



## Pennsylvania GreenGov News



TOM WOLF, GOVERNOR

August 2021

Welcome to the latest edition of *Pennsylvania GreenGov News!* As we move through the summer weather, we're heating up our efforts to provide you with updates on state agencies' work toward ambitious goals in carbon dioxide emissions reduction, and highlight resources that may help you reach your own goals.

In this edition, read about the award-winning work by the Department of General Services Bureau of Procurement to help the environment; new training from the Department of Environmental Protection to help leaders statewide address climate change; what a special group of employees are doing to change the landscape of helping the environment, and more.

Please consider sharing this newsletter with your networks to help expand the knowledge base as we all work together to reduce emissions. To learn more about the GreenGov Council, co-chaired by the Departments of General Services, Environmental Protection, and Conservation and Natural Resources, [visit our website](#).

— Mark Hand, Director, GreenGov Council

### GreenGov Council News

#### Pennsylvania Climate Leadership Academy trains leaders statewide

The Department of Environmental Protection launched the [Pennsylvania Climate Leadership Academy](#) in August to provide both foundational and cutting-edge training programs for leaders around the state who want to increase Pennsylvania's capacity to tackle climate change.

Online and free, the programs are designed for:

- Elected officials;
- Leaders and staff in state and local government agencies;
- Executive and senior personnel in critical infrastructure organizations;
- Leaders in business, industry and agriculture; and
- Leaders of nonprofit organizations and academic institutions.

The first program, Climate Leadership Activator, began on August 24 with more than 150 participants. The program builds a foundational understanding of the risks and opportunities climate change presents for state/local governments, infrastructure organizations, and businesses in Pennsylvania. It examines the impacts of climate change on organizational mission, operations, and stakeholders and identifies opportunities to advance readiness and solutions grounded in economic vitality, public health, and security.

Climate Leadership Activator will be followed a Certified Climate Change Professional program in October, and both programs will be offered again in 2022.

In its role as GreenGov Council co-chair, DEP provides the Pennsylvania Climate Leadership Academy with programmatic support and funding from the U.S. Department of Energy State Energy Program. The Association of Climate Change Officers manages the academy.

Pennsylvania is the second state in the nation to offer a state government-sponsored Climate Leadership Academy, after Maryland.



#### Commonwealth recognized by the Global Electronics Council for second straight year

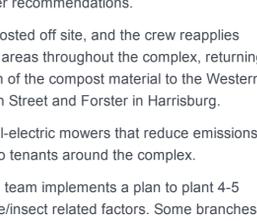
For the second consecutive year, [the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania has been nationally recognized with the Electronic Product Environmental Assessment Tool \(EPEAT\) Purchaser Award](#) from the Global Electronics Council for its commitment to preserving the environment through the purchase of nearly 67,400 units of sustainable electronics.

The Department of General Services Bureau of Procurement made more than \$79 million in EPEAT-qualified purchases in the Computers & Displays and Digital Imaging categories in Fiscal Year 2019-2020. The energy savings of nearly \$1.34 million associated with the green electronics purchases is enough electricity to power approximately 2,582 households for a year, while the carbon reduction is equivalent to annually removing approximately 1,423 passenger cars from the road. The amount of solid waste eliminated from the environment is equivalent to the annual waste generation of 347 households.

Pennsylvania is one of only eight states recognized with the 2021 EPEAT Purchaser Award.



#### DGS Landscaping and Grounds Maintenance Department caring for the environment



The DGS Grounds Department usually works in the background of the Capitol Complex, but it's out in front when it comes to environmentally beneficial landscaping best practices.

All six members of the grounds crew are certified pesticide applicators through the Department of Agriculture, and they follow strict procedures on chemical handling, use, and record keeping, as well as continuing education.

Recognizing that one size doesn't fit all, the team performs annual soil testing to determine pH, acidity, phosphorous, potassium, calcium, lime, and fertilizer recommendations.

Leaves, grass, and wood products are collected and composted off site, and the crew reapplies second-year composted materials over selected turf grass areas throughout the complex, returning nutrients back into the grounds. They also donate a portion of the compost material to the Western Pennsylvania Conservancy community flower garden at 7th Street and Forster in Harrisburg.

In addition, the Grounds Department has purchased two all-electric mowers that reduce emissions and provide a much quieter cut with much less disruption to tenants around the complex.

As trees are removed due to storm damage or decline, the team implements a plan to plant 4-5 trees. The trees are selected based on climate and disease/insect related factors. Some branches and logs from the removed trees are run through woodchippers and used as mulch cover in areas where natural cover is acceptable. Logs are sent to mills to make boards to replace old planks on the benches throughout Soldiers Grove.

**Tip from the DGS Grounds staff:** Take the time to test your soils periodically and send the soil samples to your local [Penn State Extension office](#), or to various garden centers. Without knowing the basic facts on your soil type and conditions, you may be applying unnecessary quantities of fertilizer and perhaps in the wrong percentages of Nitrogen, Potassium and Phosphorous (the three numbers on the fertilizer bag). This wastes money and can pollute local streams and rivers with nutrient runoff.

### Shout Out: Department of Human Services

#### DHS launches Sustainability Team with staff education campaign on connections between healthy environment, minds, and bodies

The Department of Human Services launched its new Sustainability Team with a staff education campaign that showcases environmental practices that also contribute to healthy minds and bodies.

