

# Fiscal Year 2019 Annual Report

July 1, 2018 through June 30, 2019





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Jacquelyn Bonomo, President & CEO Matthew Stepp, Chief of Staff & Vice President Susan Chopp, Executive Assistant Josh McNeil, Vice President of Civic Engagement Rob Altenburg, Director of the Energy Center M. Travis DiNicola, Director of Development Ezra P. Thrush, MPA, Director of Policy Jay Andrews, Ph.D., Director of Outreach Alice R. Baker, Staff Attorney Abby Jones, Staff Attorney Jared Stonesifer, Director of Media Relations Ellen Zeph, Deputy Director of Development Susanne Whitehead, Donor Relations Manager Gwenn Miller, Database Manager Emily Gale, Director of Civic Engagement Renee Reber, Campaign Manager, Watershed Advocacy Annie Regan, Clean Energy Pittsburgh Program Manager Emily Rinaldi Baldauff, Northeast PA Outreach Coordinator Kelsey Krepps, Western PA Outreach Coordinator Madeleine "Lena" Smith, Campaign Manager, Clean Water Advocacy Michael Mehrazar, Central PA Organizer Bonita Hoke, Program Assistant

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### **About PennFuture**

PennFuture is leading the transition to a clean energy economy in Pennsylvania, fighting big polluters with legal muscle, enforcing environmental laws, and supporting legislative policy that protects public health. PennFuture is engaging and educating citizens about the realities of climate change, and giving them the tools needed to influence lawmakers on the issues.

### **About this Annual Report**

PennFuture's Fiscal Year 2019 Annual Report is a summary of *program*, *financial*, *and donor* information for the period of July 1, 2018 through June 30, 2019. For more information about current program activities please visit our website at **pennfuture.org**. Previous annual reports are available at **www.pennfuture.org/financial-information**.

### MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT AND CEO

### Dear Supporter,

PennFuture's board of directors approved a new strategic plan for the organization in March 2019. The plan was devised to meet new threats to Pennsylvania's environment, most notable among them the growing influence of the fracked gas industry on state decisionmakers, and the expanded use of fracked gas for energy into fracked gas for petrochemicals and plastics manufacturing here and abroad. If not slowed and eventually stopped, this expanded influence and industrial activity will have an enormous negative impact on the landscape of our state, on our air and water, on public health and on our climate.

The new strategic plan seeks to position PennFuture and our allies more aggressively against this powerful industry, polluter and climate killer. PennFuture's approach to this fight for our future, our climate and the economy of our state is multi-fold:

- We are now able to issue rapid response communications through our blogs, social media, letters to the editor and opinion pieces dispelling the false narratives the fracked gas industry disseminates to the public on a regular basis, that for far too long have gone unrebutted.
- We are committed to growing our legal capabilities as an organization and to play our part in making the fracked gas industry unwelcome through permits and projects challenges brought by PennFuture and other advocates trying to do the same.
- We are establishing a presence in small towns and communities throughout the state and beyond the fracking fields who are now faced with expanded infrastructure like pipelines and other "downstream" industries that must be developed if Pennsylvania fracked gas is to be "optimized" for corporate profits in a tough global market place and fraught investment outlooks. We must help locals build capacity to address the growing onslaught of compressor station, storage facilities, disposal sites, and transportation projects that are now coming to light across the state.
- We are seeking to build good policy. In this political environment that more often starts with
  defending environmental protections and regulations that are constantly in danger of being rolled
  back, we have a big opportunity to help articulate a fossil-fuel free economic development and job
  creation strategy. This is a strategy that can help Pennsylvania create jobs and an economic future
  that is greener, more sustainable and will not devastate the health of our people and environment
  through misguided taxpayer subsidies and public dollars.

The theory of change in our plan – and our ability to be successful – will rely on having a bi-partisan majority of elected officials who will stand for the environment in the state legislature, and elsewhere in Pennsylvania. We rely on our strategic ally Conservation Voters of Pennsylvania to identify those legislators and candidates and help elect them to office. The new strategic plan moves PennFuture more intentionally into civic engagement and democracy work. This plays out in new programs like non-partisan voter registration programs to ensure that everyone who is eligible to vote is registered to vote, especially those who fall into the so-called New American Majority – defined by single women, latinx individuals and millennials. We try to ensure that everyone who is registered to vote, does vote through our get out the vote work. And we are making sure that the environment is part of what all candidates running for office are talking about through projects like the Common Agenda for Conservation that was used by PennFuture, Conservation Voters of Pennsylvania and other partners in the last gubernatorial election.



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Pennsylvania is the second largest producer of gas in the country and the third largest emitter of climatekilling greenhouse gas pollution. These are not re-assuring statistics for good people everywhere who experience and witness the concrete and visible impacts that climate change is having right now. As an organization that aspires to help lead the transition to a clean energy economy in Pennsylvania, we must step up our effort on these issues. That is not to say we are abandoning our work on behalf of Pennsylvania's remarkable water resources in the Delaware, Susquehanna, Ohio and Lake Erie watersheds. Nor are we stepping away from our leadership on clean air for everyone. This important work all continues.

