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www.pecpa.org

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EAC Network
www.greenworks.tv/eac/

Enterprising Environmental Solutions, Inc.

www.eesi21.org; www.eesi21.com

French Creek Project

<http://frenchcreek.allegheny.edu/>

GreenSpace Alliance

www.greenspacealliance.info

Allegheny Watershed Network

Main Page:
www.alleghenywatershed.org
Watershed Atlas:
www.watershedatlas.org



Pennsylvania
Environmental
Council

Pennsylvania Environmental Council 2001 Annual Report

A Message From the Chairman

Despite the slowing economy, 2001 was a good year for the Pennsylvania Environmental Council. This Annual Report contains the Council's financial information and summaries of selected projects for 2001. As this Report demonstrates, the Council continued its commitment to broad-based, substantive projects around the Commonwealth and important policy work over the past year. We appreciate the support that our members and friends provided in 2001 and throughout previous years. It is my hope that once you read about the great things the Council has been doing, you will be inspired to continue to help us in our mission to improve and protect the state's environment and communities.

Paul M. King
Chairman of the Board

2001 Financial Information

The Council operates on a July 1 through June 30 fiscal year. The consolidated audited financial statements* for the fiscal year that ended on June 30, 2001 show total support and revenue of \$4,220,987 and total expenses of \$2,980,436. Total assets included cash of \$817,894, accounts and grants receivable of \$1,168,337, prepaid expenses of \$16,868, furniture and equipment net of depreciation of \$53,261, and security deposits of \$18,195. Total liabilities and net assets included liabilities of \$293,538, unrestricted net assets of (\$132,134), temporarily restricted net assets of \$1,901,096, and permanently restricted net assets of \$12,055,

*Consolidated financial statements include the results of operation of PEC and PEC's subsidiary company *Enterprising Environmental Solutions, Inc.*

Sustainable Use of Land

Brownfields Redevelopment Assistance Program

In 2001, the redevelopment of derelict and blighted brownfields continued to be a focus of PEC's urban strategy to facilitate land recycling and offer options to suburban sprawl. Through its Brownfields Redevelopment Assistance Program (BRAP), PEC and partner Phoenix Land Recycling Co. have been assisting numerous brownfield redevelopment projects in low-income neighborhoods in southeastern Pennsylvania. Although initial foundation funding for the two-year pilot program ended mid-year, PEC was able to attract support from local foundations and corporations, the Philadelphia Commerce Department and Local Initiatives Support Corporation to continue facilitating reuse of brownfield sites. BRAP joined the Internet with a web site linked through both the PEC (www.pecpa.org; click on "What We Do," then "Land Use") and Phoenix (www.phoenixland.org/brap/) sites.

For more information, contact Carolyn Wallis at cwallis@pecphila.org or 215-563-0250, ext. 105.

GreenSpace Alliance

The Alliance's 2000 Open Space Score Card, released in March, 2001, in partnership with the Delaware Valley Regional Planning Commission, showed the highest level yet of acres conserved since 1990 and the ever-mounting number of municipalities dedicating funding to land conservation. The Alliance's Executive Committee was expanded to include the heads of regional conservation non-profits: Brandywine Conservancy, Heritage Conservancy, Montgomery County Lands Trust and the Pennsylvania Horticultural Society. Phil Wallis of the Natural Lands Trust was appointed chair. The Steering and Executive Committees approved a new Open Space Initiative focused on the creation of the regional open space network called for in the *GreenPlan for Southeastern Pennsylvania*. A first *GreenPlan Implementation Report* was undertaken to establish land conservation priorities in the region, as one step toward complete protection of top regional priorities. One element of the report, the computer mapping of land protected through conservation non-profits, was completed. An inventory of

conservation projects over the past nine years was undertaken, beginning with state-funded projects, and the Alliance has played a critical role in current efforts to ensure continued state funding for land conservation.

For more information, contact Mark McGuigan at mmcguigan@pecphila.org or 215-563-0250, ext. 109.

Livable Communities Project

A joint project with the Pennsylvania Horticultural Society and the Asociacion de Puertorriquenos en Marcha, Inc. (a community development corporation in Eastern North Philadelphia), the Livable Communities Project focused on creating a sustainable redevelopment "action plan" for a mixed Latino and African-American low-income neighborhood. Talent from throughout the country was sought, and Wallace Roberts & Todd was selected to lead the planning effort, with a number of nationally respected sustainable development-oriented consultants being brought on by PEC to help solve problems of open space, circulation and transportation linkages, stormwater best management practices (BMPs), rebuilding

a "quality of place" and advising on transit-oriented development (TOD) and retail and economic development strategies. More than 75 stakeholders from the community, government and local professional community were involved in two design charrettes, and presentations of findings have been made to well over 100. The next step is to extend this sustainable development planning model to other neighborhoods in concert with Philadelphia's expansive new Neighborhood Transformation Initiative.

