



PACD

PENNSYLVANIA ASSOCIATION OF
CONSERVATION DISTRICTS, INC.

What PACD Can Do For You

Conserving Natural Resources for Our Future

Government Relations

- Maintains relationships with legislators and state and federal agencies
- Represents the districts on government committees and organizations
- Represents districts at the national level through NACD
- Legislative Toolkit and template materials



(Left to right): John Dryzal, Brenda Shambaugh, and Chris Thompson testify before the House Environmental Resources and Energy Committee on January 24, 2022.



Resource and Communications Center

PACD manages electronic communication tools for districts and partners:

- 10 listserves to facilitate information sharing
- A weekly e-newsletter, *Front Page*
- Monthly association activity report
- PACD website
- Social media presence
- Social media calendar and messages for districts to use each month



Events - Awards Program - Exhibits

Annual Awards and Poster Contest

Hosts poster contest and annual awards program recognizing outstanding conservation district directors, employees, legislators, and other partners

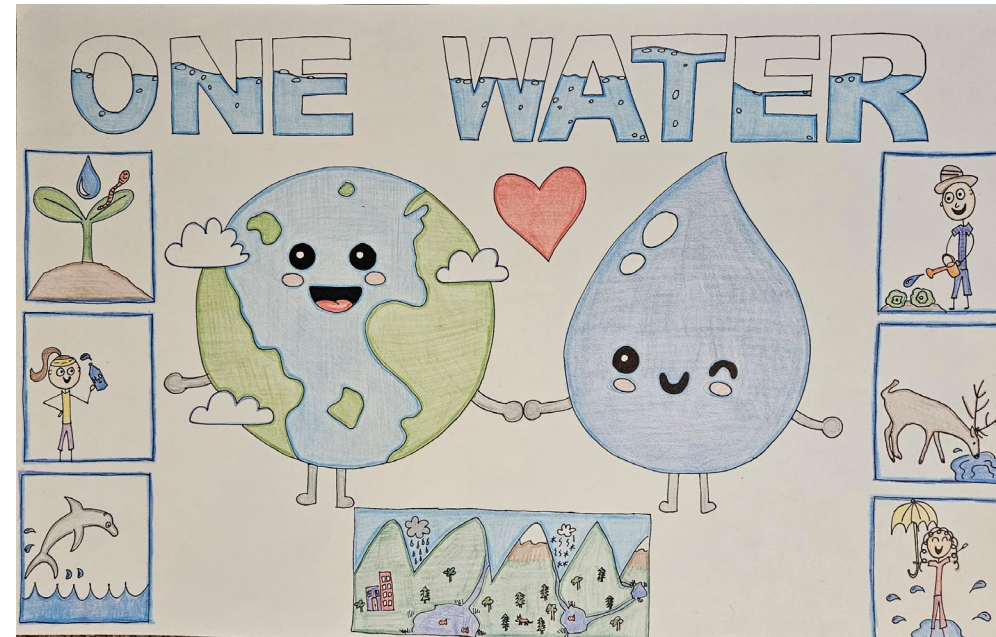
Statewide and Regional Meetings

Coordinates regional and statewide Association meetings such as the PACD/SCC Joint Annual Conference and Winter Meeting

Community Outreach

Exhibits at statewide events including:

- PA Farm Show
- Ag Progress Days
- PSATS convention
- Watershed Forestry Summit (DCNR)



Cora Petrunak, Lehigh County Student, 2023 Poster Contest Winner in the 2-3 Grade Category.



WWW.PACD.ORG—Legislative



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Legislative



The Pennsylvania Association of Conservation Districts (PACD) is a collective voice for Pennsylvania's 66 county conservation districts at the state and national level. Our government relations program supports the advocacy efforts of county conservation districts through an array of legislative activities and policy initiatives.

- [Legislative Basics](#)
List of ideas conservation districts can implement to build effective relationships with legislators.
- [Hosting a Legislative Event](#)
Step-by-Step guide for conservation districts planning a legislative event.
- [Sample Invitation](#) (in Word)
Invitation to an event
- [Sample Press Release](#) (in Word)
Post-event press release template
- [Build a Coalition, Broaden Your Base Support](#)
Advice on gaining support for conservation district goals by creating coalitions.
- [Media Moments](#)
A how-to guide for getting your message out to local press.
- [The Pennsylvania Budget Process](#)
Primer on how Pennsylvania's budget is passed.
- [How a Bill Becomes a Law in Pennsylvania](#)
Details the political process involved in law-making.



