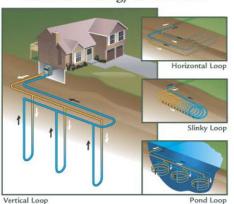


Clearfield County Planner



New Alternative Energy Funds Available

Geothermal Energy for the Home



At a time when conventional energy prices are at or near record highs, electricity consumers are facing double-digit increases in their rates and America's national security is being jeopardized by its growing dependence on foreign oil: Pennsylvania is investing \$665.9 million to spur the development of alternative and renewable

energy sources and help families and small businesses conserve energy and use it more efficiently.

The package includes incentives to help households and small businesses take advantage of solar energy technology – a key resource for reducing electricity demand during times of peak demand when rates are most expensive – and make improvements to their homes or buildings that conserve energy.

Included among the new \$650 million fund is \$500 million that provides:

*\$165 million for loans and grants to spur the development of alternative and renewable energy projects (except solar) among businesses and local governments;

*\$100 million to provide loans, grants, and rebates that cover up to 35 percent of the costs residential consumers and small businesses incur for installing solar energy technology;

\$80 million in grants and loans for economic development projects in the solar sector;

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*40 million to the Ben Franklin Technology Development Authority to support early stage activities such as incubator support services, translational, and early stage research in startup businesses that develop and implement energy efficiency technologies;

*\$25 million for wind energy and geothermal projects;

*\$25 million for green buildings. Homeowners and small businesses will benefit from grants and loans to build energy efficient structures or renovate an existing building to improve its energy efficiency;

*\$40 million (\$10 million annually for four years) to support LIHEAP so the Commonwealth can help low-income customers manage higher energy prices, severe weather conditions, or disasters; and

*\$25 million for pollution control technology to help energy generators meet state and federal standards.

The law, originally Special Session House Bill 1, will also establish a \$150 million consumer energy program for individuals and small businesses that will support projects that conserve energy and use it more efficiently—something that is increasingly important as the costs for electricity, fuels, and natural gas continue to increase. The \$150 million will be allocated over eight years with \$20 million annually through 2014-15 and another \$10 million in 2015-16 that will include:

*\$92.5 million so homeowners and small business owners can cover 25 percent of the cost of purchasing and installing energy conservation tools and weatherize their buildings;

*\$50 million in tax credits of up to \$1 million per year per project for developing and building alternative energy projects which will help Pennsylvania companies invest and grow here; and

*\$5 million to support an Energy Efficiency Loan Fund through the Pennsylvania Housing Finance Agency.

Since the new financing was just authorized in a bill signed by the Governor this past July, staff of the state departments of Community and Economic Development, Agriculture, and Environmental Protection are working diligently to develop guidelines and application procedures for these new energy and biofuels programs. This process could take a number of months to institute the controls and administrative procedures that ensure the prudent use of these funds.

Those interested in the resources to be made available through the Alternative Energy Investment Fund are encouraged to register for updates on-line at www.ahs2.dep.state.pa.us/aeifsignup.

Stav Warm This Winter

With the cost of heating fuel reaching record highs, staying warm this winter is a real concern facing our residents. If you, a family member, or neighbor are looking for ways to get help paying utility bills or making furnace repairs, weatherizing your home, or simply looking for tips on how to conserve energy, resources are available simply by logging on to the State's "Stay Warm this Winter" website. www.staywarmpa.com

School Buildings Go Green: A PA Success Story

School districts in PA are increasingly building "green" schools not only to provide their students and teachers with a healthy environment to support learning, but also for the long term benefits realized in the form of lower annual operating costs.

A success story worth sharing is Clearview, an elementary school located in Hanover, PA. While the construction costs were slightly higher, the projected annual energy cost savings of \$18,000 will pay off those additional upfront costs in just nine years, after which those annual savings will go back into the general school budget.