For more information, contact Patrick Starr at pstarr@pecphila.org or 215-563-0250, ext. 108.

North Delaware Riverfront Revitalization Initiative

This initiative aims to shift the land use along 11 miles of the Delaware Riverfront north of Philadelphia's Center City from a corridor of industry and blighted brownfields to a regional amenity characterized by outdoor recreation, river vistas and new residential communities. Throughout 2001, PEC continued to play a key role in facilitating public and private action to transform the North Delaware through research on ecological conditions and sustainable development techniques, sponsorship of public

events and coordination of public access projects. Here are the highlights:

- PEC co-contracted with the consulting team led by Field Operations that created the riverfront transformation vision for the Philadelphia City Planning Commission to expand on the proposal's sustainable development aspects. A report prepared by Field Operations for PEC called *Remediating Post-Industrial Landscapes* detailed the development of a public greenway along the riverfront, the use of stormwater BMPs and the implementation of brownfield remediation to prepare sites for private redevelopment. Funding was provided by the Office of Coastal Zone Management and the William Penn Foundation.
- PEC promoted this vision by holding a forum attended by more than 200 and received strong support from elected officials, potential funding agencies, community groups and private developers.
- The development of the East Coast Greenway--Kensington & Tacony bike trail, which PEC has been managing for the past several years, is a major component of the North Delaware Riverfront vision. PEC is managing a PA Department of Conservation and

Natural Resources grant that will be used for property acquisition and will manage a Transportation Enhancements grant for construction. Grants for design and engineering and real estate studies have been requested from State sources.

- PEC sponsored a bike tour and open house on the Delaware to give the community a chance to "get to the river" and experience the dramatic vistas.

For more information, contact Patrick Starr at pstarr@pecphila.org or 215-563-0250, ext. 108.

Regional TOD Advocacy

In 2001, the Council and its partners worked to build a constituency for TOD and promote "best practices" for creating TODs in southeastern Pennsylvania. Council staff wrote and edited several issues of the newsletter *Great Places With Transit* and made a number of presentations on TOD. In 2002, the Council will continue production of *Great Places*, organize more presentations and host a conference on transportation and TOD.

For more information, contact Patrick Starr at pstarr@pecphila.org or 215-563-0250, ext. 108.

Protection of Watersheds

Chester Creek River Conservation Plan

The Council partnered with the Chester-Ridley-Crum Watershed Association, the Delaware County Planning Department and the Natural Lands Trust to create a River Conservation Plan for the Chester Creek watershed. The plan is the result of extensive stakeholder input and will help communities and organizations throughout the watershed identify projects to fix the problems and enhance the features of the watershed.

For more information, contact Ann Smith at asmith@pecphila.org or 215-563-0250 x 107.

French Creek Project

In June 2001, the French Creek Project and the Allegheny Watershed Network organized the French Creek and Allegheny River Sojourn, a 100-mile canoe trip on French Creek and the Allegheny. Approximately 125 paddlers made the journey.

Also in 2001, the Project added The Nature Conservancy as a partner, joining PEC, the Western Pennsylvania Conservancy and Allegheny College.

The Project also implemented a Growing Greener Grant from the PA Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) that supports environmental stewardship and water quality improvements, primarily in the Sugar, Little Sugar, and Lake Creek sub-basins. This work is

being done cooperatively with the Crawford and Venango County Conservation Districts, U.S. Department of Agriculture, the Natural Resource Conservation Service and local farmers. The grant underwrites educational and outreach efforts in the watershed and the implementation of best management practices (BMPs).

A successful Ecotour program on French Creek was begun in 2001. More than 1200 people canoed and kayaked the Creek, learning about the history and ecology of the watershed.

The Project's Outdoor Learning Center (OLC) had a banner year. In addition to ongoing presentations to every 4th grader in the watershed, in June 2001, the Handicap Accessible Butterfly Garden officially opened and the Center hosted a two-day YMCA summer day camp and presented a five-day teacher workshop in various locations across the Watershed. PENNCREST and Creek Connections held a Watershed Module workshop at the OLC, and staff presented a Project WILD workshop and an Earthkeeper Teacher training workshop. In September, five sessions of Earthkeepers began for Crawford Central. On Make a Difference Day, Cub Scout Pack 212 worked at the OLC. More than 3000 students visited the center during 2001.

