

How will your project change your community?

Project Showcase

New Report Shows Deep Decarbonization Pathways for Pennsylvania

The Pennsylvania Environmental Council (PEC) released a white paper, *Achieving Deep Carbon Reductions: Paths for Pennsylvania's Electricity Future*, summarizing the findings of its March 2017 conference of the same name.

"Deep decarbonization" refers to the goal of reducing emissions 80% or more by 2050, which most climate scientists agree will be necessary to minimize the most severe impacts of continuing climate change.

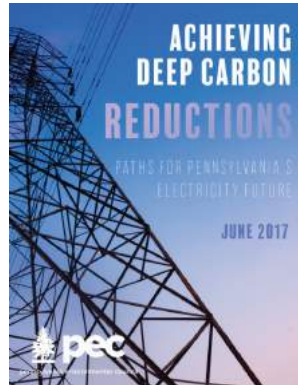
Participants in PEC's conference - including representatives of the energy industry, academia, economic development entities, and non-governmental organizations - reached consensus on two key points: that there is no "silver bullet" for reducing emissions, and that essentially all current sources of electricity can have a significant role to play in this transition. The report sets forth 15 recommended steps for Pennsylvania based on priorities that emerged at the conference.

In addition, the paper addresses issues relating to carbon capture, utilization, and storage as a way to utilize fossil fuels with fewer carbon emissions, as well as issues surrounding new technologies for generating energy from nuclear power. "PEC is very pleased with this report, and owes a great debt of gratitude to all the conference participants for their insights," said PEC President Davitt Woodwell.

Following the release of the report, and building upon the outcomes reflected therein, PEC's initial priority will be in investigating the potential for carbon pricing at the state and/or regional level. "Putting a price on carbon, whether through a fee, tradable credit, or some other mechanism, is a technologically agnostic way of moving toward decarbonization," Woodwell said. "One of the key points that emerged from the conference presentations and participant feedback was the importance of utilizing a variety of energy sources to achieve decarbonization," said Lindsay Baxter, PEC's Program Manager for Energy and Climate. "The urgency of climate change requires us to consider a portfolio approach."

WPPSEF was proud to be a sponsor of this Achieving Deep Carbon Reductions conference.

[Read the Full Report.](#)



The IEA suggests that achieving **70%** reduction in global energy-related CO₂ emissions by midcentury will require:

95%
of electricity to be low carbon

70%
of new cars to be electric

80%
reduction in CO₂ intensity in the industrial sector

\$3.5 trillion
annual energy-sector investments

retrofitting of entire existing building stock

and

fossil fuels accounting for about half of the energy demand they're responsible for today

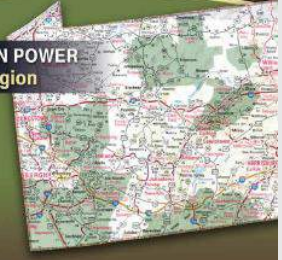
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Who We Are

- 🎯 Mission Driven
- 🎯 501(c)(3) Non-profit
- 🎯 Since 2001, \$24 Million Committed to Support Sustainable Energy Development



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What We Do

- 🎯 We are here to help you change your community with your project



WPPSEF Project Gallery



Project Impact

Republic Food Enterprise Center through its parent organization, Fayette County Community Action Agency, was recently awarded a \$1.75 million grant from the The Appalachian Regional Commission. The grant supports local production ventures in four agriculture industry clusters - sheep/lamb/goat, poultry, produce and value added products. These projects will increase opportunities for income and job creation in communities facing coal industry fluctuations and decline. The award was celebrated at the SW PA Local Food Shed Inaugural Event held on Tuesday, July 18 at the Republic Food Enterprise Center in Republic, PA. Speakers at the event included PA Dept of Agriculture Secretary Russell Redding and local, state & federal elected officials. Attendees included local farm organizations, school districts, media



organizations and various civic leaders. Additionally, a Farmers Market/Tasting Event featured agricultural and local foods grown and produced in Western Pennsylvania. The SW PA Local Food Shed program is expected to produce positive benefits and outcomes for the region.

