

Modernization: What Does It Mean to Districts?

Office of Water Programs
9/17/2025



Our Mission

The Department of Environmental Protection's mission is to protect Pennsylvania's air, land and water resources and to provide for the health and safety of its residents and visitors, consistent with the rights and duties established under the Environmental Rights Amendment (Article 1, Section 27 of the Pennsylvania Constitution).

We will work as partners with individuals, organizations, governments, and businesses to conserve and restore our natural resources and to address all current and future environmental challenges including climate change and environmental justice.





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Our Vision

To be a model environmental agency that moves at the speed of business and leads the way in science, innovation, and best practices to ensure clean air, land, and water for the health and safety of present and future generations.



Our Values

- Public Service
- Environmental Stewardship
- Commitment to Customers
- Excellence and Continuous Improvement
- Communication
- Accountability





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Our Goals

DEP aims to align agency-wide efforts under a shared vision and direction, ensure all goals contribute to the long-term success of DEP's mission.

Empower a future-ready workforce through innovation, learning, and leadership.

Elevate customer experience in support of environmental outcomes.

Modernize operations and foster a unified, high-performing DEP.

Build a transparent, data-driven organization.



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DEP Strategic Goals

- **Empower a Future-Ready Workforce through Innovation, Learning, and Leadership**
 - Develop a skilled, resilient workforce equipped to meet emerging challenges by fostering a culture of innovation, continuous learning, and leadership growth. Align professional development with strategic needs through targeted training, clear career pathways, and modern performance systems that support creativity, collaboration, and operational excellence.



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DEP Strategic Goals

- **Elevate Customer Experience in Support of Environmental Outcomes**
 - Design and deliver services using a customer-centered approach that upholds DEP's mission and ensures clarity, transparency, responsiveness, and quality in every interaction.



DEP Strategic Goals

- **Modernize Operations and Foster a Unified, High-Performing DEP**
 - Break down silos and strengthen internal collaboration by modernizing systems, standardizing processes, and aligning tools across programs and regions. Promote a unified culture grounded in shared values, integrated operations, and service excellence to deliver consistent, efficient, and future-ready outcomes.



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DEP Strategic Goals

- **Build a Transparent, Data-Driven Organization**
 - Use standardized, accessible data, GIS technology, and modern tools to drive performance, accountability, and continuous improvement.



How the Goals Work Together

- Each goal supports the others – this is a connected strategy.
- Workforce capacity enables better service, smarter operations, and stronger data use.
- A better customer experience builds trust, improves outcomes, and informs innovation.
- Operational modernization creates the foundation for consistency and collaboration.
- Data-driven decision-making powers continuous improvement across all goals.
- Program goals will align with and advance these agency-wide priorities.





Why is DEP Modernizing Now?

- Old IT Systems – originally built in 1990s
- Need for immediate tracking – number of permits authorized, number of inspections conducted, etc.
- Need to be transparent to the public
 - Ex. Permit Tracker
- Need to be able to measure outputs and outcomes, individual performance, and overall workload more easily and effectively
 - SMART – Specific, Measurable, Achievable, Relevant, Time-Bound