Innovative building materials require less energy to produce and use, create less pollution, and deplete fewer resources than their conventional counterparts. About 70% of the building materials used for Clearview were locally manufactured which realized a significant energy savings simply in the fact that they did not need to be hauled long distances. Also, about 75% of the building materials used were manufactured with a high recycled content.

The school is filled with natural light requiring a third less energy for electric lighting. Energy-efficient electric lighting compliments the school's natural lighting. Light-level sensors dim the electric lights on bright, sunny days and turn them up on cloudy days or at dusk. High-efficiency fluorescent lights and compact



fluorescent fixtures save energy, as do occupancy sensors that turn off the lights when no one is around. Recent scientific studies conducted by the California Board of Energy Efficiency show test scores were 15-26% higher in classrooms that utilized natural lighting. The ventilation system helps students and teachers stay healthy, alert, and focused on learning.

Floor-mounted air diffusers deliver fresh air to each classroom in response to changes in temperature, humidity, and carbon dioxide levels. Because fresh air comes up from the floor rather than high above them as in conventional buildings, the ventilation efficiency or air change effectiveness is greater than 90%. To protect the health of students and teachers, the design specifies low-emission and nontoxic paints, sealers, coatings, and adhesives throughout the building.

The school's geothermal heating and cooling systems are another source of energy savings for the school. The landscape too was designed to work with the building to enhance solar heating in the winter and cooling in the summer and includes plants which require very little water.

To encourage school districts to invest in these high caliber facilities, **High-Performance Green Schools Planning Grants** are available to help defray costs which are not typically included in the design fee, but which are critical to the design of a high performance building. There is no deadline for applications. Awards will be made on a first come, first served basis upon verification of project eligibility and will be limited to available program funds.

To learn more about this grant program as well as other state related programs, visit the following state sponsored website. http://www.gggc.state.pa.us/gggc/cwp/view.asp?a=516&q=157125

Free Utility Bills Analysis/Energy Assessments

Free assistance is available to local governments seeking ways to lower their utility bills. Items evaluated in the energy assessment include utility bills, lighting, refrigeration, furnace, and insulation. Those interested in more information can contact North Central Regional Planning & Development Commission's Systems Marketing Coordinator, Barry Mayes, at 814-773-3162

Meet our New County Community Development Specialist

New County Community Development Specialist Offers Grant Writing Services and More



The Clearfield County
Commissioners are pleased to
announce the addition of Lisa
Kovalick, as the County's new
Community Development Specialist,
to its Planning Department.

With over 20 years experience in administering community development programs, Lisa will be

able to draw upon her extensive knowledge of federal & state community development funding programs to effectively provide guidance, technical assistance, grant writing services, and administration needed to assist our communities in enhancing our residents' quality of life.

As identified in the County's recent comprehensive plan update, many opportunities for community improvements are lost due to the lack of grant writing capacities at the local municipal level. Lisa will

be able to fill this gap in services by providing the resources needed to take ideas for community development and build upon them to create viable projects.

Lisa will be available to work with our local municipalities, redevelopment authorities and agencies, non-profit organizations, and other community development organizations that are developing projects or programs which support the initiatives outlined in the County's Comprehensive Plan.

In addition to her duties as Community Development Specialist, Lisa will continue to serve as the County's Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Coordinator.

We encourage our communities to contact Lisa at (814) 765-5149 to take advantage of this most valuable service now being offered by the County.

Summer Issue 2008

Marcellus Shale

Why the gas rush?

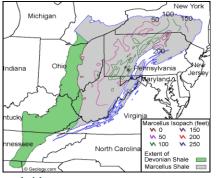
Though natural gas has been extracted from underground sources within Pennsylvania since the early 1800's. The Marcellus Shale gas deposit, potentially the largest in the nation, has an estimated volume of natural gas to be 200 trillion to 500 trillion cubic feet with a projected value of \$1 trillion or more dollars.