[Learn More.](#)

Saint Francis University Institute for Energy dreamed an idea to construct a tiny mobile classroom. They envisioned the classroom would utilize renewable energy and serve as a teaching tool about sustainability and power technologies for communities in the region. The Tiny Classroom Big Impact project will provide hands-on, renewable energy education for community members in central and southwestern Pennsylvania. The lab will include a 1.56 kW solar PV system with battery storage, a small deployable wind turbine, a see-through wall demonstrating insulation techniques, a biomass heater, and other energy related technologies. The mobile power lab will travel around the region providing the opportunity for participants to experience renewable energy applications that may be feasible for use in their home. WPPSEF contributed \$23,000 to help make this project a reality.

[Learn More.](#)

Waldorf School of Pittsburgh (WSP) installed an innovative Energy Dashboard that shows real-time energy usage feedback to monitor and display energy use as part of WSP's Smart Energy Living Learning Lab. WPPSEF is providing this co-funding to collect, measure, and display real-time energy use and building performance data to inform WSP's future strategic energy efficiency improvements and building upgrades as well as enable hands-on and experiential learning throughout their educational programs and teaching curriculum.

[Learn More.](#)



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Kudos

Liz Robinson, the executive director of the Energy Coordinating Agency (ECA), a nonprofit she founded in 1984 to deliver energy services and weatherization to low-income clients, is stepping down from her position after 33 years of leading the organization.

Since she founded ECA, it has become a regional leader in energy efficiency retrofits for existing residential properties. ECA has weatherized 45,000 homes; repaired or replaced 50,000 heating systems; provided water conservation services to 37,000 homes, and prevented over 75,000 tons of carbon emissions.



ECA has trained over 3,600 new energy professionals in its IREC accredited, 26,000 square feet, LEED Gold Knight Training Center. ECA is a nonprofit organization certified by the ISO 9001: 2008 Quality Management Standard.

Best of luck Liz, the industry will miss you and your enthusiasm for all things energy efficient.

Events

MABEX 2017

Mid-Atlantic Biomass Energy Conference and Expo
September 12-14, 2017 | State College, PA



Hear first-hand the engaging perspectives of your peers in the biomass industry and learn about the state of biomass use for clean heat or combined heat and power projects in the mid-Atlantic region. Share a vision with others committed to the environmentally responsible use of biomass and network with various sectors of biomass including residential, small business, commercial, institutional, agricultural and industrial.

[Learn More.](#)

KEEA Energy Efficiency Conference

October 26-27, 2017 | Hershey, PA



Pennsylvania markets are going through changes from the municipal to the state level, creating unique new opportunities in the industry - are you prepared to take full advantage of them? KEEA Conference 2017 will arm you with the tools to navigate new scenarios and grow in new directions - come join us to sharpen your skills, brainstorm with peers and industry thought leaders, and learn about how to take action to create success.

[Learn More.](#)

Did You Know?



The Hickory Run Boulder Field at Hickory Run State Park, located in northern Carbon County on the Pocono Plateau of northeastern Pennsylvania, contains one of the most striking geologic features in the State. The Hickory Run Boulder Field is a true relic of the past. This boulder field has remained relatively unchanged for more than 20 thousand years.

The 16.5-acre field is made up of a jumbled assortment of loosely packed boulders generally less than 4 feet in diameter, but sometimes as large as 25 feet in length, and there is no fine material such as sand or clay filling the space between the boulders. The boulders themselves are mainly red sandstones in the northern half of the field; whereas, in the southern half a large number of red conglomerates with white quartz pebbles occur.

The creation of the boulder field was by the continual freeze thaw process in the ridges southwest of the field. As the ridges broke apart into angular boulders, they accumulated on clays, sands, and ice at the base of the ridges. During summer months, the ice in the mass would melt and carry the boulders and finer sediment down the valley to the location of the boulder field today. As the glaciers receded and melted, the drainage flowed through the field and took the sand and clays with it, leaving behind the stack of boulders. This process occurred continually over the thousands of years of glacial melt, which is why the field is so large. Many visitors cannot resist hopping from boulder to boulder across the field.

This unique geological landscape is a National Natural Landmark.

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 on our [website](#). It is amazing what can happen among friends.



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