



PennFuture.org

CLEAN AIR.
PURE WATER.
YOUR RIGHTS.
PROTECT THEM.

Coming up for PennFuture...

Did you know you have the Constitutional Right to a healthy natural environment? The Pennsylvania Environmental Rights Amendment guarantees this right and PennFuture stands at the forefront of defending it. We are introducing our new tagline above which you'll see on upcoming branding for PennFuture.

Check out the **Philadelphia Citizen's** [article on the ERA](#) which mentions our Legal Team's defense of the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative at the Supreme Court, which invokes the ERA.

Later this month, PennFuture will publish its **Strategic Plan**. This plan is the foundation on which our work is based. Over the past 15 months, our dedicated team worked tirelessly to craft a bold, five-year strategic plan to safeguard the Environmental Rights Amendment (ERA) and advance sustainable economic policies across the state.

In 2025, we'll also be launching new educational and communications initiatives, including a new YouTube series!



PennFuture Social Media

PennFuture joined BlueSky! You can follow us at [@pennfuture.bsky.social](https://pennfuture.bsky.social). Due to the changes on X.com (Twitter)'s [terms of service](#) that took place on November 15, PennFuture will no longer be posting on that platform.

Are you following us on **YouTube**?

We will be increasing our video content in 2025 with a goal of reaching 1,000 subscribers!

Opinion: Don't fall for smoke and mirrors, recycling won't solve our plastics problem

Jenny Tompkins Your Turn

Published 5:02 a.m. ET Oct. 23, 2024 | Updated 9:36 a.m. ET Oct. 23, 2024



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PennFuture manager shares reasons why plastic isn't good for humans and the environment

Jenny Tompkins, PennFuture's clean water campaign manager based in Erie, talks about the negative effects of plastic and

Plastics Recycling in Erie

In October, Erie Times-News published a series of articles on the [International Recycling Group](#) plant proposed for Erie. **PennFuture's Clean Water Campaign Manager Jenny Tompkins** and **PennFuture Board Member John Vanco** participated in a round table discussion with the newspaper's reporters and editorial board.

Tompkins and Vanco raise concerns about the economics of plastic recycling and the environmental impacts the plant can present in this article "[Erie](#)

[environmentalists prefer reduction in plastic production over recycling. Here's why"](#)

Tompkins is also featured in a video project by Erie Times-News and published her own Op-Ed article on the dangers of single use plastics and the false promise of plastic recycling.

READ:

Opinion: Don't fall for smoke and mirrors, recycling won't solve our plastics problem



Online: 2024 Post Election Forum

PennFuture and Conservation Voters of PA hosted a post-election forum on the outcome of the 2024 election's state races and what to expect next year in Harrisburg.

If you missed the forum, it is now posted on YouTube!

Also – check out **Senior Director of Energy & Climate Rob Altenburg's** interview in PublicSource's [‘Something great’ and ‘the world is ending’ echo in post-election din.](#)

WATCH:
2024 Post Election Forum



End of the Year Giving!

Thank you to everyone who contributed to our Giving Tuesday campaign! With your social media and email sharing, you brought in 17 new members this week!

2025 will be a big year for new strategies and initiatives! If you haven't already, please consider a gift to PennFuture for your end-of-year donations!

PennFuture is a leader in environmental **action in Pennsylvania:**

🌿 PennFuture In the courtroom, PennFuture's Legal Team takes the lead in significant environmental cases such as the fight for the **Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative at the Pennsylvania Supreme Court.**

🌿 In the Capitol Building, PennFuture & Conservation Voters of PA's joint Legislative Advocacy Team is the biggest environmental lobby team in the Commonwealth's history and secures environmental wins in the state budget including this year's **Solar for Schools** and **Abandoned Well Plugging programs.**

🌿 In communities, PennFuture connects with residents and local groups to share resources and provide support to amplify their voices. An example of this includes the advocacy of LOVE Kidder Township and Save Carbon County that led to having [Living with Logistics](#), PennFuture's model logistics use ordinance and guidebook, become **the blueprint for Kidder Township's newly adopted zoning ordinance amendment** this September.

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Crafting Economic Pathways for Pennsylvania's Communities in Energy Transition

Coal-fired power plants are closing across the nation, and [the four remaining coal plants in Pennsylvania will be shut down by 2028](#). Because these plants had long been the primary source of tax revenue, wages, careers, and benefits, a closure can be devastating.

In this Op-Ed to Tribune-Democrat, **PennFuture's Policy Manager for Economic Development Donna Kohut** discusses the models being developed across the country centering energy workers and local communities. Examples from Centralia, Washington and Becker, Minnesota show the unique paths forward and how Pennsylvania can learn from them.

READ:

Op-Ed: Transitioning Beyond Coal



FOUR PART SEMINAR SERIES

WANDER THROUGH PENNSYLVANIA'S
WATERSHEDS - THEIR PROBLEMS, THEIR
PEOPLE, AND HOW WE CAN PROTECT THEM



Oct. 29th ~ Nov. 19th ~ Dec. 10th ~ Jan. 14th

Upcoming Events in PA

VIRTUAL

[Watersheds & Their Protection](#)

Tuesday, December 10, 2024

7:00 PM - 8:30 PM

FREE

PennFuture's Michael Mehrazar presents in PA IPL's series "Wandering

Waters." In this seminar, we will hear from folks who hold responsibility to protect and regulate Pennsylvania's waterways. A representative from the PA Department of Environmental Protection as well as the Environmental Protection Agency Region 3 will join us on this call to share about the water work their offices are engaged in. We will additionally hear from experts in water policy and conservation about some of the ways they are working on the ground and in the halls of power to enact positive change for our waterways.

[Register for a free ticket.](#)

MONROE COUNTY

DEP Hearing on a Warehouse Sewer Line

Tuesday, December 17, 2024
at 6:00 p.m
Tobyhanna Elementary Center, 398
Old
Rte. 940, Pocono Pines

The Department of Environmental Protection will hold a hearing on a permit to run a sewer line beneath Hawkey Run and nearby wetlands to serve the proposed Orchard BJK, LLC Pocono Mountain Corporate Center Lot 1 Warehouse. Orchard BJK proposes to run a 6,000-foot sewer line from the Lot 1 parcel along an existing grass lane to a tie-in point in Corporate Center Drive West. The sewer line is threatening the High Quality (HQ) Hawkey Run and associated Exceptional Value (EV) wetlands in Coolbaugh Township.

To register, email Colleen Connolly, DEP Community Relations Coordinator at coconnolly@pa.gov. DEP will accept requests to testify up to the day of the hearing.

Please keep comments to 5 minutes so that everyone has an opportunity to testify.

Donations Make a Difference

You can add your voice when you become a member.

All gifts made to PennFuture, no matter how large or small, make you a member of our organization. The official registration and financial information of

PennFuture may be obtained from the Pennsylvania Department of State by calling within Pennsylvania toll free 1-800-732-0999. Registration does not imply endorsement.

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