



February 2015

Sustainable energy eNews

Our investments are making a difference

Pellet Heat - A Renewable Heat Option

As another arctic blast has many of us in the Northeast freezing, have you ever considered a pellet stove as a source for your heat? Pellet fuel appliances burn compacted pellets usually made of wood. Today's pellet stoves are clean burning, maximizing the heat from each piece of fuel, which saves money while preserving the environment. And Pennsylvania has abundant wood resources for the manufacturing of pellets. These stoves are convenient, automated and maintenance is rare. The direct vent stoves do not need a chimney giving optimal installation versatility. *"Simply set your desired temperature, fill the hopper and relax. The stove will automatically ignite and maintain a consistent temperature"* according to Karen Smeltz of Harman Stove Company.

Concerning wood and pellet heating, The U.S. Department of Energy states:

Pellet fuel appliances are more convenient to operate than ordinary wood stoves or fireplaces, and some have much higher combustion and heating efficiencies. As a consequence of this, they produce very little air pollution. In fact, pellet stoves are the cleanest solid fuel, residential heating appliance. Pellet stoves that are certified by the EPA are likely to be in the 70% to 83% efficiency range. Pellet stoves have heating capacities that range between 8,000 and 90,000 Btu per hour.

This is not your granddaddy's wood stove. If you are looking for a fuel alternative to heat your home or a supplemental heat source, consider the warmth and convenience of pellet heat. And there are options for you to buy locally. Harman Stove Company, an industry leader in home heating solutions, is based in Halifax, Pennsylvania. Harman is part of the Hearth & Home Technologies, Inc. family, which is the largest producer and manufacturer of fireplaces and hearth products in the world.

And remember, before making individual home improvements, it is important to know how your home, as a system, uses energy. A home energy audit is the first step to assess how much energy your home consumes and to evaluate what measures you can take to make your home more energy efficient. An assessment will show you problems that may, when corrected, save you significant amounts of money over time. With a little planning, your home can be energy-efficient and cost effective, and it can be a more comfortable and safe place for you and your family to live.

Learn more about pellet stoves and inserts.

Watch a video on 21st century pellet stove technology.

Find a BPI certified energy auditor/contracting professional near you.



Biomass Boot Camp

This Biomass Boot Camp is a focused one-day orientation program for facility owners, managers, engineers, extension educators, forestry professionals, financial / business managers and others interested in learning more about the potential of renewable biomass for heating and combined heat and power applications in Maryland.

When: Monday, February 23, 2015 - 9:30am to 4:30pm

Where: Overhills Mansion in Catonsville, MD

Cost: \$20

[Learn more or register for the event.](#)



Who are we?

The West Penn Power Sustainable Energy Fund (WPPSEF) is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization that invests in the deployment of sustainable energy technologies throughout the West Penn Power (WPP) service region in Pennsylvania.

~ We are seeking a diversified portfolio of clean energy investments ~



Visit our website

What do we do?

- Deployment of sustainable and clean energy technologies;
- Deployment of energy efficiency and conservation technologies; and
- Facilitating economic development, environmental betterment, and public education as they relate to sustainable energy deployment in the WPP service region.



Take an online tour

Quick Links

PennSEF - Pennsylvania Sustainable Energy Finance Program

Energypath 2015

Energy Innovation Center

American Biogas Council

Biomass Thermal Energy Council

Keystone Home Energy Loan Program

PA Environment Digest

ERG: Alternative Energy Report



Stories

Elk Country Visitors Center Phase II

Elk herds are an unforgettable sight for the more than 350,000 guests that visit the Elk Country Visitors Center each year. WPPSEF provided a grant to the Keystone Elk Country Alliance (KECA) in support of a new outdoor classroom (ECCO Building) on the Elk Center campus. Phase I of the construction of this one-of-a-kind building is now complete. WPPSEF has provided another grant for Phase II of the project, to be completed by June of 2015, which will assure LEED certification and will enclose the building with folding glass walls that will allow year-round use of the facility.