WWW.PACD.ORG—Resources

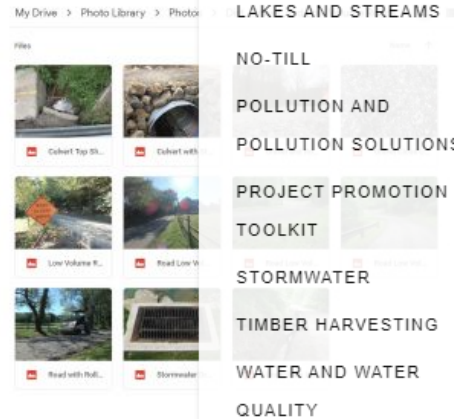


HOME ABOUT US EDUCATION RESOURCES YOUR DISTRICT EVENTS JOBS LEGISLATIVE NEWS SITE MAP

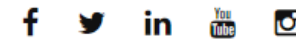
Resources

PACD offers educational resources such as handouts, exhibits, videos and lesson plans on conservation-related topics.

PHOTO LIBRARY



PACD hosts a Photo Library. Images from conservation districts, PACD, and partnering agencies are uploaded to a central library and can be downloaded and used by other conservation districts, PACD, and partnering agencies. To use the Photo Library submit a “[PACD Photo Library Usage Agreement](#)” form. PACD will then provide a link to the library.



NEWSLETTER SIGNUP



WWW.PACD.ORG–Jobs

Job Postings

- PACD posts jobs for conservation districts on our website for free
- Conservation district positions only
- Job postings are also shared through X (formerly Twitter) and LinkedIn
- Email job openings to Shannon Wehinger at swehinger@pacd.org

The screenshot shows the PACD website's 'Jobs' page. At the top is the PACD logo and a navigation menu with links: HOME, ABOUT US, EDUCATION, RESOURCES, YOUR DISTRICT, EVENTS, JOBS, LEGISLATIVE, NEWS, and SITE MAP. Below the navigation is a 'Jobs' section header. To the right of the jobs list are social media icons for Facebook, Twitter, LinkedIn, YouTube, and Instagram, and a blue 'NEWSLETTER SIGNUP' button. The jobs list includes:

- [Watershed Technician / Watershed Specialist](#)
Elk County Conservation District
- [Erosion & Sediment Pollution Control Technician](#)
Union County Conservation District
- [Erosion & Sediment Pollution Control Technician \(Part-time, temporary\)](#)
Union County Conservation District
- [Resource Conservationist – Field Inspector \(Water Quality Program\)](#)
Lehigh County Conservation District
- [Urban Resource Conservationist](#)
Berks County Conservation District

A collage of four photos is displayed above the job list: two outdoor scenes of people working in a field and two indoor scenes of people in a meeting.

WWW.PACD.ORG—Education



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Education



[APPLY FOR A GRANT](#)

[AG PLAN](#)

[REIMBURSEMENT](#)

[EDUCATIONAL EVENTS](#)

[SAMPLE MATERIALS](#)

[FORMS FOR CURRENT
GRANTEES](#)

[CHESAPEAKE BAY](#)

[CREP](#)

[LAWN CONVERSION](#)

[NONPOINT SOURCE](#)

[\(NPS\)](#)

[PRISM](#)

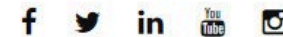
[VIRTUAL EVENTS](#)

[WATERSHEDS](#)



The Pennsylvania Association of Conservation Districts (PACD) supports the efforts of county Conservation Districts through a variety of educational programs and services including those of the [Pennsylvania Nonpoint Source Pollution Education Office](#), our [Conservation Education Grants Program](#), and a variety of educational materials and resources.

