

*Some clips may be behind a paywall. If you need access to these clips, email me at [djagiela@pa.gov](mailto:djagiela@pa.gov).*

## **Top DEP Stories**

NACWA Water Sector News: Why millions of dollars are being invested in local water quality, and the innovative way it's being spent

<https://www.nacwa.org/news-publications/water-sector-news/2021/12/21/why-millions-of-dollars-are-being-invested-in-local-water-quality-and-the-innovative-way-it-s-being-spent>

Journal-Enterprise: Why millions of dollars are being invested in local water quality, and the innovative way it's being spent

[https://www.journalenterprise.com/news/national/why-millions-of-dollars-are-being-invested-in-local-water-quality-and-the-innovative-way/article\\_578ddb7d-1035-5d01-9d8e-68f9f29311c1.html](https://www.journalenterprise.com/news/national/why-millions-of-dollars-are-being-invested-in-local-water-quality-and-the-innovative-way/article_578ddb7d-1035-5d01-9d8e-68f9f29311c1.html)

Hometown Register: Why millions of dollars are being invested in local water quality, and the innovative way it's being spent

[https://www.hometownregister.com/news/national/why-millions-of-dollars-are-being-invested-in-local-water-quality-and-the-innovative-way/article\\_98d16c49-876e-5d79-b165-29296ee11f15.html](https://www.hometownregister.com/news/national/why-millions-of-dollars-are-being-invested-in-local-water-quality-and-the-innovative-way/article_98d16c49-876e-5d79-b165-29296ee11f15.html)

## **RGGI**

Observer-Reporter: LETTER: Shapiro, Wolf should rethink RGGI

[https://observer-reporter.com/opinion/letters/letter-shapiro-wolf-should-rethink-rggi/article\\_c1c83930-61ad-11ec-8179-834e7346202b.html](https://observer-reporter.com/opinion/letters/letter-shapiro-wolf-should-rethink-rggi/article_c1c83930-61ad-11ec-8179-834e7346202b.html)

## **Air**

PublicSource: One of Pittsburgh's leading air quality advocates has a message on her way out: Get a seat at the table.

<https://www.publicsource.org/gasp-air-quality-exit-interview-allegheny-county-pittsburgh/>

KDKA: Port Authority Installing Purifiers On Entire Fleet Of Buses, Light Rail Cars

<https://pittsburgh.cbslocal.com/2021/12/22/port-authority-purifiers-buses-light-rail-cars/>

Daily American: Quaker investors urge EPA to advance strong methane emissions rules

<https://www.dailyamerican.com/story/opinion/2021/12/21/quaker-investors-urge-epa-advance-strong-methane-emissions-rules/8909165002/>

Allegheny Front: Meet the new leader of Pittsburgh's clean air watchdog

<https://www.alleghenyfront.org/meet-the-new-leader-of-pittsburghs-clean-air-watchdog/>

Allegheny Front: DEP ADJUSTS PROPOSED METHANE RULE, BUT CRITICS SAY IT'S NOT ENOUGH

<https://www.alleghenyfront.org/dep-adjusts-proposed-methane-rule-but-critics-say-its-not-enough/>

New Pittsburgh Courier: Disparities in air pollution persist in communities of color

<https://newpittsburghcourier.com/2021/12/22/disparities-in-air-pollution-persist-in-communities-of-color-despite-overall-improvement/>

Pittsburgh Business Times: Port Authority installing air purification devices on all buses, light rail cars  
<https://www.bizjournals.com/pittsburgh/news/2021/12/22/port-authority-installing-air-purification-devices.html>

## **Climate Change**

Tribune-Review: Letter to the editor: Biden's climate order not enough  
<https://triblive.com/opinion/letter-to-the-editor-bidens-climate-order-not-enough/>

Allegheny Front: Pitt study: world plastics trade accounts for 350m metric tons of CO2  
<https://www.alleghenyfront.org/pitt-study-world-plastics-climate-recycling-microplastics/>

Post-Gazette: Coal miners could be Achilles' heel of Biden's climate plan  
<https://www.post-gazette.com/news/politics-nation/2021/12/19/Coal-miners-could-be-Achilles-heel-of-Biden-s-climate-plan/stories/202112190022>

## **Conservation & Recreation**

Lancaster Newspapers: Longtime executive director set to retire at Lancaster Farmland Trust  
[https://lancasteronline.com/news/local/longtime-executive-director-set-to-retire-at-lancaster-farmland-trust/article\\_79727218-637e-11ec-9ac8-fb0afc3942fb.html](https://lancasteronline.com/news/local/longtime-executive-director-set-to-retire-at-lancaster-farmland-trust/article_79727218-637e-11ec-9ac8-fb0afc3942fb.html)