The campaign promotes ways to get outdoors and in nature, whether it be by taking a walk or jog, visiting one of the state parks, or sitting quietly under a tree, as well as providing information on recycling and care for the environment.

DHS offered "lunch and learn" opportunities and presentations through partners, such as EarthShare and the Manada Conservancy, as well as other organizations. The Sustainability Team provides messages to staff for opportunities to explore nature and surrounding parks and trails, ideas to protect natural areas, and tips for recycling and reducing waste, while supporting community waste clean-up efforts.

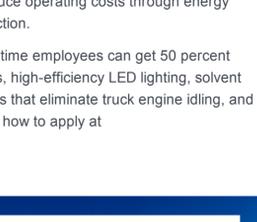
The GreenGov Council looks forward to working with DHS on future campaigns and initiatives, and encourages other agencies and organizations to explore Sustainability Team opportunities that reflect their missions.

### Resources to Help Your Effort

#### Tool helps you save time and money in fleet electrification planning

If you're a local government or business considering transitioning your fleet to electric vehicles, check out the [Dashboard for Rapid Vehicle Electrification](#) (DRIVE) developed by the Electrification Coalition. The DRIVE tool uses your data to custom-calculate within minutes the total cost of ownership and emission factors for conventional vehicles and comparable EVs and plug-in hybrid EVs.

#### Rebate funding available now for electric vehicle charger installation



A rebate from the DEP Driving PA Forward program can help you defray the cost of installing an electric vehicle charger. Rebates are available for installation of Level 2 EV chargers in a workplace, public space, or multi-unit residential building.

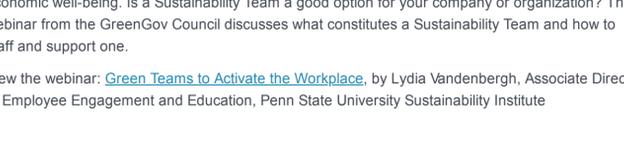
Eligible applicants: Businesses, educational institutions, incorporated nonprofits, local, state, and federal government agencies, air quality and transportation organizations, transportation planning organizations, and parking authorities.

For more information, and a webinar on how to apply, and a link to the application portal, visit [Driving PA Forward](#). Under "Grant and Rebate Programs," click on "Level 2 EV Charging Rebate Program."

#### Grants available now to small businesses for energy efficiency projects

The DEP 2021 Small Business Advantage Grants program has funding available to small businesses and farmers who want to improve their operations and reduce operating costs through energy efficiency, pollution prevention, and natural resource protection.

Pennsylvania small business owners with 100 or fewer full-time employees can get 50 percent matching funds up to \$5,000 for HVAC and boiler upgrades, high-efficiency LED lighting, solvent recovery and waste recycling systems, auxiliary power units that eliminate truck engine idling, and other projects that reduce energy use. Find information on how to apply at [dep.pa.gov/smallbusinessadvantagegrants](http://dep.pa.gov/smallbusinessadvantagegrants).



#### Webinar discusses the benefits of establishing a Sustainability Team at your workplace

More and more corporations and organizations are establishing a Sustainability Team (or "Green Team") as they look to improve their environmental performance, social equity, and employee economic well-being. Is a Sustainability Team a good option for your company or organization? This webinar from the GreenGov Council discusses what constitutes a Sustainability Team and how to staff and support one.

View the webinar: [Green Teams to Activate the Workplace](#), by Lydia Vandenbergh, Associate Director of Employee Engagement and Education, Penn State University Sustainability Institute

### Join us: GreenGov Events

#### Public Meeting

Date: October 28, 2021 | 2:30 pm

Format: Microsoft Teams platform: [join the meeting](#)

Join us for the next GreenGov Council public meeting, when we'll cover agencies' annual progress on the Governor's executive order goals and other actions taken in the commonwealth that enhances sustainability of operations.

#### Sustainability Webinar Series, 2021-2022

Webinars are free and open to the public. Please [complete this survey](#) to indicate which presentations you plan to attend. We'll send out Microsoft Teams meeting calendar invitations to all interested attendees for their selected webinars. Webinars are sponsored by the GreenGov Council and Penn State University Sustainability Institute.

##### Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative Overview

Date: October 8, 2021 | 1:00-1:45 pm

Speaker: Hayley Book, Senior Advisor on Energy and Climate, Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection

##### Carbon Reduction Commitments – State Agencies, Universities and Businesses

Date: November 12, 2021 | 1:00-1:45 pm

Speaker: Rob E. Cooper, Senior Director for Energy and Sustainability, Penn State University Office of Engineering

##### Pennsylvania Climate Leadership Academy Overview

Date: January 14, 2022 | 1:00-1:45 pm

Speaker: Daniel M. Kreeger, Executive Director, Association of Climate Change Officers

##### Pennsylvania Recycling Markets: Using Recyclables in Facility Construction

Date: February 11, 2022 | 1:00-1:45 pm

Speakers: Tad Radzinski, President, Sustainable Solutions Corporation; Robert J. Bylone, Executive Director, Penn State Recycling Markets Center

##### Sustainability and Resilience in the Community

Date: March 11, 2022 | 1:00-1:45 pm

Speaker: tbd

##### Household Carbon Reduction, Part 1: Energy Saving Utility Programs

Date: April 8, 2022 | 1:00-1:45 pm

Speaker: Joseph Sherrick, Supervisor, Technical Utility Services, Policy & Planning, Pennsylvania Public Utility Commission

Pennsylvania GreenGov Council



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