The draft conservation plan for the French Creek neared completion in 2001. The Plan had met with some controversy as landowners, farm-

ers, and others raised concerns about provisions that they see as promoting increased regulation in the watershed. In response, the French Creek Project Advisory Committee helped the Western Pennsylvania Conservancy, who drafted the plan, revise it to reflect public comments.

For more information, contact Brian Hill at frenchcreek@aol.com or 814-332-2946.

Northern Allegheny Project

The Northern Allegheny Project (NAP) staff spent 2001 preparing to purchase more than \$15,000 worth of educational and water quality monitoring equipment to meet its regional outreach/education goals. Staff also identified all the riparian landowners on the major watersheds of the northern Allegheny so they could be invited to participate in the Project's strategic planning effort and help give direction for the next five years. NAP, which does much of its work in concert with the University of Pittsburgh at Titusville's Biology Department, plans to partner with both the Warren and Crawford Conservation Districts in projects proposed to the PA DEP to implement BMPs on agricultural lands, and is already partnering with the Venango Conservation District by contracting its staff's services for project and general administrative assistance.

For more information, contact Gina Ellis at NorthAllegProj@cs.com or 814-827-4428.

Ridley Creek Riparian and Streambank Assessment Project

In 2001, the Council distributed the results of an ambitious volunteer-based assessment of the Ridley Creek, which flows through Chester and Delaware Counties. Of the 60.8 stream miles assessed in the watershed, 7.3% were excellent; 33.5%, good; 27.9%, fair; and 31.3%, poor. Scores were based on factors like fish habitat, canopy cover, streambank erosion; and vegetative buffer width. Photos and detailed observations of the stream corridor were packaged with Geographic Information System map layers.

To request a copy of the CD or for more information, contact Ann Smith at asmith@pecphila.org or 215-563-0250 x 107.

Watershed Atlas of the Allegheny and Monongahela Rivers

In November, 2001, Jen Novak, Director of

PEC's Alleghenies Watershed Network, unveiled an enhanced Watershed Atlas of the Allegheny and Monongahela Rivers web site, www.watershedatlas.org. With the addition of the Monongahela

River Valley, the expanded resource now includes the Monongahela, Youghiogheny, Cheat, West Fork and Tygart watersheds and provides data, maps, a glossary and links to historic sites and recreation opportunities.

For more information, contact Jen Novak at jmnovak@stargate.net or 412-481-9400.

Wyoming Valley Watershed Coalition

The Wyoming Valley Watershed Coalition (WVWC) a project of PEC, began 2001 with a Streamside Cleanup Workshop in March. This was followed in May with the Coalition serving on the planning team for the Wyoming Valley Streamside Cleanup program with the Susquehanna River Basin Commission (SRBC)

and a team of local organizations and agencies, funded by a donation from PPL to the SRBC.

Through the program, more than 100 volunteers removed almost 13 tons of trash from four north-eastern Pennsylvania streams. A second stream cleanup was organized in August 2001 by the WVWC. More than 250 Wilkes University freshmen participated in a "Back to Nature" orientation and removed 10 tons of trash from three local streams.

As part of a celebration of National River's Week in June 2001, the WVWC participated in Wyoming Valley RiverFest 2001, which included an evening seminar, a canoe trip and a River Festival in Wilkes-Barre Riverfront Parks. The WVWC coordinated the 8-mile canoe trip on the Susquehanna River beginning in West Pittston. About 90 participated.

For more information, contact Holly Frederick at frederic@wilkes.edu or 570-270-4420 or visit the Wyoming Valley Watershed Coalition web

Environmental Innovation

Wyoming Valley Wellness Trails

At a series of regional greenways workshops in northeastern Pennsylvania sponsored by PEC's Northeast Regional Office and the National Park Service (NPS), health care providers and the public expressed an interest in forming a partnership for trail and greenway development in the Wyoming Valley. Based on this community request, PEC, with NPS, secured funding from the PA Department of Conservation and Natural Resources (DCNR), Luzerne County, the Sordoni

Foundation and the Edith Reynolds Trust to start the program now known as Wyoming Valley Wellness Trails (WVWT). Its purpose is to develop a partnership to encourage employees and residents to exercise more and to identify sites for trail development close to work, homes, schools and health care facilities. The program also seeks to expand the opportunities afforded by the connection between the health care industry's wellness initiatives and the trail/greenway movement in the Wyoming Valley. The WVWT Committee is

composed of representatives of local trail groups and health care providers, along with representatives of the DCNR, the PA Department of Health, the City of Wilkes-Barre's Health Department, King's College, Wilkes University, the Area Agency on Aging and Maternal Family and Health Services.