Dozens of energy companies are busily working to secure leases from private and public landowners to explore the vast Marcellus Shale layer. Although gas leases have been around for many years, the amount of money being offered per acre with some landowners receiving amounts in excess of \$2,000 per acre has created a blizzard of landmen, speculators, and brokers trying to "tie up" large blocks of water required for fracing these wells is significant, between one and land with company leases.

Geologists have long known that the Marcellus Shale holds vast amounts of natural gas; however extracting the fossil fuel from its depths typically at 5,000 to 9,000 feet below the surface, has until recently been cost prohibitive. However, new advancements in directional drilling and extraction technologies by Halliburton and others, combined with soaring gas prices, have conspired to create a 21st century natural gas boom.

Where is the gas located?

The Marcellus Shale is a deep layer of rock that lies 5,000 to 9,000 feet underground and runs from the southern tier of New York through the western portion of Pennsylvania into the eastern half of Ohio and through West Virginia. In Pennsylvania, the formation extends from the Appalachian



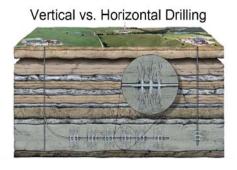
Plateau into the western valley and ridges.

What is "hydrofracing"?

The hydrofracing procedure forces a fracturing fluid (primarily water) into a sealed off portion of the borehole under high pressure. This applied pressure causes the formation to fracture, allowing the fracturing fluid to enter further into the formation and extends the cracks; then a solid proppant (usually sand) is added to the fracturing fluid to keep the fractures open after the injection stops, but allowing the natural gas to be collected.

gas wells that already exist in the County?

The gas produced from the Marcellus Shale is under a higher pressure than shallow or traditional wells. It must also be a certain pressure before going to market which necessitates different handling techniques, equipment, etc.



Another difference from shallower wells is that Marcellus gas is

tightly held within the shale, so the method of extraction is very different. Current technology is to use significant quantities of water under very high pressure to fracture (frac) the shale open. The wells are horizontally drilled to access more shale and the amount of



three million gallons or more for each well. This quantity of water required for fracing can mean significant amounts of truck traffic on municipal and access roads.

Who is regulating this activity?

There are five principal groups with regulating natural gas exploration in Pennsylvania including three state agencies and two commissions created by federal regulations: the Department of Environmental Protection (DEP), the Department of Conservation and Natural Resources (DCNR), the Department of Transportation (PennDOT), the Susquehanna River Basin Commission (SRBC), and the Delaware River Basin Commission (DRBC). Each of these groups derives its regulatory authority from various sources including state statues and federal regulations.

How can I find out if there are any wells in our municipality?

You can register at DEP's website to receive electronic notices of any well permit applications submitted for your municipality. See the link below. Your County Planning Office is also a subscriber to this service and may be contacted for such information. www.dep.state.pa.us/enotice/

What opportunities exist for my community?

Lease values were about \$2 per acre in 2000, rose to \$175 per acre in 2005, and today are as much as \$2,800 per acre. Landowners can also receive royalty payment of 12.5 percent or more of the value of the harvested gas, depending upon their lease agreement for as long as the well is in production.

Drilling and gas production could create an increase in jobs in the region, change our population, our economy, our environment, and How does this type of gas extraction differ from the shallow our communities. The challenge and opportunity for Pennsylvanians is to use the Marcellus Shale deposit to make Pennsylvania better off in the long run, even after the natural gas has played out.

What are the possible impacts to our community?

Since the Marcellus Shale deposit is a nonrenewable natural resource, it must be viewed as a short run opportunity. The Commonwealth already has prime examples of what happens when the long run is forgotten, and is paying the price as it tries to remediate the negative impacts resulting from acid mine drainage and abandoned coal mines.

Continued on page 4

Marcellus Shale continued

Although the potential monetary gains which intrigues many private and public landowners to highly consider leasing their land, there are some issues and concerns that should be taken into consideration.

