



PennFuture won **4 significant environmental victories** in the PA 2024 Budget. The budget wins included the **passage of the Solar for Schools Program** with bipartisan support to allocate \$25 million to help schools, community colleges, and technical schools fund solar energy installation; adding an **additional \$50 million annually for the Clean Streams Fund** to tackle the top three sources of water pollution: acid mine drainage, agricultural runoff, and urban stormwater runoff; \$11 million in funding support for the **Abandoned Well Plugging program** to close abandoned gas and oil wells to prevent them from leaking methane and polluting our waterways; and handing a **major setback to Cryptocurrency companies** – they are no longer eligible for tax exemption. This change is aimed at discouraging energy-intensive data centers from moving into PA.

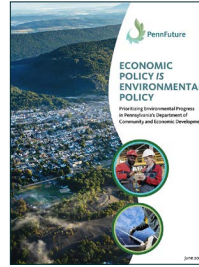
5,500+ actions submitted to lawmakers and agency officials by PennFuture members and supporters on **15 issues**, including urging the Shapiro Administration to continue on its campaign platform to forge a new path towards a clean and sustainable economy.



6 legal wins including the PA Supreme Court granting our intervention to defend Pennsylvania's participation in the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative and securing a significant settlement from a Philadelphia cement plant to stop pollution into nearby Frankford Creek. The Legal Team filed **6 new legal actions** in 2024, participated in **20 municipal hearings and meetings**, and submitted

23 comment letters opposing polluting facilities and advocating for more stringent regulations and policies.

96 original media mentions that included articles in national outlets such as *The New York Times*, *The Nation*, and *Mother Jones*. **11 Op-Eds** published in *The Philadelphia Inquirer*, *Observer-Reporter*, *Tribune-Democrat*, *Erie Times-News*, among others. **22 public statements** on climate and environment issues. We also grew our Instagram account to **over 2,000 followers**.



PennFuture also launched its new policy department on Sustainable Economics with Policy Manager Donna Kohut's report: **Environmental Policy Is Economic Policy**, which offered policy recommendations for the Pennsylvania Department of Community and Economic Development – aiming to redirect Pennsylvania's financial resources from fossil fuels towards decarbonization and economic diversification. **102 non-profit organizations, businesses, community leaders, and local elected officials** signed on to our letter to Governor Josh Shapiro to express our concerns with his *Pennsylvania Gets It Done: A Ten-Year Strategic Plan for Economic Development in Pennsylvania*, because it failed to prioritize renewable energy, battery storage, electric vehicle, and energy efficiency sectors.

16 Civic Engagement events held in 2024, including a conversation with Rep. Ben Waxman in Philadelphia, tabling at Pike County PRIDE, and hosting Clean Energy photo petitions at the AJR and Billie Eilish concerts.



2 PennFuture 25th Anniversary celebratory events in Philadelphia and Pittsburgh that honored Pennsylvania's climate, environmental policy, and volunteer champions.

Published the **Public Participation; Public Power** a comprehensive guide to give PA residents the knowledge and tools they need to understand and effectively participate in local land use decision-making processes.

Focus on Looking Ahead: Sustainable Economy Development

- PennFuture's Sustainable Economics policy manager will guide our efforts in educational and legislative advocacy in modernizing the state's approach to energy.
- Our focus in 2025 is on energy grid reliability and investments in renewable energy and energy efficiency projects. The state legislature will have an opportunity to pass the Pennsylvania Reliability Energy Sustainability Standard (PRESS) program that will require PA get 35% of its energy from clean energy sources such as solar, wind, and small modular nuclear reactors. The PennFuture Legal Team will also publish a new guidebook for municipalities on how to consider and facilitate utility-scale solar projects.
- In June 2025, PennFuture will host its inaugural Energy Dialogue: *Growing a Sustainable Energy Economy in Pennsylvania* at Phipps Conservatory in Pittsburgh, PA.