Reading Eagle: Community members trim trees on Schuylkill River Trail to spread holiday joy  
<https://www.readingeagle.com/2021/12/23/community-members-trim-trees-on-the-trail-to-spread-holiday-joy/>

Scranton Times: PA Parks & Forests Foundation Details Economic Benefits Of PA's Parks & Forests In New Video  
[https://www.thetimes-tribune.com/blogs/quills/pa-parks-forests-foundation-details-economic-benefits-of-pas-parks-forests-in-new-video/article\\_a7566e83-b04e-5964-bd49-1af09116ab64.html](https://www.thetimes-tribune.com/blogs/quills/pa-parks-forests-foundation-details-economic-benefits-of-pas-parks-forests-in-new-video/article_a7566e83-b04e-5964-bd49-1af09116ab64.html)

Bradford Era: Pa. phasing in ban of invasive Bradford pear  
[https://www.bradfordera.com/news/pa-phasing-in-ban-of-invasive-bradford-pear/article\\_917ec19a-7564-53bf-82e6-afc38d62393a.html](https://www.bradfordera.com/news/pa-phasing-in-ban-of-invasive-bradford-pear/article_917ec19a-7564-53bf-82e6-afc38d62393a.html)

Times Observer: Build Back Better grant 'tremendous opportunity'  
<https://www.timesobserver.com/news/local-news/2021/12/mayor-build-back-better-grant-tremendous-opportunity/>

Tribune-Review: Bald eagle cam goes live at U.S. Steel mill in West Mifflin  
<https://triblive.com/local/south-hills/bald-eagle-cam-goes-live-at-u-s-steel-mill-in-west-mifflin/>

Post-Gazette: Pair of bald eagles at U.S. Steel's Irvin Plant are ready for their closeup  
<https://www.post-gazette.com/life/outdoors/2021/12/21/bald-eagles-west-mifflin-us-steel-irvin-plant-mon-valley-works-live-streaming-camera-game-commission/stories/202112210108>

Tribune-Review: 260-pound black bear trapped near Downtown Pittsburgh

<https://triblive.com/sports/outdoors/200-pound-black-bear-trapped-in-downtown-pittsburgh-wednesday-morning/>

KDKA: Game Commission Traps 260-Pound Bear Dumpster Diving In Lower Hill District  
<https://pittsburgh.cbslocal.com/2021/12/22/pennsylvania-game-commission-black-bear-hill-district/>

Tribune-Review: Westmoreland Conservancy marks winter solstice with nature hike in Murrysville  
<https://triblive.com/local/westmoreland/westmoreland-conservancy-marks-winter-solstice-with-nature-hike-in-murrysville/>

Tribune-Review: Pittsburgh approves spending plan for \$10.8 million parks tax fund  
<https://triblive.com/local/pittsburgh-approves-spending-plan-for-10-8-million-parks-tax-fund/>

Tribune-Review: Proposal would add 6 parks, more than 300 acres to Pittsburgh park system  
<https://triblive.com/sports/outdoors/proposal-would-add-6-parks-more-than-300-acres-to-pittsburgh-park-system/>

WPXI: Proposal would add 6 parks, more than 300 acres to Pittsburgh park system  
<https://www.wpxi.com/news/local/proposal-would-add-6-parks-more-than-300-acres-pittsburgh-park-system/VCRQRD6HPZGBHM6LFTVF7LJETU/>

KDKA: Pa. Dept. Of Agriculture Phasing In Ban Of Invasive Callery Pear  
<https://pittsburgh.cbslocal.com/2021/12/22/dept-of-agriculture-callery-pear-ban/>

WESA: 'Made in America': Watch Irvin and Claire the bald eagles on U.S. Steel's new live cam  
<https://www.wesa.fm/environment-energy/2021-12-21/made-in-america-watch-irvin-and-claire-the-bald-eagles-on-u-s-steels-new-live-cam>

Mon Valley Independent: Bald eagles 'thriving' at U.S. Steel plant in West Mifflin  
<https://monvalleyindependent.com/2021/12/bald-eagles-thriving-at-u-s-steel-plant-in-west-mifflin/>

Post-Gazette: Hit the trails  
<https://www.post-gazette.com/opinion/letters/2021/12/19/Hit-the-trails/stories/202112190133>

Post-Gazette: Peters Township Council approves deer sharpshooting program  
<https://www.post-gazette.com/local/south/2021/12/22/Peters-Township-Council-approves-deer-sharpshooting-program/stories/202112220108>