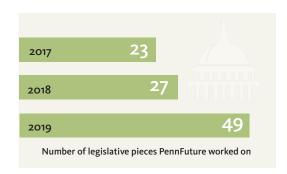
In order to implement the tactics we've prioritized over the three years of the strategic plan (2019 – 2021), the organization must function as a sound business and operation. Our systems are improving, and efficiencies are always being identified. New funders come to the table, and more donors must be found. Our board's oversight of our professional staff is diligent, but the board also recognizes that from time to time, to reposition the organization to meet its purpose, can require restructuring and additional or unanticipated expenditures. As such, this annual report discloses a minor deficit in spending over revenues for FY 19. This deficit is due to "change investments" needed to do our work under the plan. The talent and commitment of PennFuture's staff and board, combined with sufficient financial resources, and underpinned by this important plan will materially ensure the advancement of the organization's commitment to ensure that the people of our state can be protected from environmental harms and prosper in a future marked with climate sanity and a more sustainable economy.

**Jacquelyn Bonomo** 

President and CEO jbonomo@pennfuture.org



In 2019 PennFuture achieved the GuideStar Platinum Seal of Transparency. This is the highest recognition by GuideStar, the world's largest source of information on nonprofit organizations, of our commitment to transparency and accountability to our supporters. Two of the impact metrics we are currently reporting on GuideStar are:





For more information about PennFuture, visit our listing on GuideStar.org.

### MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIRPERSON OF THE BOARD

Anyone who is vaguely concerned with the state of our environment can look back to 2019 and safely see it as the year two worlds collided: the resistance by state and federal legislators to strengthen environmental protections on one hand and the groundswell of public concern over the effects of pollution and climate change on the other. Here in Pennsylvania, that clash is magnified because of our long history with coal and now fracked gas combined with the lucrative lobbying effort from those industries.

Pennsylvanians are fortunate to have a state that is lush with forests, waterways and an organization like PennFuture that continues to focus on protecting these resources in the courts, the legislature and in communities.

### Strategy

In order to meet the challenges before us, it is imperative that our mission is pliable, practical and achievable. This requires planning and commitment which manifests in a strategic plan. A tremendous amount of energy in 2019 was dedicated to finalizing our 5-year Strategic Plan which was led by President and CEO Jacqui Bonomo and Vice President and COO Matt Stepp. After 6 months with a vast amount of input from the staff and board, PennFuture has a plan – an aggressive plan – to continue our work as the watchdogs of Pennsylvania's environment.

### **Due Diligence**

Credibility is important in any organization. Rest assured, every aspect of PennFuture's work is checked through the lens of its charter and governance. The amount of due diligence exerted by the legal staff in order to be compliant is impressive. This is evident in our Corporate Giving Guidelines and with our strategic alliance with Conservation Voters of Pennsylvania - our C-4 partner which has resulted in a strong working relationship that better-prepares us to both address the demands of the 2020 political season while strengthening democracy.

#### Commitment

Reversing the damage done to our state's water, forests and air is a daunting task on its own. What adds to the challenge is that Pennsylvania has the third largest carbon footprint in the nation. Fortunately, PennFuture is invested in the long view . . . a commitment to a clean, sustainable future. To achieve that, PennFuture is re-investing in our Energy Center which in the past was instrumental in opening the doors to wind and solar installations.

We are fortunate. No doubt The Pew Charitable Trust and the Heinz Foundation who provided the first grants to establish PennFuture in 1998 are satisfied with their decision; they saw a need and committed to support it.

Now it is in our hands . . . to continue that commitment.

Onward.

### **Char Magaro**

Chairperson PennFuture



### FROM PENNFUTURE'S BLOG

Every year PennFuture publishes dozens of blogs by staff and invited writers. Here are excerpts of some of our favorites for the fiscal year, July 1, 2018 through June 30, 2019.

You can read the complete blogs online at https://www.pennfuture.org/blog



# Exceptional Waters Define the Poconos & Deserve Protection

August 21, 2018
by Jacquelyn Bonomo, PennFuture
President and CEO

This blog post originally appeared as a "My Turn" column published in the Pocono Record on Aug. 15.

When I was a child growing up in Hazleton, I generously described where I was from as the "western Poconos." After I learned how to ski at Camelback, became a rafting guide on the Lehigh, and later an angler who understood the holy nature of the Delaware River and its tributaries to fishing, I better understood my desire to be associated with the Poconos, its natural beauty and pristine waters.