Conservation Districts view education as a key to promoting the wise use of the Commonwealth's natural resources. Because Conservation Districts are located in every Pennsylvania county, except Philadelphia, they are able to deliver programs and services that address local needs and issues. Conservation District educational activities target farmers, municipal officials, homeowners, teachers and students, along with many other audiences. The activities range from participating in large community events, to hosting professional workshops and technical training sessions, to going out in the field to provide one-on-one

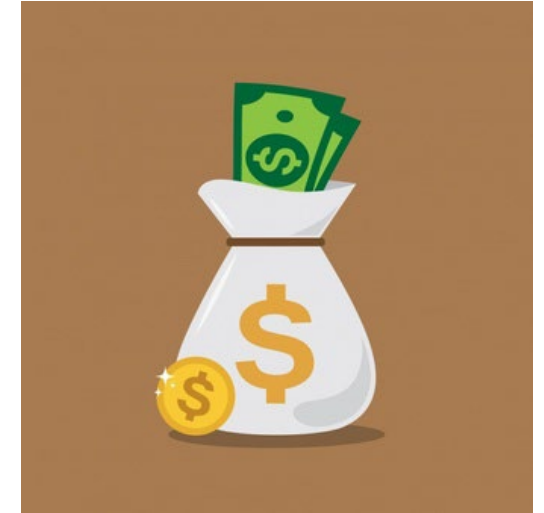


[NEWSLETTER SIGNUP](#)



Nonpoint Source Pollution Educational Mini-Grants

- For adult education only
- You can charge staff time (administrative assistant's time copying/printing materials, manager's time promoting the project). Staff time doesn't just mean the person holding the workshop.
- Evaluations are required
- You can count staff/presenters in food costs (keep to \$13/person/day for a full-day workshop)
- No match required
- You can apply for as many as you like
- Unspent funds go "back into the pot" for the next round
- New round opens in January each year



Financial and other support for this project is provided by the Pennsylvania Association of Conservation Districts, Inc. through a grant from the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection under Section 319 of the Clean Water Act, administered by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.



CREP Mini-grant Program

- You can charge staff time (administrative assistant's time copying/printing materials, manager's time promoting the project). Staff time doesn't just mean the person holding the workshop.
- Evaluations are required
- You can count staff/presenters in food costs (keep to \$13/person/day)
- No match required



Financial and other support for the CREP Outreach Program Office Mini-grant Program is provided by the Pennsylvania Association of Conservation Districts, Inc. through a Growing Greener Watershed Protection grant from the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection and with additional support from USDA-NRCS.

Riparian Buffer Sub-Grants



- Provides funding to conservation districts to implement multifunctional AND conventional riparian buffers
- Grants available to conservation districts on a first-come, first-served basis
- About \$75,000 available

Partners Providing Match Resources

- Master Watershed Steward Program
- CBF Keystone 10 Million Trees Program

This program is financed by a grant from the Community Conservation Partnerships Program under the administration of the Pennsylvania Department of Conservation and Natural Resources, Bureau of Recreation and Conservation.



Lawn Conversion Sub-Grants



- Funded through a \$100,000 Community Conservation Partnerships Program Grant from the PA Department of Conservation and Natural Resources (DCNR)
- Offers Lawn Conversion training and mini-grants to Pennsylvania's conservation districts
- Will help the Commonwealth achieve a goal of planting 5,000 acres of upland forest and 5,000 acres of meadow by 2025
- About \$75,000 available



The Lawn Conversion Program for Conservation Districts is financed in part by a grant from the Community Conservation Partnerships Program, Environmental Stewardship fund, under the administration of the Pennsylvania Department of Conservation and Natural Resources, Bureau of Recreation and Conservation.

Ag Plan Reimbursement Program

- Statewide program
- Offered on a first come, first served basis
- Plans eligible for reimbursement include
 - Manure Management (Chapter 91)
 - Nutrient Management (Chapter 83)
 - Ag E&S (Ch. 102) NRCS Conservation Plan may meet this requirement
- Encourages landowners/operators to work with their local conservation districts to pursue funding for ag plan development
- 20% match is required from the landowner/operator (or the conservation district in some approved cases)
- The maximum reimbursement per plan is \$1,500 or 80% of the cost of the plan, whichever is lower. Ag landowner/operators may qualify for reimbursement for more than one ag plan up to a maximum amount of \$6,000



Financial and other support for the Ag Plan Reimbursement Program is provided by the Pennsylvania Association of Conservation Districts, Inc. through a Growing Greener Watershed Protection grant from the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection