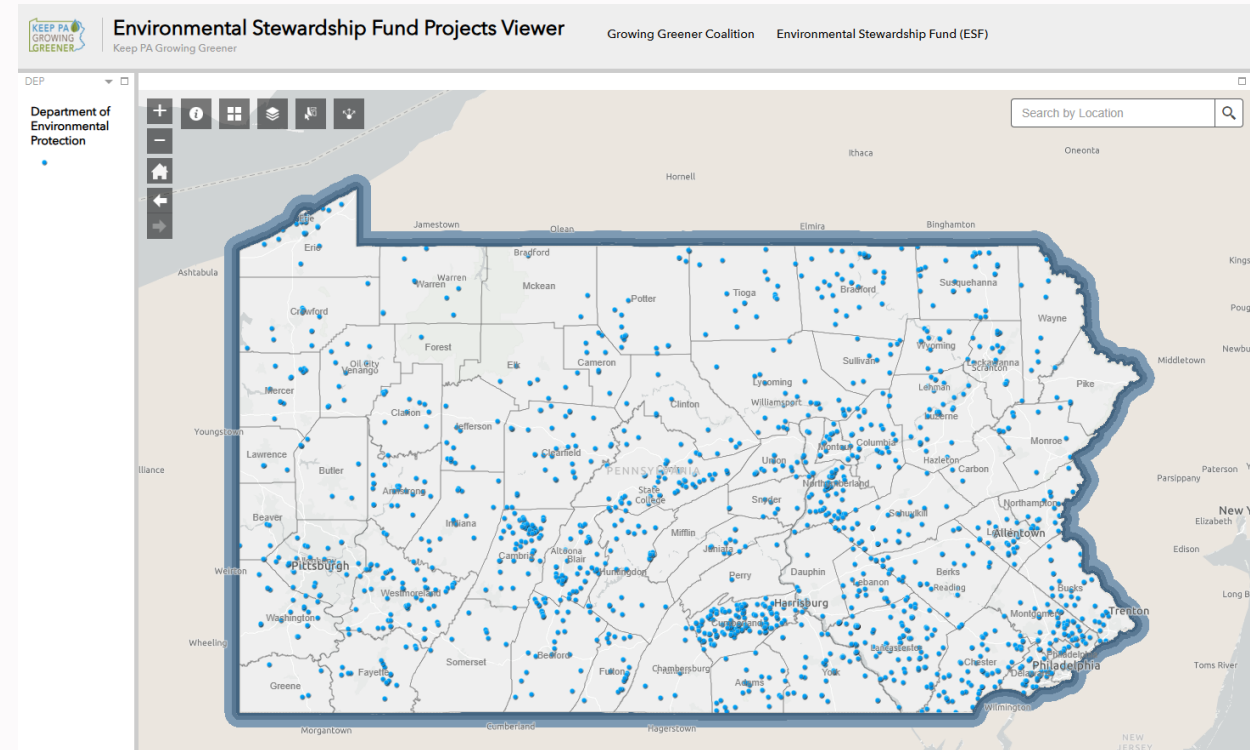
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Why is DEP Modernizing Now?

- IT constraints drove permitting and compliance processes, not the other way around
 - Ex. ePermitting
- Process Improvement goes hand-in-hand with improvements to IT systems


What Are We Doing?

- Transparency - DEP Bureau of Watershed Restoration and Nonpoint Source Management (BWRNSM), in partnership with DCNR and WeConservePA, launched an interactive map to show projects implemented using our state Environmental Stewardship Fund (Growing Greener and Countywide Action Plan Implementation Grants)



What Are We Doing?

- Digital and Standardized Tools - DEP BWRNSM created internal PowerBI tools to easily assess and conduct QA/QC on incoming data from our centralized geodatabase (statewide shown here). Error reports are generated and provided to reporting programs to address prior to submitting to EPA for annual numeric Chesapeake Bay progress reporting.



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DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL
PROTECTION