The wild beauty and abundance of clean and exceptional waters of the Poconos has attracted generations of families, businesses, institutions, and tourists to invest in something here – be it the whole of their lives, a second home, their vacation time and recreation funds, or the dollars needed for major industry or small and family businesses to succeed. In fact, tourism has underpinned the wellbeing of the region, and travel tourism brings \$3.5 billion to the area annually, according to Pocono Mountains Tourism Bureau, Pocono Mountain Tourism Fast Facts 2018. Together, people and businesses created a Pocono region that has been able to thrive and coexist with the environment – but now, that coexistence is threatened.

A new vision for Pocono tourism is now being touted, one that PennFuture and several of our local partners, neighbors and advocates do not support. This vision translates into major development schemes that will change the region. Instead of integrating with the land and water of this special place as businesses have done historically, the preference is to develop through wholesale clearing of forests and daylighting of shaded streams. In the place of previously natural areas, there are now swaths of macadam, concrete and swales that "manage" rainwater and snowmelt because artificial surfaces just can't absorb water as effectively as a forest.

PennFuture and its partners are launching Our Pocono Waters Campaign to bring this issue to light and to protect the exceptional streams of our region.

We look forward to maintaining the legacy of natural beauty in the Poconos while supporting thoughtful, responsible development, and hope you will join us by visiting **www.ourpoconowaters.org** to learn more.

## The Urgency of Climate Change + Opportunities to Take Action

September 4, 2018 by Jacquelyn Bonomo, PennFuture President and CEO

PennFuture marks September as Climate Month, along with communities around the state, nation, and world. Over the course of the next few weeks, we will provide you with blogs, events and a webinar that focus on and explore all aspects of climate change and its impact on Pennsylvania. On one hand, it's a somber moment as we watch the modest policy progress made over the last decade evaporate at the national level and Pennsylvania welcome natural gas, coal, and petrochemicals with open arms. On the other hand, it's a moment of clarity as we recognize that the time for incremental changes, multi-decade solutions, and tinkering around the edges, if there ever was one, is over.

The policy situation here in Pennsylvania isn't much better. We've rolled out a red carpet for Shell Global's cracker plant in western Pennsylvania with a \$1.62 billion subsidy from tax payers. Our economic development officials continue to tout Pennsylvania as the next big boom for the petrochemical and plastics industry. We've lent a helping subsidy to coal by reopening mines in the anthracite region, and they celebrate the opening of new metallurgic mines in the southwest part of the state. Like I said: fiddling while Rome burns.

That's not to say Pennsylvania isn't doing anything positive in the realm of creating solutions to the climate crisis. I'm supportive of the \$2,000 rebate program for alternative fuel vehicles just announced by the PA Department of Environmental Protection. The state recently implemented its first ever methane controls on new oil and gas infrastructure. The state is beginning to force bad actors to plug abandoned and leaking gas wells. We just passed Commercial PACE legislation that opens new opportunities for commercial building owners to lower their energy consumption and bills. And Governor Wolf is staunchly condemning Trump's abandonment of clean car standards. All of these policy choices matter, but with the scale of the climate problem we face, it's simply not enough.

We have a political problem here in Pennsylvania, as we do nationally. Climate change is running well out ahead of us and we are losing our chance to act decisively and significantly.

We have a political problem here in Pennsylvania, as we do nationally. Climate change is running well out ahead of us and we are losing our chance to act decisively and significantly. We are dragging our feet on the policy decisions that will actually make a dent in the problem: state methane regulations for existing oil and gas infrastructure, eliminating subsidies for oil, coal, and natural gas, investing significantly in next-generation renewable energy technologies, aggressively updating Pennsylvania's Alternative Energy Portfolio Standard, and implementing carbon pricing.

This shortsightedness—especially the blindness of our policy officials to the economic opportunity of investing in renewable energy—will not only dig us a climate hole we may not be able to escape from, but also put the Commonwealth at an economic disadvantage for decades to come while saddling our citizens with the health and environmental impacts of these misguided investments in gas and coal.

Nonetheless, the fight must go on and there is important work being done to overcome the stranglehold the fossil fuel industry has over the Commonwealth's climate and energy policy and implement the type of wartime mobilization we need. I am proud of a new program being developed by PennFuture called Clean Energy Communities. Being piloted in Pittsburgh, the program is working with communities and their elected officials to take ownership of their climate future and advance renewable energy in their municipalities and reduce their carbon footprint. Our expectation is to expand this program around the state as there are hundreds of local communities that have overwhelmingly expressed their determination to meet carbon reduction goals, with or without state or federal action.

PennFuture is also working with the PA DEP and over 500 stakeholders on the Finding PA's Solar Future project. The goal of the project is to model scenarios for increasing solar energy deployment in Pennsylvania and to discuss the best pathways for doing so. PennFuture has convened stakeholder meetings, engaged with thought leaders, and is helping organize a statewide report on the potential for solar energy moving forward.

Without a doubt, more needs to be done and PennFuture will continue to build out its climate programming to continue matching the monumental task ahead.