Engineering Assistance Program (TAG)

- Provides statewide engineering and soils technical assistance for developing or implementing a watershed assessment, watershed restoration plan or watershed protection plan
- PACD employs eight conservation engineers and technicians in four regional offices
- Staff designs best management practices (BMP's) to address agricultural and water quality concerns
- Partnership between PACD, DEP, and NRCS ensures that program goals are met and solutions are properly implemented
- Funded through the Pennsylvania Growing Greener Program and the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service

BMPs designed and installed in the photo: Roofed manure storage and heavy use area planned, other BMPs include roof runoff control with underground outlets, stabilized access road/walkway, surface inlets and swales to divert runoff from the new building, critical area seeding.



Certified Conservation Planner Program

- PACD is hiring six conservation planners or nutrient management specialists, who will work toward conservation planning certification for a two-year period to assist in conservation efforts across the Commonwealth.



PACD program staff will improve water quality by helping landowners complete and update:

- Conservation plans
- volunteer Act 38 Nutrient Management Plans (excluding Concentrated Animal Operations and Concentrated Animal Feeding Operations)
- Manure Management Plans
- Agricultural Erosion & Sediment Control Plans
- Funding provided by USDA NRCS and the PA State Conservation Commission



Leadership Development Program

Full-time Leadership Development Manager

Identifies topics and resources and coordinates professional development programming for conservation district personnel.

Director Training and Manager Training subcommittees

Provide input on programming topics, delivery, and resources.

Yearly programming includes:

- Management Summit
- Staff Conference
- Regional Director Training workshops
- Leadership Webinar Series
- Strategic Planning Support



Financial and other support for the Building for Tomorrow Leadership Development Program is provided through a grant from the Pennsylvania State Conservation Commission. Guidance for the Program is provided through the Pennsylvania Conservation Partnership's Leadership Development Committee.



Clean Water Academy



Financial and other support for this project is provided through a grant from the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection.

CREP Outreach Program Office (COPO)



*CREP Workshop – Berks County
Conservation District*

- Housed and managed by PACD
- Promotes CREP and provides assistance to conservation districts and other CREP partners
- CREP Outreach Resource Center
- CREP Partner Training
- CREP Mini-Grants

Financial and other support for the CREP Outreach Program Office is provided by the Pennsylvania Association of Conservation Districts, Inc. through a Growing Greener Watershed Protection grant from the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection and with additional support from USDA-NRCS.



PACD Legal Program

- PACD offers an on-call legal program through The Law Office of Andrew H. Shaw, P.C.
- Conservation districts can receive legal advice for a discounted rate.
- Currently the attorney rate is \$125.00 per hour and a paralegal rate of \$50.00 per hour.
- Program includes a full range of services and general legal advice, including document review, real estate assessment and timely responses to questions.



Normal response time is 24 hours.

Contact Andrew Shaw at andrew@ashawlaw.com or (717) 243-7135.



Training & Educational Opportunities

- Section 319 Virtual Watershed Planning and Implementation Meeting
- Conservation District Watershed Specialist Meeting
- Chapter 102 Basic Technical Training
- Five annual Agricultural Conservation Technical “Boot Camp” trainings
- Two Introduction to Conservation Planning courses
- CPESC (Certified Professional in Erosion and Sedimentation Control) training and exam
- CREP Partner Training Webinars
- Additional training as requested (such as Fluvial Geomorphology and QuickBooks)



PACD Marketing Materials

PACD Marketing Materials Available!

Contact Shannon Wehinger at swehinger@pacd.org for your free materials including:

- Logo
- Letterhead
- Business card template
- PowerPoint template
- Newsletter template
- Website template (*this is an old template and does not look like the current PACD website*)
- Envelopes
- Fax template
- Each district has their own set



PACD/NRCS Umbrella Program

- Partnership between NRCS and PACD
- Conservation district employees work on conservation practices and programs for both their conservation district and NRCS
- 11 conservation districts
- 19 conservation district employees
- Reimbursement is on a quarterly basis



Reach Out Any Time!



PENNSYLVANIA ASSOCIATION OF
CONSERVATION DISTRICTS, INC.

Brenda Shambaugh

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