Statewide BMP Report

8/27/2025 1:00:14 AM
Latest RefreshDate

County
All

Funding Source
All

BMP Name
All

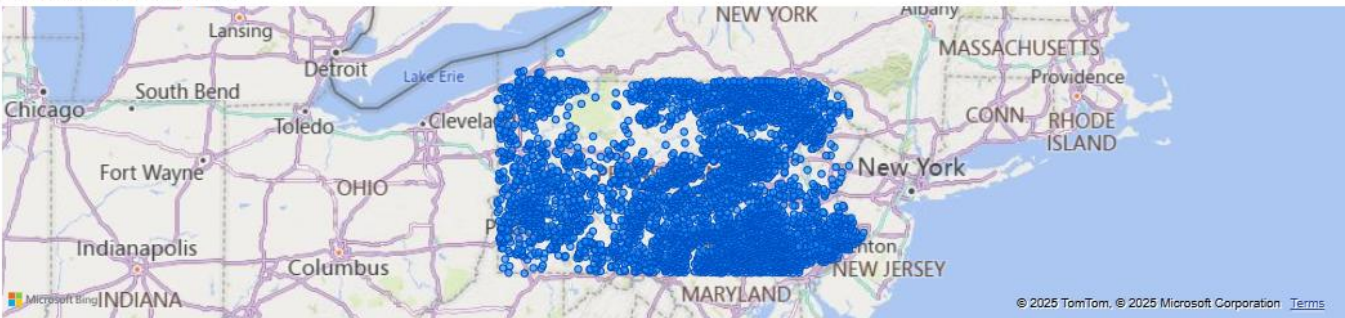
Date BMP Installed
1/1/1900 5/31/3024

Date Created
6/1/1992 8/26/2025

BMP Inspection Date
4/15/1978 8/25/2025

47.98K
Number of BMPs

Latitude and Longitude



County	BMP ID	BMP Name	Date Installed	BMP Extent	unit	Date Created	Latest Inspection	Funding Source
	BMP-00-09963	Riparian Forest Buffer	7/14/1998	2.00	ACRE	7/14/1998		Private
	BMP-00-09968	Riparian Forest Buffer	10/13/2017	0.00	ACRE	10/13/2017		Private
	BMP-00-09979	Riparian Forest Buffer	5/11/2005	1.00	ACRE	5/11/2005		Private
	BMP-00-09980	Riparian Forest Buffer	10/12/2017	0.00	ACRE	10/12/2017		Private
	BMP-00-09984	Riparian Forest Buffer	3/29/2002	12.00	ACRE	3/29/2002		CBP-SP
	BMP-00-09985	Riparian Forest Buffer	7/16/2006	24.00	ACRE	7/16/2006		CREP
	BMP-00-09990	Riparian Forest Buffer	11/12/2002	25.00	ACRE	11/12/2002		Growing Greener Grant
	BMP-00-09991	Riparian Forest Buffer	10/15/2017	7.00	ACRE	10/15/2017		Growing Greener Grant
	BMP-14-01351	Pipeline	4/1/2016	380.00	FEET	7/3/2025		Growing Greener Grant
	BMP-15-03823	Grassed Waterway	9/28/2023	0.00	ACRE	10/25/2022		CAP
	BMP-15-04090	Terrace	5/2/2025	350.00	FEET	1/10/2023		CAP
	BMP-15-04240	Diversion	5/2/2025	350.00	FEET	4/11/2023		CAP
	BMP-15-05201	Critical Area Planting	10/17/2024	0.00	ACRE	10/23/2024		CAP
	BMP-15-05642	Mulching for moisture conservation	5/2/2025	0.00	ACRE	6/10/2025		CAP
	BMP-30-00026	Roof Runoff Structure	8/30/2024	1.00	COLINT	11/8/2024		ΔCΔP



What Are We Doing?

- The Commonwealth Office of Digital Experience (CODE PA) is leading a statewide initiative to improve the Permitting, Licensing, and Certification (aka PLC) across all state agencies.
- DEP Office of Water, including Bureau of Clean Water and Bureau of Waterways Engineering and Wetlands, has been engaged in discussions, identifying the vision for the future of permitting as well as the needs, over the last year as the entities and services that will be developing the new PLC platform have been procured.
- An Environmental Management System (EMS) component will also be forthcoming.
- CODE PA is also leading a statewide initiative focused on Grants Management. DEP Bureau of Watershed Restoration and Nonpoint Source Management has been engaged with this initiative (specifically focused on Growing Greener and CAP Implementation).



What To Expect?