# Op-Ed: Beaver County Pipeline Explosion: How to Prevent Future Catastrophes

September 23, 2018 by Jacquelyn Bonomo, PennFuture President and CEO

This blog post originally appeared as an opinion piece in the Sept. 20 edition of the Beaver County Times.

This near-disaster cannot be dismissed as an accident or an act of God. The real culprit here is bad public policy and misguided economic development investments. Residents of Center Township, Beaver County, narrowly avoided a catastrophe on Sept. 10. A newly constructed natural gas pipeline ruptured, causing a terrifying explosion and fire that destroyed a house and several garages and vehicles.

Although it's a great relief that no one was injured, we must still consider what we can do to prevent a similar occurrence, or worse, in the future.

It's easy to chalk the explosion up as an accident. The ruptured pipeline was caused by a landslide, an unintentional, chance occurrence. We can't prepare for that. Not true. If office towers can be built in cities prone to earthquakes, pipeline operators can prepare for landslides and minimize their impact.

In this instance, the pipeline owner, Energy Transfer Corporation, had installed the proper erosion and sedimentation controls, but they were not working at the time. That's what Jim Shaner, executive director of the Beaver County Conservation District, the agency responsible for inspecting ETC's pipeline construction procedures, told the *Pittsburgh Post-Gazette*. So, lax safety practices by ETC, which also owns the problem-plagued Mariner East 2 pipeline, offset the safeguards in place, assuming those "safeguards" are enough.

But isn't a landslide an act of God? Not much we can do to prevent that. Again, not true. The landslide was caused by intense rains during the previous four days. Experts are attributing the heavy rains and flooding we've been experiencing this summer to climate change — an act of man. Furthermore, climate science is signaling a much wetter future for our region, so land saturation and flooding from more frequent and more intense rainfall is coming.

No, this near-disaster cannot be dismissed as an accident or an act of God. The real culprit here is bad public policy and misguided economic development investments. For decades, policymakers of both parties have refused to allocate enough funding to the state agencies responsible for permitting and monitoring pipeline construction, and protecting our health and the environment. Furthermore, investing in gas, and not renewable and clean energy, is shortsighted, reckless and, as the Center Township explosion demonstrates, dangerous.

By failing to take the necessary steps to address climate change, legislators put our communities and climate at risk. Pursuing policies and investments that reduce our reliance on fossil fuels and begin to level the playing field between gas and renewables, such as wind and solar, would unequivocally prevent calamities like the one in Center Township.

# A Successful Forum to Celebrate the Delaware River Watershed

October 9, 2018 by Emily Rinaldi, Campaign Manager, Northeast Region, PennFuture

The Coalition for the Delaware River Watershed (CDRW) celebrated its sixth annual Delaware River Watershed Forum in Cape May, NJ on September 25 and 26. As attendees walked through the doors of the conference center at the Grand Hotel, there was an aura of victory amongst them. In the last year, this same group of people have celebrated wins and advanced new priority goals while swimming through a very challenging political climate.



In March 2018, for the first time in history, the Delaware River Basin Restoration Program (DRBRP) received \$5 million in funding as part of the Fiscal Year 2018 Omnibus spending bill approved by Congress and signed by the President. Because of this, dedicated funds will now go to on-the-ground projects designed to conserve and restore wildlife and fish habitats, improve water quality, and increase public access to the Delaware River and its tributaries.

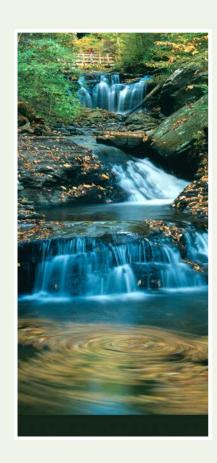
The forum hosted a plethora of opportunities for attendees to network, learn about new programs, and educate their colleagues about work presently going on in the basin. They heard welcome remarks from CDRW's new director, Sandra Meola, along with words from Eric Stiles, President and CEO of New Jersey Audubon, who promoted the goal of every stream in the Delaware Basin becoming "fishable and swimmable" for generations to come. For the next two days, there were so many different discussions and presentations to choose from to attend. Members had their choice of the Wild and Scenic Rivers program to Agricultural Best Management Practices to advocacy efforts to municipal engagement techniques. Any topic there may have been an interest in could have been found at this forum.

PennFuture's President and CEO Jacquelyn Bonomo welcomed everyone to the banquet dinner and reinforced the importance of partnering on projects to be successful. It was exhilarating to see everyone take out their cell phones and sign **Our Pocono Waters Campaign petition**, stating why exceptional value streams are important to them before they sat down to share a meal with colleagues and friends. After dinner, the networking continued over ice cold local craft brews in **4theDelaware Campaign** pint glasses and live music. Some of the networking even shifted to the beach as attendees gazed at the harvest moon.

