

# Celebrating Our Clean Water Volunteer Advocates!



## PennFuture Impact Scorecard & Penny Awards

Though this newsletter focuses almost exclusively on PennFuture's Erie Our Water, Our Future Campaign, it is important to show how this regional focus contributes to our statewide impact.

Each year, PennFuture publishes an Impact Scorecard showcasing the diversity of tactics and tools we use to advocate for our environment and our communities. Highlights from our 2023 Impact Scorecard include:

- More than 300 meetings with legislators.
- 120 media mentions, including articles in national outlets.
- 32 expert public comment submissions and 39 sign-on coalition letters.

**2023 Annual Impact SCORECARD**

- 140+ more than 300 meetings with legislators** over the course of last year. Successfully supported environmental bills such as Solar 4 Schools and adding EV charging stations to C-PACE, and educated policymakers on the Commonwealth Court's misguided RGGI decision.
- 101 PennFuture-hosted events** on the status of RGGI, PA Budget, Farm Bill, and more.
- 32 public comments** submitted by PennFuture's experts, plus **39 sign-on letters** with coalition.
- Published the Model Municipal Ordinance and Guidebook** to help municipalities better manage the influx of large logistics development.
- PennFuture also launched a new website Resource Policy Briefs** – short visual reports summarizing important environmental issues in Pennsylvania and ways to address them.
- By using in-house video production**, PennFuture increased its Instagram content engagement by **2,025 percent** and saw **17 percent** increase in followers. In 2023, PennFuture also launched its Talk and Include Series.

**A LOOK AHEAD**

The state legislature was incredibly unproductive in 2023. Many environmental issues—like passing community solar legislation, incentivizing electric vehicle manufacturing, and beginning debate on new state energy policy—were not addressed and won't come up for debate until later in the spring of this year. In 2024, we ensure the fight for the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative at the PA Supreme Court.

Our legislative efforts will focus on passing PA Senate Bill 220, which would increase the renewable energy goal to 30% by 2030 and permit community solar, we will promote sustainable annual funding for the Clean Streams Fund, and see that PA DEP integrates Environmental Justice considerations and community input into more aspects of its permitting work.

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Read the 2023 PennFuture Impact Scorecard!

CONSERVATION VOTERS OF PA | PENNFUTURE

# PENNY Awards

FEBRUARY  
THURSDAY 8 6 PM  
2024

RSVP by February 7 to receive Zoom details.

Our impact is significantly amplified by our many volunteers and partner organizations! Throughout the year, our advocates work tirelessly with us and other organizations to prioritize the protection of our communities and our environment.

Our advocates have done everything from writing letters to the editor, signing petitions, talking with their legislators, and attending events. The list goes on!

At **6 pm on Thursday, February 8th**, PennFuture and Conservation Voters of PA will recognize and thank our volunteers and partners for their hard work at our annual **Penny Awards!** For the first time, we will recognize advocates from the Lake Erie Watershed, so join us to thank these wonderful volunteers!

Register for the 2024 Penny Awards!

## Helping Master Watershed Stewards Master Clean Water Advocacy

The Penn State Extension Crawford, Erie, and Warren Master Watershed Steward Program invited PennFuture to present at their January volunteer appreciation potluck.

PennFuture Erie Campaign Manager Jenny Tompkins presented "Mastering Clean Water Advocacy as a Master Watershed Steward."

PennFuture presented on how to advocate without lobbying, (which is restricted for stewards), how to navigate local government in Pennsylvania, and advocacy success stories from the MWS program to celebrate!

We are thankful for the thousands of volunteer hours (many focused on advocacy) completed by the Crawford, Erie, and Warren Master Watershed Stewards since the program's founding only a few years ago!!

The Master Watershed Steward Program is still accepting applications for their Spring 2024 cohort - [apply here!](#)



## Recent News & Community Highlights

- [PA Sea Grant, Partners Offer Choose Native Plants Workshops for Landscape Professionals in Erie, Pittsburgh, Philadelphia, PA Environment Digest](#)
- [Artists wanted for City of Erie's East Bayfront Greenway Trail Project, YourErie](#)
- [Once Known for Its Pollution, Pittsburgh Becomes a Poster Child for Climate Consciousness, Inside Climate News](#)
- [New PA fishing and boating regulations aim to combat invasive species, FOX 43](#)
- [CFA Approves \\$27 Million in Watershed, Recreation Projects Funded by Act 13 Drilling Impact Fees; Fees Dropping \\$104 Million in 2024; New Grant Round Opening, PA Environment Digest](#)
- [Detroit Free Press](#)
- [Western Lake Erie vanishes after blizzard winds cause seiche, MLive](#)
- [Threats to the Great Lakes, Buffalo Rising](#)
- [Bottled Water Contains More Plastic Particles Than Previously Thought, Bloomberg Green](#)
- [A Year of Extreme Weather, as Seen from Space, Yale Environment 360](#)



[Teachers invited to apply for weeklong research trip on Lake Erie: 'Amazing Opportunity'](#),

## Upcoming Events, Deadlines, & Comment Opportunities

### ***Upcoming Events & Deadlines***

*PennFuture-Led Events:*

**Thursday, February 8th: [2024 Penny Awards: Environmental Advocacy Celebration](#), 6-7 pm, PennFuture & Conservation Voters of PA Annual Volunteer Appreciation Awards**  
*Community Events & Deadlines:*

**Wednesday, January 31st: [Lecture: The Importance of Trees in Forests and Cities by Christopher Dolanc, Ph.D.](#), 6:30-7:30 pm, Asbury Woods**

**Wednesday, January 31st: [Save the Library Event](#), 6 pm, Erie Maennerchor Club**

**Friday, February 9th: [From Gray to Green: Exploring and Comparing German, US Models of Economic Transition](#), 12-1:30 pm, Jefferson Educational Society**

**Friday, February 16th:** Deadline to apply for the [Crawford, Erie, & Warren County Master Watershed Steward Program](#)

**Friday, February 16th:** Deadline to apply for the [Erie County Conservation District PRISM Mini-Grant Program to Combat Invasive Species](#) & to complete the [Invasive Species Needs Assessment Survey](#)

***Public Comment Opportunities***

[Climate Strategy Opinion Survey](#) - PA Department of Environmental Protection

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**PennFuture Erie Office**

**Radius CoWork, 1001 State St, Suite 907, Erie, PA 16501**

[tompkins@pennfuture.org](mailto:tompkins@pennfuture.org) | (814) 580-8906

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