[Learn more about KECA and the new ECCO Building.](#)



Pennsylvania Sustainable Energy Finance Program (PennSEF)

A workshop to introduce the new PennSEF program was held in collaboration with PennFuture in Pittsburgh on January 14. Host Keith Welks, Deputy State Treasurer for Fiscal Operations, Pennsylvania Treasury Department, held an introduction and discussion of this new program. PennSEF will provide technical and legal assistance, as well as low-cost capital, for energy efficiency or renewable energy projects for municipalities, universities, schools and hospitals - the so-called "MUSH" sector including counties and governmental agencies. The Pennsylvania Treasury Department has partnered with the Foundation for Renewable Energy and Environment (FREE), with financial support from the West Penn Power Sustainable Energy Fund, to develop a prudent, market-based investment vehicle that promotes energy and water efficiency, clean energy generation, economic development and environmental improvement. We would like to thank PennFuture, Allegheny County, the City of Pittsburgh, the Green Building Alliance, and the Southwestern Pennsylvania Commission for hosting this event.

[Learn more about PennSEF.](#)



Get Involved

Expanding Horizons: Shaping the New Energy Economy

Solar 2015 will embrace the story of the past, enrich the communities of today, and reveal the trends of the future. The American Solar Energy Society welcomes your involvement in shaping Solar 2015! The call is out for your submissions in the form of abstracts and forums, with selection guided by the theme "Expanding Horizons: Shaping the New Energy Economy".

[Learn more or submit an abstract.](#)



GLOBALCON 2015 - Energy, Power and Facility Management Strategies and Technologies

Presented by the Association of Energy Engineers, GLOBALCON, is designed specifically to facilitate those seeking to expand their knowledge of fast-moving developments in the energy field, explore promising new technologies, compare energy supply options, and learn about innovative and cost-conscious project implementation strategies.

[Learn more or register for the event.](#)



GreenCon 2015 - "Building Wellness"

Join keynote speaker, Barbra Batshalom of the Sustainable Performance Institute, speaking on Galvanizing Transformation: Building for Health From the Inside Out. Check out the full list of GreenCon 2015 presenters, abstracts and learning objectives for each session online.

[Learn more or register for the event.](#)



Save Energy and Money Using Strategic Energy Management

Manage your energy consumption to help lower your energy costs, reduce greenhouse gases, and support corporate sustainability programs. The Showcase includes presentations on how Better Plants, ISO 50001, and SEP work and the valuable tools and resources they offer to industrial manufacturers and facilities.

[Learn more or register for the event.](#)



Energypath 2015 - Net Zero

Learn about renewable technologies, energy efficiency techniques and start or expand your career in the energy industry with a crash course in sustainable energy. Energypath is the region's largest sustainable energy event attracting industry professionals, policymakers and academia throughout the region and across the United States. The goal of Energypath is to increase the knowledge of and passion for sustainable energy in the leaders of today and tomorrow.

[Learn more about this event.](#)



Be Recognized - Nominations Due Soon

PEC Seeks Nominations for Environmental Award

Sponsors of the Western Pennsylvania Environmental Awards are seeking nominations from people and organizations who are working to improve the environment of Western Pennsylvania. The Pennsylvania Environmental Council will once again present up to five cash prizes of \$5,000 each to winning entries that demonstrate environmental impact and benefits in protecting the environment of the region. Nominations are due by Feb. 18, 2015.



Nominate an organization.

Governor's Award for Environmental Excellence

This award is open to any Pennsylvania business, farm, government agency, educational institution, non-profit organization and individual that have created, or participated in, the development of a project that promotes environmental stewardship and economic development in the state. All Applications and Project Summaries must be submitted by 5 p.m. on Monday, March 2, 2015.

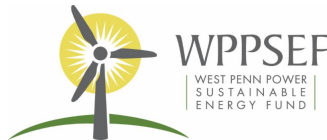


Application guidelines.

Breaking News



Do you want to keep up with WPPSEF? If you want the most up-to-date information on sustainable energy investments in Pennsylvania, "Like Us" on [Facebook](#) and check us out at our new [website](#). It is amazing what can happen among friends.



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We want to hear from you. Questions or comments about this publication can be sent to