As the Pennsylvania state lead for the CDRW, PennFuture is dedicated to mobilizing the priorities of the coalition through watershed outreach, policy monitoring, and basin wide partnerships. Visit **www.DelRiverWatershed.org** for more information.

# PennFuture Celebrates Legal Victory for Exceptional Value Streams

October 23, 2018 by Jacquelyn Bonomo, PennFuture President and CEO



Some of the cleanest water in Pennsylvania flows from the Poconos – the headwater streams of our majestic Delaware River. PennFuture, representing itself and Brodhead Watershed Association, **won a significant legal victory earlier this month** when the Environmental Hearing Board (EHB) dismissed a challenge to the classification of four of those headwater streams as Exceptional Value.

Adding to a long list of legal wins over PennFuture's 20 year history, this decision by the EHB held back an attack by a group of resorts and developers who challenged the process by which the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection classifies waters for protection. In this instance, the four streams under scrutiny – Swiftwater Creek, Paradise Creek, Tunkhannock Creek and Devil's Hole – will receive the highest level of protection from degradation through the Exceptional Value classification. And that's a really good thing, because there is a very long list of communities, livelihoods, economies and critters who benefit from this cleanest of water.

The group who brought this legal action against DEP – in which PennFuture and Brodhead Watershed Association intervened – includes the largest resorts in the Poconos. The resorts have plans to build, grow, and become even larger. And while they say they are environmentalists, we see that they aren't green enough to develop in a way that respects the purity of Pocono water, the integrity of its forested landscape, unique natural beauty, or the history of the area as a mecca for quiet respite in the outdoors for over a century. These businesses find environmental rules too tough and costly to comply with, and to make it all a little easier, question the state's scientists, and ask the courts to make it easier for them to develop by allowing some pollution to the streams that stand in their way. We expect that these resorts will continue to try to undermine clean streams protections, and PennFuture will be here to fight back.

In March 2017, PennFuture moved its northeast office to Mount Pocono. We became part of the community and were welcomed by the rich array of water advocates, land protectors, and recreationists who for decades stewarded these lands and waters. This move proved to be fortuitous and put PennFuture in one of the most important disputes around clean water in a long time. PennFuture's lawyers had represented several of these groups and their interests in the past, resulting in strong relationships that were already in place. The organization was able to quickly mobilize to defend the exceptional water of the Poconos. The stakes for the future of the Poconos are high, and the work to protect the region by necessity involves more than litigation.

As a complement to our legal work, we are part of the very exciting **Our Pocono Waters Campaign**, launched earlier this fall with key partners including Trout Unlimited,
Delaware Riverkeeper Network and many more stewards of the Poconos environment,
including a growing list of businesses and civic organizations. These groups and businesses are advancing a sustainable vision for growth in the Poconos, in an endeavor to
keep the natural assets and character of the region that make is so special.

# Our Pocono Waters Forum Educates Community on Clean Streams

November 7, 2018

by Emily Rinaldi, Campaign Manager, Northeast Region, PennFuture

On Oct. 30, *Our Pocono Waters Campaign* hosted a panel forum discussion at East Stroudsburg University's Innovation and Entrepreneur Center. Six panelists from across the Commonwealth came together to educate the public about Exceptional Value (EV) and High Quality (HQ) stream classifications, and why they are important to the Poconos region. More than 110 members of the Pocono Mountains and Lehigh Valley communities attended the forum.

The program consisted of opening remarks from PennFuture's President and CEO Jacquelyn Bonomo, with closing remarks from Trout Unlimited's Mid Atlantic
Organizer Rob Shane.

The rest of the night involved two separate panel discussions. The first panel was moderated by Abigail Jones, PennFuture's Staff Attorney.

Jones asked panelists many questions pertaining to regulatory items relating to stream designations. The panel was privileged to have

Robert Weber of the PA Fish and Boat Commission's unassessed waters program, Paul Wilson, Ph.D, a professor from ESU, and Chuck Gould from Chestnuthill Township, Monroe County, all talking about this important topic. This panel covered everything from macroinvertebrates to township regulations and developments that were not affected by stream upgrades, to programs in place in PA to assess every moving water body in order to enhance and protect the waters of the Commonwealth.

The second panel focused on users of exceptionally clean streams. Faith Zerbe of Delaware Riverkeeper Network played the role of moderator for this panel. Fred Gender, a local angler & property owner; Gary Leander, a local canoeist; and Gary Bloss, a local business owner of Josie Porter Farms, discussed their experiences recreating on and owning businesses that rely on the Poconos' exceptional value and high quality streams, along with their positive interactions with tourists who come to the Poconos for its beauty, fresh air, and elite fishing and boating waters. Fred and Gary had very similar experiences living in the acid mine drainage affected areas of PA and full heartedly expressed how thankful they are for the privilege to come to the Poconos to utilize the pristine fishable and swimmable rivers and streams that flow to the Delaware River.