## Energy

WITF/StateImpact PA: Lawmakers consider bill to account for cleanup when developing renewable energy projects  
<https://stateimpact.npr.org/pennsylvania/2021/12/23/lawmakers-consider-bill-to-account-for-cleanup-when-developing-renewable-energy-projects/>

Bloomberg: Why Pittsburgh Is Dimming Its Streetlights  
<https://www.bloomberg.com/news/articles/2021-12-14/pittsburgh-changes-lightbulbs-for-stars-in-a-dark-sky>

AP News: Biden administration moves to expand solar power on US land

<https://apnews.com/article/climate-joe-biden-science-business-land-management-83d2f356af4cda651625e4907f81cd22>

Observer-Reporter: OP-ED: Expensive energy may be temporary

[https://observer-reporter.com/opinion/op-eds/op-ed-expensive-energy-may-be-temporary/article\\_1489e8de-6272-11ec-a0ec-f745b6af2f68.html](https://observer-reporter.com/opinion/op-eds/op-ed-expensive-energy-may-be-temporary/article_1489e8de-6272-11ec-a0ec-f745b6af2f68.html)

Post-Gazette: What's behind the increases in your utility bills? Everything but fuel cost

<https://www.post-gazette.com/business/powersource/2021/12/20/What-s-behind-the-increases-in-your-utility-bills-Everything-but-fuel-cost/stories/202112190047>

## **Mining**

Mon Valley Independent: Donora citizens group cites progress with coal truck issue

<https://monvalleyindependent.com/2021/12/donora-citizens-group-cites-progress-with-coal-truck-issue/>

## **Oil and Gas**

WPXI: Energy Transfer Gas operations on hold after gas line explosion in Butler County

<https://www.wpxi.com/news/top-stories/gas-line-explosion-reported-butler-county/YM5MKFIAAZEIHLWQN3UT7SUSUM/>

Tribune-Review: West Deer supervisors reject well pad proposed by Olympus Energy

<https://triblive.com/local/valley-news-dispatch/west-deer-supervisors-reject-well-pad-proposed-by-olympus-energy/>

Tribune-Review: Gas prices falling as omicron variant surges, stalling oil demand and prices

<https://triblive.com/local/regional/gas-prices-falling-as-omicron-variant-surges-stalling-oil-demand-and-prices/>

Tribune-Review: Letter to the editor: Conflicting interests and the Marcellus circus

<https://triblive.com/opinion/letter-to-the-editor-conflicting-interests-and-the-marcellus-circus/>

Allegheny Front: Despite moratorium, 2 million gallons of conventional oil and gas waste spread on Pa. roads since 2018

<https://www.alleghenyfront.org/conventional-oil-gas-wastewater-spread-on-pa-roads-radioactivity/>

Observer-Reporter: Lower gas prices fueling relief among consumers

[https://observer-reporter.com/business/lower-gas-prices-fueling-relief-among-consumers/article\\_5e011d86-5cf3-11ec-8dfd-8b7c50abc4aa.html](https://observer-reporter.com/business/lower-gas-prices-fueling-relief-among-consumers/article_5e011d86-5cf3-11ec-8dfd-8b7c50abc4aa.html)

Pittsburgh Business Times: American Energy Partners names former CNX VP as COO

<https://www.bizjournals.com/pittsburgh/news/2021/12/21/kurtis-hoffman-american-energy-partners.html>

## **Waste**

Post-Gazette: Scott Thibodeau: Don't throw those toys and batteries in the trash

<https://www.post-gazette.com/opinion/Op-Ed/2021/12/23/Scott-Thibodeau-Don-t-throw-those-toys-and-batteries-in-the-trash/stories/202112200004>

Tribune-Review: Greensburg approves 5-year contract with Waste Management, rates to increase 32%

<https://triblive.com/local/westmoreland/greensburg-approves-5-year-contract-with-waste-management-rates-to-increase-32/>

Tribune-Review: Local stores, recycling centers to offer specialty recycling for Christmas lights

<https://triblive.com/local/valley-news-dispatch/local-stores-recycling-centers-to-offer-specialty-recycling-for-christmas-lights/>

Post-Gazette: Industry vs. environment: Experts discuss proposed plastic bag ban

<https://www.post-gazette.com/local/city/2021/12/20/plastic-bag-ban-Councilwoman-Erika-Strassburger-American-Recyclable-Plastic-Bag-Alliance-Clean-Air-Council/stories/202112170138>