- DEP's agency-wide priority is **Chapter 105 General Permits**.
 - GP-5, GP-6, and GP-7 are the starting point
 - Building from lessons learned from KEES and ePermitting, as well as knowledge built from the use of PracticeKeeper for program implementation
 - Geospatial component for applicants is a must – autopopulation of known information (instead of hand-keying) reduces errors and allows for a quicker registration.
 - *Goal* – build a system framework that produces valid and viable GP applications, with notifications to both the applicant and DEP/delegated CCD of registration.
 - *Problems to solve* – reporting to Army Corps, completing the SPGP-7, tying the registration to project implementation, compliance, etc.



What To Expect?

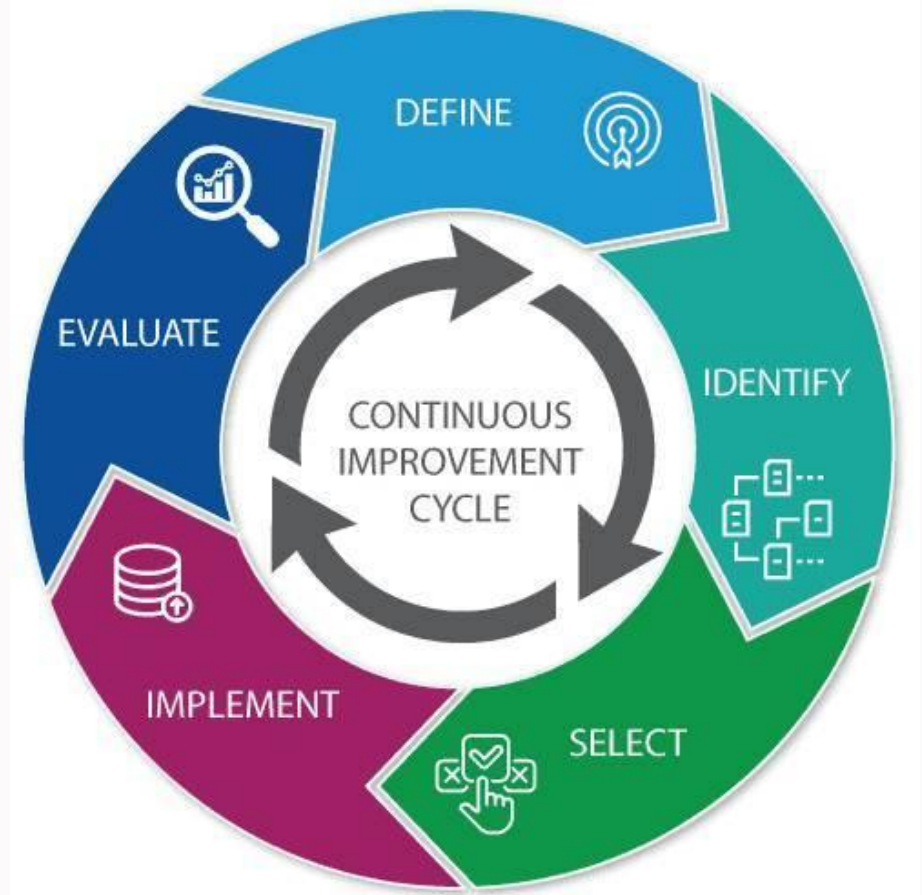
- **Chapter 102** – Is not on the first set of priorities for PLC.
 - Improvements have been initiated, to include:
 - Expansion of the eligibility of the PAG-01
 - Development of “BMP Suites” that could be utilized for simple project types, like agricultural buildings and single lot residential development
 - Development of an eFacts User Interface for Conservation Districts to enter in permit / inspection data
 - *Goal* – Simplify, to the extent possible, the Chapter 102 permit application, tracking, and reporting process
- **MS4 and CAFO** – Is not on the first set of priorities for PLC.
 - Improvements have been initiated, to include:
 - Electronic Notice of Intent (NOI) Modules are under development to line up with the eReporting system, minimizing redundancy in applicant information entry and allowing for a more efficient review
 - *Goal* – Simplify and align with the federal eReporting Rule. Pick up much of the framework developed for these permits and carry them over into PLC



Continuous Improvement

- IT and Policy / Process Improvements can only get us so far – sometimes revisions to regulations and/or legislation is needed to grant authority to make substantial changes to permitting.