As the attendees funneled out of the door of the Innovation Center, many different conversations were arising and continuing.



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# Partnerships Created Change this Year and Will Carry us into 2019

December 17, 2018 by Jacquelyn Bonomo, PennFuture President and CEO





"Alone we can do so little; together we can do so much" said Helen Keller. At PennFuture, we collaborate with partner organizations to execute our work, we rely on our activists to amplify our work at the local level, and integral to it all is financial support from individual and institutional funding partners.

PennFuture's pro-environment agenda moved forward in 2018 with the help of partner organizations who we teamed up with in coalitions focusing on our top issues, including clean energy, methane, climate, Delaware River water quality and Chesapeake Bay watershed restoration. And while some diversity among the groups' goals is a good thing, it's essential that as much as possible, these groups pull in the same direction. It's gratifying to see what can happen when a coalition of national, regional, state and local groups representing advocacy, watershed restoration, land protection, recreation – to name a few interest groups – come together to create changes that protect our environment. By necessity, many of the organizations around the table in these coalitions also come together to push back against egregious legislation, such as the regulatory rollbacks that were attempted in 2018 and that are expected to return in 2019.

Conservation Voters of Pennsylvania worked with a host of other "c (4)" partner organizations, including Sierra Club, to help elect the most pro-environmental class of new state legislators in a very long time. Many of the c (4) groups also successfully worked for the re-election of Governor Tom Wolf.

As we move into 2019, strong partnerships must persist. As the state affiliate of National Wildlife Federation, PennFuture enjoys an exclusive partnership in which both organizations leverage the other's bases and access to national and state policymakers into a powerful alliance. This kind of power-building is essential to fighting the Trump Administration's ongoing attacks on environmental protections and achievements. The latest assault is the Trump EPA's rewrite of rules protecting the "Waters of the United States." The Administration, with support from its partners – including American Farm Bureau, National Homebuilders, National Mining Association and National Association of Manufacturing – plans to strip away protection from large segments of watersheds, disrupting hydrologic functions needed for clean and abundant water, and for climate resilience. PennFuture's partnership with National Wildlife Federation extends into our Delaware, Chesapeake and climate coalitions and campaigns.

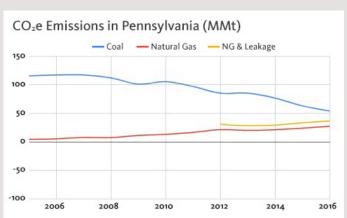
The very symbol of our partnerships, Pennsylvania Common Conservation Agenda, forged by 26 groups and carried forward through PennFuture's Green in 18 campaign, will move into 2019 as a series of policy recommendations for the Wolf Administration. We are hoping the new class of pro-environmental state legislators making their way to Harrisburg will be the newest of our partners, allies and collaborators so that together, we can move forward exciting policies for Pennsylvania's environment.

## Reducing Methane Pollution Requires Action Now

December 19, 2018 by Rob Altenburg, Director, PennFuture Energy Center

On Thursday, Dec. 13, the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) took an important step towards controlling air pollution from the more than 7,000 existing unconventional natural gas wells in the state. They presented to their Air Quality Technical Advisory Committee (AQTAC) a draft proposed rulemaking that, while focused on reducing emissions of Volatile Organic Compounds (VOCs), will also help control methane emissions.

While the proposal is a positive step, the time to act on reducing methane emissions is quickly running out. As the graph below shows (1), the switch from coal to natural gas has reduced greenhouse gas emissions in the state, but this has come at a cost of increased natural gas emissions. While it may be three or four years before the emissions from natural gas electricity generation exceed that of coal, that does not consider leakage during gas production. When the industry's self-reported leakage emissions are added in, natural gas may be responsible for more carbon pollution than coal as early as next year.



Considering the actual leakage from the gas industry might be as much as five times higher than what is being reported, and the Federal government is actively trying to eliminate the regulation of methane emissions altogether, it's even more important for the state to take action and directly regulate methane emissions.

Reducing methane leakage is not only critical for our health and the environment, it is also good for the industry. Some companies recognize that investing in cleaner technology will save money in the long run, but without strong regulations, others will always be tempted to cut corners in search of short-term gains. State action on methane can help level the playing field, preventing short-sighted companies from undercutting those trying to do the right thing.

Governor Wolf deserves credit for the steps that have already been taken to reduce methane emissions from new sources, and he further deserves credit for this most recent positive step. But, until we can cross the finish line and get these emissions under control the work is not done.

While Governor Wolf has a unique opportunity to take action, each of us has a responsibility to help were we can. Reducing carbon pollution isn't going to be easy and climate change deniers will be opposed to every step we take. We can't all install solar panels or buy an electric car, but we can all remind our elected officials at the state and federal level that we expect them to defend our right to a clean and healthy environment.