For more information, contact Holly Frederick at frederic@wilkes.edu or 570-270-4420 or visit the Wyoming Valley Watershed Coalition web site at www.wvwc.org.

Education and Visioning

EAC Network

In 2001, PEC launched the environmental advisory council (EAC) web site (www.eacnetwork.org), designed and maintained in partnership with GreenWorks and funded by the PA Department of Environmental Protection. The site provides a monthly spotlight on EAC projects from around the state, an EAC introductory presentation, videos, tools, links, a map of municipalities with EACs and more. More enhancements are to come soon. Also in 2001, as part of a new statewide EAC initiative, PEC held educational events throughout the Commonwealth, funded by the William Penn Foundation, the PA Department of Conservation and Natural Resources and the Mellon Foundation, including conferences in

Allentown, Meadville and Bryn Mawr and several EAC introductory workshops. Finally, the EAC Network grew with the addition of a Program Assistant, Ingrid Redman.

For more information, contact Jeanne Barrett Ortiz at jortiz@pecphila.org or 215-563-0250, ext. 103.

Municipal Environmental Education Program

In the past year, PEC created a directory of resources for municipal officials entitled *Environmentally Sound Community Planning: Directory of Resources for Municipalities in Southeastern PA*. Nineteen non-profit organizations and public agencies are highlighted in the directory, and a topical index points users to

handbooks, videos, data sheets and model ordinances available on community design, green space protection, water resources, transportation/energy/air/waste and planning strategies. More than 1000 copies have already been distributed to municipal officials and other active citizens and organizations. The Council also took the lead in planning a half-day workshop on improving stormwater management. Held at Villanova University in conjunction with the 2001 Pennsylvania Stormwater Management Symposium, this workshop was geared for a municipal audience and attracted an audience of more than 120 people.

To order a copy of the directory or for more information on MEEP, contact Ann Smith at asmith@pecphila.org or 215-563-0250 x 107.

Policy

Since its founding in 1970, the Council has played an active role in environmental policy discussions and decision-making in Harrisburg, in both the regulatory and legislative arenas. In 2001, we continued this activity by commenting on proposed legislation

and regulations and testifying before the General Assembly committees. In particular, PEC was a key player in the call for increased and dedicated state environmental funding and the need for better state water resource management, two issues with which the

Council will continue to be actively involved in the coming year.

For more information on the Council's policy work, contact Andrew McElwaine at PAENVIRON@aol.com or 717-230-8044.

Special Events

Northeast Pennsylvania Dinner and Environmental Partnership Awards

In October 2001, PEC's Northeast Office, with partners Wilkes University, EDCNP, Procter and Gamble Paper Products Company, PPL Utilities and the PA Departments of Environmental Protection (DEP) and Conservation and Natural Resources (DCNR), held the 11th annual Environmental Partnership Awards and Dinner in Wilkes-Barre. The event, which drew 375 guests, is an opportunity to recognize outstanding accomplishments and teamwork in environmental protection or conservation. The keynote speaker was Ed McMahon, Vice President of the American Greenways Program for The

Conservation Fund. The Dinner Chair and emcee was Anna Cervenak, Director, External Affairs for Verizon. The Seventh Annual Thomas P. Shelburne Environmental Leadership Award was presented to the Honorable Raphael Musto, PA Senator, 14th Senatorial District.

Philadelphia Dinner

PEC's 31st annual Philadelphia Dinner, sponsored by PECO Energy, was held in May 2001. The EPA's Christie Whitman was the keynote speaker, and the Curtin Winsor Award was given to the Nature Conservancy of Pennsylvania for outstanding contributions to environmental protection and restoration.

Kenneth G. Lawrence, President of PECO, was Dinner Chair. More than 500 guests attended, making the Dinner one of the Council's most successful to date.

Three Rivers Environmental Awards and Western Pennsylvania Dinner

In May 2001, the Council, with DQE, held its eighth annual Three Rivers Environmental Awards and Western Pennsylvania Dinner. More than 600 attended. Created in 1993, the awards program honors individuals and organizations for their accomplishments in the environmental field and has donated more than \$75,000 to local environmental groups.

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