tolerate dryer soils are bromeliads, jade plant, pandanus, peperomia, sansevieria and pothos, aloe, sedum and cactus. Many palms are ideal for a bold tropical effect in the home...Foliage plants need a bath. Plants take on a healthy luster with an occasional leaf washing. If the leaves are heavy with grime, use slightly soapy water, a soft cloth and a gentle touch. Rubbing too hard will cause injury. Slightly dusty foliage will sparkle if polished with a flannel cloth. Plant polishes are available at the garden supply stores. But before you use them, be sure to read the directions...The proper watering of plants is more important than giving them a bath...Here are some guides on diagnosing home plant problems. Brown tips or burned margins to leaves may mean too much fertilizer, or you've let the plant roots dry out, or you've let the plant become burned by sun or dry winds...Yellowing and dropping of leaves may indicate gas fumes," overwatering, poor drainage or poor soil aeration. Small leaves suggest tight or heavy soil mixture, lack of fertilizer or not enough moisture...Weak growth or light green color on otherwise healthy foliage perhaps indicates too much light, lack of fertilizer, root rot or poor root systems. Yellowing, wilting, or soft-weak growth may mean too much heat or root injury...Small leaves and long internodes are signs that the plants are growing with too little light or the temperature is too warm...White, cottony masses on leaves or stems may be mealy bugs or cottony cushion scale. A soap bath will help. Brown spots or streaks on the leaves may mean a bacterial or fungus disease. Disease control will depend on the type of bacteria or fungus. Sanitation is the best prevention. Removing diseased leaves will help.

<http://www.westhawaiiitoday.com/2018/06/10/features/reduce-pollution-with-plants/>

“China toughens supervision in key regions to reduce air pollution:

To prevent persistent environmental violations, the ministry has got tougher with environmental supervision. On Monday, the ministry openly summoned senior officials of Shizhu in Chongqing, Yulin in Guangxi and Yichun in Jiangxi, urging them to seriously implement the rectification requirements of the central inspection teams...Perfunctory responses will not be tolerated, and no one is allowed to seek temporary economic growth at the price of damaging the ecological environment, said the ministry.”

<http://en.people.cn/n3/2018/0610/c90000-9469449.html>

Earth's dismal water future, mapped:

Color coded from blue to red to show average increases and decreases per year in available fresh water — the story it reveals is complex and troubling. Progressively deeper hues represent the greatest and most problematic rates of change. The deepest blues indicate areas where flooding has been increasing, the deepest reds indicate areas where water losses have been most severe...Climate models predict that changing weather and temperature patterns will cause the world's high-latitude and tropical regions — the areas that are already wet — to get wetter, while already dry, arid and semi-arid regions will get drier. But those models foresee

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major changes coming at the end of the 21st century. **Our map clearly shows new patterns emerging today. This includes the U.S.: The northern half of the country has become much wetter, while the southern half has become much drier.**

<http://www.latimes.com/opinion/op-ed/la-oe-famiglietti-shifting-water-sources-20180610-story.html>

“No denial here: Solving California’s **water** problems remains a top priority: This is a national security issue. Without flowing water, we cannot feed America or sustain our quality of life. Our future depends on a clean, reliable water supply.”

<https://www.fresnobee.com/opinion/article212614144.html>

SeaWorld, Ikea and Royal Caribbean are getting rid of plastic straws and bags

https://www.washingtonpost.com/news/energy-environment/wp/2018/06/11/seaworld-ikea-and-royal-caribbean-are-getting-rid-of-plastic-straws-and-bags/?noredirect=on&utm_term=.ce585f3287e6

A Plastic Ocean: A Screening and Discussion: In the center of the Pacific Ocean researchers found more plastic than plankton.

<https://solutions.spcollege.edu/events/a-plastic-ocean-a-screening-and-discussion/>

“THE WORLD’S FIRST BICYCLE PATH FROM RECYCLED PLASTIC”

If you follow the links on this page it’s filled with ideas of how to move forward sustainably and safely. I find the ideas very inspiring and hopeful. some are several years old but others were new to me. Europe and China among others are clearly thinking ahead.

<https://materia.nl/article/bicycle-path-recycled-plastic/>

Zone V Conservation Chairs-

GCA would like to know if any of your clubs have signed up as local resources for the Audubon Plants for Birds database. See below for the information on this from the Conservation Landing Page on the GCA website.

Lindsay Leisenring
Zone V Conservation Rep

HAVE YOUR CLUB TEAM UP WITH AUDUBON

The National Audubon Society invites you to add your garden club as a local resource in its **Plants for Birds native plants database** by **submitting this form**. Once you become a local resource, database users in your area will see your contact information on the Local Resources tab and may contact you with questions related to native plants and gardening. Your club does not need to have any formal outreach programs, but just be willing to help out people who would like to learn more about the benefits of native plants.

If you have questions, please reach out to Plants for Birds Program Manager John Rowden at jrowden@audubon.org.

Also, check-out the **Audubon Speaker List** for club meetings.

Samsung promises to use 100 percent renewable energy in US, Europe, and China by 2020

No word on regional offices in India, Israel, Singapore, or Japan:

<https://www.theverge.com/2018/6/14/17465366/samsung-renewable-energy-greenpeace-climate-change>

Supreme Court Justice Kennedy is retiring. Here's what that means for the environment.

https://grist.org/article/supreme-court-justice-kennedy-is-retiring-heres-what-that-means-for-the-environment/?utm_medium=email&utm_source=newsletter&utm_campaign=daily

With Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez's victory, Congress will likely gain a new climate champion.

https://grist.org/article/with-alexandria-ocasio-cortezs-victory-congress-will-likely-gain-a-new-climate-champion/?utm_medium=email&utm_source=newsletter&utm_campaign=daily