(1) Generation data from the U.S. Energy Information Administration, leakage data self-reported to PA DEP from Natural Gas companies.

PennFuture Submits Comments Opposing the Dirty Water Rule, Engages More Than 1,400 Citizens to Do the Same

April 18, 2019 by Abigail M. Jones, Staff Attorney

The Dirty Water Rule is based on an extremely limited dictionary definition of the term "water," which was taken to mean only relatively permanent standing or flowing waters.

On Monday, April 15, PennFuture submitted public comments opposing the Trump Administration's proposed revised definition of "waters of the United States" under the Clean Water Act. The proposed definition – the Dirty Water Rule as we like to call it – would be the single biggest rollback of Clean Water Act protections since its creation in 1972.

In addition, PennFuture engaged more than 1,400 people, each of whom submitted comments opposing the proposed gutting of the Clean Water Act. Nationally, more than 300,000 people submitted comments.

Since taking office in 2017, President
Trump has made the attack on the 2015
Clean Water Rule a priority for his
administration. The 2015 Clean Water
Rule clarified the Clean Water Act's
jurisdiction and reduced uncertainty, as
well as protected critical waters throughout Pennsylvania and across America.

PennFuture strongly supported the promulgation of the Clean Water Rule because it was supported by the legislative history of the Clean Water Act, it would protect drinking water supplies used by millions of Pennsylvanians, and it would protect sensitive and critical headwaters and wetlands, which, in turn, protect the water quality for thousands of stream miles in the Commonwealth. The Clean



Water Rule also relied on a "significant nexus" test to determine jurisdiction of certain waters. The significant nexus test recognized the importance of biological, chemical, and physical influence of waters as a basis of Clean Water Act protections.

In contrast, the proposed Dirty Water Rule is not based on science at all but is a capitulation to big industry interests, making it easier for them to pollute our nation's waters. The Dirty Water Rule is based on an extremely limited dictionary definition of the term "water," which was taken to mean only relatively permanent standing or flowing waters. Additionally, the term "adjacent wetlands" was restricted to mean only those wetlands that physically touch or have a direct hydrological surface connection to other "waters of the United States."

# Artists Interpreting Climate Change, Part 3 – Women in Conservation Awards its First Woman of Environmental Arts Award

June 26, 2019 by M. Travis DiNicola, Director of Development

PennFuture's Director of Development talks about the intersection of art and climate change.

Last fall I wrote my first of two blogs on how artists are interpreting climate change, and what some artists are doing to prevent it. I continue to be amazed at the creative ways that artists of all types— painters, dancers, actors, writers, and musicians — tackle this issue in their work.

In my second blog I wrote about the environmental artist Stacy Levy and the "Tide Field" installation of caterpillar-like buoys she created for the Schuylkill River. Levy makes projects that show how nature functions in an urban setting.

Her internationally-recognized art showcases the ways natural forces interact with human-made environments and urban ecosystems. She uses her projects to communicate environmental issues, primarily water-related, to the public. These installations often merge science and art that highlight the relationship between nature and the structures humans create. Not only does Levy garner attention with her art, but her constructions present creative solutions for environmental challenges.

If it isn't obvious, I have been a big fan of Levy's work for a while now, so I was absolutely thrilled when she was selected as PennFuture's first Woman of Environmental Arts at last April's 2019 Women in Conservation Awards Dinner. PennFuture created The Woman of Environmental Arts Award to honor an individual who utilizes the arts — visual arts, music, poetry, fiction, theater, dance, as well as the curation or promotion of such arts — to bring attention to, or address current environmental concerns in Pennsylvania, and Levy was the perfect first recipient.

At the awards dinner Levy said the following:

"I am so honored to be given this Penn Future award for Women in Conservation — it combines all that I hold dear: art and the environment. Art is not about decorating a place. It is about creating a connection to the place, a conduit of understanding and legibility. And art has a new role, a new function — art can be the next tool to help repair our damaged environments. It is important to give art a chance to solve issues about storm water drainage, rain infiltration and erosion. Engineers have had this job for years, but they have not always come up with sustainable answers. It is time to give art a place at the table for helping to solve environmental issues."

Art is not about decorating a place. It is about creating a connection to the place, a conduit of understanding and legibility. And art has a new role, a new function — art can be the next tool to help repair our damaged environments.