Post-Gazette: Councilwoman Strassburger puts plastic bag ban on hold

<https://www.post-gazette.com/local/city/2021/12/20/Plastic-bag-ban-on-hold-until-2022-Erika-Strassburger-Pittsburgh-City-Council-six-new-City-Parks/stories/202112200109>

WJAC: Johnstown property owners face deadline to upgrade sewer lines as mandate cutoff looms

<https://wjactv.com/news/local/johnstown-property-owners-face-deadline-to-upgrade-sewer-lines-as-mandate-cutoff-looms>

KDKA Radio: Pittsburgh plastic bag legislation is now on hold

<https://www.audacy.com/kdkaradio/news/local/pittsburgh-plastic-bag-legislation-is-now-on-hold>

Post-Gazette: Say no to plastic

<https://www.post-gazette.com/opinion/letters/2021/12/19/Say-no-to-plastic/stories/202112190136>

Post-Gazette: Ban the bags

<https://www.post-gazette.com/opinion/letters/2021/12/19/Ban-the-bags/stories/202112190135>

Gazette 2.0: Christmas Tree Recycling Begins Dec. 26

<https://www.gazette20.com/post/council-strikes-a-compromise-raises-sewage-rate-by-50-cents>

Pittsburgh City Paper: Allegheny County recycling program will accept live Christmas trees beginning Dec. 26

<https://www.pghcitypaper.com/pittsburgh/allegheny-county-recycling-program-will-accept-live-christmas-trees-beginning-dec-26/Content?oid=20785254>

KDKA Radio: Christmas Tree Recycling Program returning to Allegheny County

<https://www.audacy.com/kdkaradio/news/local/christmas-tree-recycling-program-returning-to-allegheny-co>

Beaver County Times: Aliquippa to switch to Waste Management for garbage collection in 2022

<https://www.timesonline.com/story/news/2021/12/20/aliquippa-accepts-bid-waste-management/8972894002/>

## **Water**

Citizens' Voice: Levee reaches likely to be certified; flood insurance rates not likely to spike  
[https://www.citizensvoice.com/news/levee-reaches-likely-to-be-certified-flood-insurance-rates-not-likely-to-spike/article\\_63480746-1693-50f4-bf72-1ff51b0fbfd1.html](https://www.citizensvoice.com/news/levee-reaches-likely-to-be-certified-flood-insurance-rates-not-likely-to-spike/article_63480746-1693-50f4-bf72-1ff51b0fbfd1.html)

Lancaster Newspapers: Loggers reportedly damaged streambanks in Conestoga Township, conservation officials investigating  
[https://lancasteronline.com/news/local/loggers-reportedly-damaged-streambanks-in-conestoga-township-conservation-officials-investigating/article\\_6e4434b2-6379-11ec-b66d-ef4d0c360483.html](https://lancasteronline.com/news/local/loggers-reportedly-damaged-streambanks-in-conestoga-township-conservation-officials-investigating/article_6e4434b2-6379-11ec-b66d-ef4d0c360483.html)

Altoona Mirror: Water rates to hold steady  
<https://www.altoonamirror.com/news/local-news/2021/12/water-rates-to-hold-steady/>

Huntingdon Daily News: Exploring the lake  
[https://www.huntingdondailynews.com/news/local/exploring-the-lake/article\\_68b5d1cf-d439-5d93-87d0-63be7da7abc8.html](https://www.huntingdondailynews.com/news/local/exploring-the-lake/article_68b5d1cf-d439-5d93-87d0-63be7da7abc8.html)

Bradford Era: BWA announces 24-inch Main project complete  
[https://www.bradfordera.com/news/bwa-announces-24-inch-main-project-complete/article\\_5b19615e-8fac-5802-bb7e-f38bdce900db.html](https://www.bradfordera.com/news/bwa-announces-24-inch-main-project-complete/article_5b19615e-8fac-5802-bb7e-f38bdce900db.html)

exploreClarion: Clarion Borough Gives Update on Stormwater; Manages Personnel Issues  
<https://www.exploreclarion.com/2021/12/23/clarion-borough-gives-update-on-stormwater-manages-personnel-issues/>

Tribune-Review: Fawn-Frazer water customers ordered to conserve after water main break  
<https://triblive.com/local/valley-news-dispatch/fawn-frazer-water-customers-ordered-to-conserve-after-water-main-break/>

Daily American: Water conservation notice lifted in Addison  
<https://www.dailyamerican.com/story/news/2021/12/21/addison-water-leaks-fixed-conservation-notice-lifted/8966737002/>