Why not just revise the regulations instead of making incremental policy changes?





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Regulatory Revisions - Proposed

- DEP develops and presents draft regulation to advisory committees
- DEP prepares proposed rulemaking documents, sends to Governors Office of Policy and Planning (GPO) and the Office of General Counsel (OGC)
- DEP presents to and receives approval from the Environmental Quality Board (EQB) to proceed
- Governor's Budget Office (GBO) reviews and issues fiscal note and OGC formally reviews and approves
- Office of Attorney General (OAG) reviews the proposed regulation
- Legislative Reference Bureau (LRB) publishes the proposed regulation in the PA Bulletin for public comment. Proposed regulation is also submitted to the Independent Regulatory Review Commission (IRRC) and the House and Senate Environmental Resources and Energy (ERE) Committees.
- DEP reviews comments from the public, IRRC, and ERE Committees to develop final rulemaking documents.

[*Policy for Development and Review of Regulations \(012-0820-001\)](#)



Regulatory Revisions - Final

- DEP develops and presents the draft final regulation to advisory committees
- DEP prepares final rulemaking documents, sends to Governors Office of Policy and Planning (GPO) and the Office of General Counsel (OGC)
- Environmental Quality Board (EQB) adopts the final regulation presented by DEP
- Governor's Budget Office (GBO) reviews and issues fiscal note and OGC formally reviews and approves
- Legislative Reference Bureau (LRB) publishes the proposed regulation in the PA Bulletin for public comment. Proposed regulation is also submitted to the Independent Regulatory Review Commission (IRRC) and the House and Senate Environmental Resources and Energy (ERE) Committees.
- House and Senate Committees have until 24 hours prior to the start of the IRRC meeting to notify IRRC and the agency that the Committee(s) will require further review of the regulation after IRRC consideration or if they intend to issue a resolution disapproving the regulation.
- IRRC approves or disapproves the regulation at its public meeting.
- OAG reviews the final regulation approved by IRRC if it was not disapproved by the General Assembly.
- Final regulation is submitted to LRB, which publishes in the Pennsylvania Bulletin.

[*Policy for Development and Review of Regulations \(012-0820-001\)](#)



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Proposed Rulemakings

- **Fall Regulatory Agenda published August 9, 2025 in [PA Bulletin](#)**
 - Includes 12 DEP Water Programs Rulemakings as well as 1 for the Nutrient Management Act, overseen by the SCC. Three (3) that are of most relevance to CCDs are listed below:
- **Chapter 91** – Quarter 2, 2026 for Environmental Quality Board (EQB) Consideration, as Final
 - Clarification of immediate notification requirements for unauthorized discharges of a substance that would cause or threaten pollution to waters of the Commonwealth, endanger downstream users or damage property.
- **Chapter 105** – Quarter 2, 2026 for EQB Consideration, as Proposed
 - Updates and clarifications to definitions and requirements to improve permit application submission and permit review efficiency (including more proposed waived activities).
- **Chapters 91 and 92a** – Quarter 4, 2026 for EQB Consideration, as Proposed
 - Updates to improve administration of the water quality management and National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permitting programs.



Summary

- DEP is looking forward to the next 25 years – what do we want to be in 2050?
- Collaboration and partnership with the Conservation Districts is paramount to our collective success.
- Concerns that Conservation Districts have shared were heard – DEP’s updated mission, vision, values, and strategic goals share a common thread of what we’ve been hearing from you.
- We need to make changes to our processes, permit design, IT systems, and regulations. Change can be hard, but it’s necessary.
- There are many unknowns and variables as we move forward – we don’t have all the answers, but we appreciate your willingness to work with us and provide your constructive feedback.



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