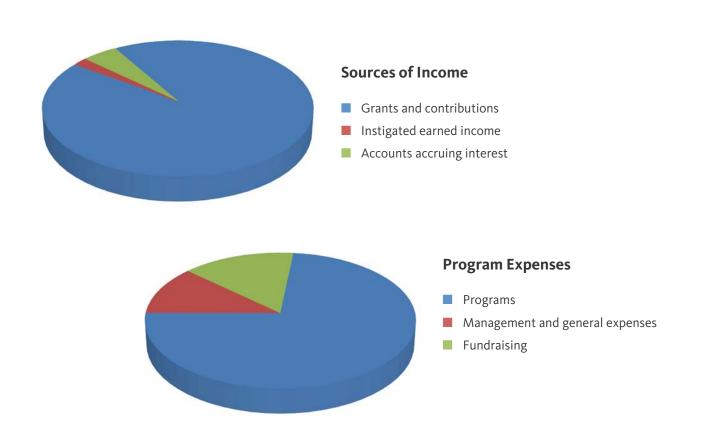


### FISCAL YEAR 2019 FINANCIAL SUMMARY

**PennFuture is committed to charitable transparency**. This is a summary from the Independent Auditor's Report for the Fiscal Years ending June 30, 2019. Complete audited financial statements for these years, and 990s, are available upon request or by visiting www.pennfuture.org/financial-information. PennFuture participates in GuideStar, the premier source for advancing transparency in philanthropy. Financial information is also available at guidestar.org.

Revenues	Category	Notes	Classification	Sources of Income
\$2,926,794	Grants and contributions	includes memberships and non-cash	Philanthropic support	95.0%
\$47,337	Instigated earned income	includes gross rents, legal fees	Earned income	1.5%
\$109,372	Accounts accruing interest	investment income	Investment income	3.5%
\$665	Other	includes sales of assets and other	Other	0.0%
TOTAL \$3,084,168				

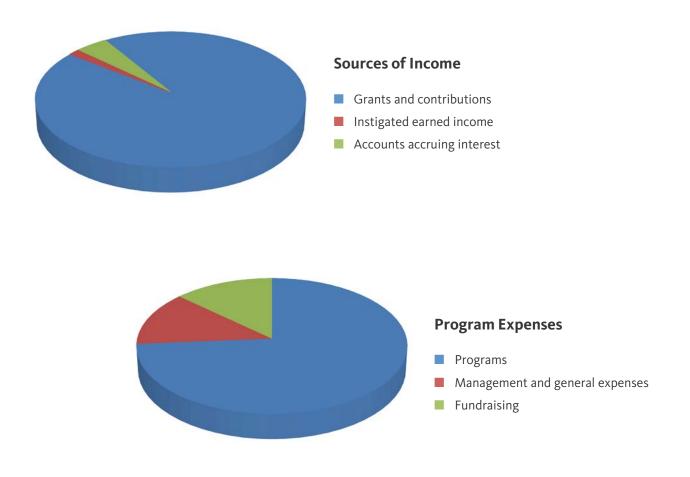
Expenses	Category	Notes	Classification	Program Expenses
\$2,437,230	Programs	all programmatic dollars attributed	Program	75.5%
\$354,294	Management and general expeneses	all management and general attributed	Operations	11.0%
\$438,040	Fundraising	all fundraising attributed	Fundraising	13.5%
TOTAL \$3,230,194				



### FISCAL YEAR 2018 FINANCIAL SUMMARY

Category	Notes	Classification	Sources of Income
Grants and contributions	includes memberships and non-cash	Philanthropic support	95.5%
Instigated earned income	includes gross rents, legal fees	Earned income	1.5%
Accounts accruing interest	investment income	Investment income	3.0%
Other	includes sales of assets and other	Other	0.0%
	Grants and contributions Instigated earned income Accounts accruing interest	Grants and contributions includes memberships and non-cash Instigated earned income includes gross rents, legal fees Accounts accruing interest investment income	Grants and contributions includes memberships and non-cash Philanthropic support Instigated earned income includes gross rents, legal fees Earned income Accounts accruing interest investment income Investment income

E	xpenses	Category	Notes	Classification	Program Expenses
\$	\$2,105,309	Programs	all programmatic dollars attributed	Program	72.0%
	\$417,122	Management and general expeneses	all management and general attributed	Operations	14.5%
	\$389,682	Fundraising	all fundraising attributed	Fundraising	13.5%
OTAL \$	\$2,912,113				



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We extend our gratitude to each donor who made a gift to PennFuture during our last complete fiscal year, July 1, 2018-June 30, 2019. The individuals, organizations, and businesses listed here provide the philanthropic support that makes it possible for PennFuture to do our work. Each gift makes an impact.

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James and Sandy Jones

Neil Korostoff

William W. Warren, Jr. Esq.

### **PennFuture Offices**

Central:

610 North Third Street Harrisburg, PA 17101 717-214-7920

Northeast:

425 Carlton Road, STE 1 Mount Pocono, PA 18344 570-216-3344 Southeast:

1429 Walnut Street, STE 400 Philadelphia, PA 19102 215-545-9692

Southwest:

200 First Avenue, STE 200 Pittsburgh, PA 15222 412-456-2780



AJ Thackrah

John Thalenfeld

Virginia Thompson

Erin McNeilly

Susan Waggoner



www.pennfuture.org

Contact PennFuture: info@pennfuture.org 717-214-7920 610 North Third Street Harrisburg, PA 17101