WESA: Allegheny County has detected omicron in wastewater, indicating a COVID-19 surge is on the way  
<https://www.wesa.fm/health-science-tech/2021-12-22/allegheny-county-has-detected-omicron-in-wastewater-indicating-a-covid-19-surge-is-on-the-way>

Pittsburgh Business Times: Evoqua Water Technologies to acquire Steris subsidiaries  
<https://www.bizjournals.com/pittsburgh/news/2021/12/20/evoqua-acquiring-steris-subsiidiaries.html>

Gazette 2.0: Council strikes a compromise, raises sewage rate by 50 cents  
<https://www.gazette20.com/post/council-strikes-a-compromise-raises-sewage-rate-by-50-cents>

Latrobe Bulletin: DBMA board approves draft budgets for 2022

[https://www.latrobebulletinnews.com/news/local/dbma-board-approves-draft-budgets-for-2022/article\\_b3cd03cd-876c-5b7e-ab5d-cf8f0a2c77a4.html](https://www.latrobebulletinnews.com/news/local/dbma-board-approves-draft-budgets-for-2022/article_b3cd03cd-876c-5b7e-ab5d-cf8f0a2c77a4.html)

Pittsburgh Business Times: Omicron detected in tests of wastewater in Allegheny County  
<https://www.bizjournals.com/pittsburgh/news/2021/12/22/omicron-surveillance-detection-wastewater.html>

Post-Gazette: Provide toilets  
<https://www.post-gazette.com/opinion/letters/2021/12/19/Provide-toilets/stories/202112190134>

## **Miscellaneous**

Pennlive: Days are numbered in Pennsylvania for popular but invasive landscaping tree  
<https://www.pennlive.com/life/2021/12/days-are-numbered-in-pennsylvania-for-popular-but-invasive-landscaping-tree.html>

Tribune-Review: Tarentum taxes remain steady; water and garbage rates increase  
<https://triblive.com/local/valley-news-dispatch/tarentum-taxes-remain-steady-water-and-garbage-rates-increase/>

Tribune-Review: Crashes, diesel spill cause traffic headaches on inbound Parkway East  
<https://triblive.com/local/crashes-diesel-spill-snarl-inbound-parkway-east-traffic/>

Tribune-Review: Editorial: Churchill's future is in Amazon's hands  
<https://triblive.com/opinion/editorial-churchills-future-is-in-amazons-hands/>

Post-Gazette: Churchill Borough Council approves Amazon plan  
<https://www.post-gazette.com/local/east/2021/12/21/Churchill-Borough-Council-to-vote-on-conditional-Amazon-warehouse-land-use-permit/stories/202112210125>

WESA: After months of public debate, Churchill Council approves controversial Amazon development  
<https://www.wesa.fm/development-transportation/2021-12-21/after-months-of-public-debate-churchill-council-approves-controversial-amazon-development>

KDKA: Churchill Borough Council Approves Amazon Distribution Center Proposal  
<https://pittsburgh.cbslocal.com/2021/12/21/churchill-borough-vote-amazon-distribution-center/>

Tribune-Review: Pittsburgh City Council puts effort to create food justice fund on hold  
<https://triblive.com/local/pittsburgh-city-council-puts-effort-to-create-food-justice-fund-on-hold/>

PublicSource: Churchill Borough gives Amazon OK for a warehouse on former Westinghouse site  
<https://www.publicsource.org/churchill-borough-gives-amazon-ok-for-a-warehouse-on-former-westinghouse-site/>

KDKA Radio: Amazon Distribution Center Approved By Churchill Borough Council  
<https://www.audacy.com/kdkaradio/news/local/amazon-distribution-center-approved-church-borough-council>

Pittsburgh Business Times: Churchill Borough Council votes forward conditional use permit for Hillwood's Amazon facility

<https://www.bizjournals.com/pittsburgh/news/2021/12/21/churchill-council-votes-forward-amazon-facility.html>

KDKA: Crews On The Scene Of Train Derailment In Clairton

<https://pittsburgh.cbslocal.com/2021/12/22/clairton-train-derailment/>

Allegheny Front: NEW NOVEL IMAGINES A FUTURE WHERE ALL WE'RE LEFT WITH IS OUR PLASTIC POLLUTION

<https://www.alleghenyfront.org/dystopian-novel-trashlands-future-plastic-pollution/>

Pittsburgh Business Times: Bitcoin miner confirms technology purchases, equipment finance agreement

<https://www.bizjournals.com/pittsburgh/inno/stories/fundings/2021/12/21/stronghold-confirms-tech-purchases.html>