Issues such as impacts to local roads from heavy truck traffic, erosion and run-off issues, nuisances from associated noise, dust and increased truck traffic, increased demands on water suppliers, possible impact to water supplies, storage and treatment of waste "brine" water.

What proactive steps can my municipality take to minimize negative impacts and reap economic gains from the gas rush?

One of the most important things for local officials to do is to develop a good working relationship with the gas companies setting up within their area so both know with whom to talk to if issues or problems arise.

Local officials must be proactive rather than reactive and take it upon themselves to actively address the concerns of the community with the gas companies moving into the area. Beyond gas companies, officials should also address relationships with local school districts, county governments, the local business community, and other sectors of the community that will be affected either directly or indirectly with the blooming industry.

While the ability of municipalities to regulate natural gas exploration is limited by the Oil & Gas Act, two recent court cases have indicated that even though local municipalities cannot regulate the same features covered in the Oil & Gas Act, it doesn't necessarily preempt all regulations, leaving the possibility of other local regulations. Both court cases are currently on appeal, so the extent of local jurisdiction remains unclear.

One item that local municipalities can clearly regulate is the posting

and bonding of local roads. Posting and bonding municipal roads is a state law in the Vehicle Code. The Bureau of Maintenance and Operations within PennDOT is in charge of municipal road posting and bonding information.

For more information about road bonding, see PennDOT publication 221: Posting and Bonding Procedures for Municipal Highways which may be purchased from PennDOT store. ftp://ftp.dot.state.pa.us/ public/PubsForms/Publications/PUB%2012.pdf

Where can I get additional information and/or training on this subject?

Penn State Cooperative Extension has developed a Natural Gas Exploration and Leasing Team to provide the general public with answers to many of their questions. Landowners can visit their website at http://naturalgaslease.pbwiki.com: This website provides a vast amount of information regarding natural gas exploration, including attorneys who have natural gas lease experience, workshops and seminars, dates, and locations.

For more information on Penn States Natural Gas Exploration and Leasing Program and upcoming landowner information sessions, check out www.naturalgas.psu.edu online. To get a copy of the Economic and Workforce Brief, go to http://PA-Royalty-Gas.notlong.com online.

On December 10th and 11th, a Pennsylvania Natural Gas Summit: Challenges and Opportunities will be held at the Ramada Inn, 1450 South Atherton Street, State College, PA 16801. The Summit will offer four different tracks: 1. Minimizing Environmental Impacts; 2. Employment Opportunities and Training Needs; 3. Issues for Local Governments and Municipal Officials; 4. Legal Issues in Natural Gas Leasing and Development. For more information, please e-mail ConferenceInfo1@outreach.psu.edu.

2009 CDBG Funds

The first public meeting for Clearfield County FFY 2009 Entitlement Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funding will be held on Wednesday November 12, 2008 at 6:00PM in the Clearfield County Multi Service Building, second floor auditorium located at 650 Leonard Street, Clearfield. Clearfield County anticipates approximately \$260,000.00 in CDBG funds. Municipalities interested in submitting an application for CDBG funding should contact Lisa Kovalick, Community Development Specialist, at the County Planning Office to discuss their project before 4:00PM on January 5, 2009; which is the County's CDBG application deadline.

Municipalities must establish that residents of the project service area are above 51% LMI (low/moderate income households). This can be established by conducting an income survey. Applicants interested in submitting a proposal for funds this year can begin surveying residents now.

Keep in mind when submitting for CDBG project funding, your project should be well into the planning phase. Engineering and design should be underway and projects should be prepared to begin the bidding process in the fall of 2009.

Applications received by the deadline of January 5, 2009 at 4:00 PM will be reviewed for recommendation of funding, utilizing a ranking system. The selection criteria used for ranking successfully funded projects are as listed:

- The project falls into the Clearfield County Comprehensive Plan Update of 2006
- Value of the project serves the public by maintaining or creating jobs
- All components of the application for funding are understandable and complete
- The project budget includes federal, state and/or local funding
- A project timeline is included
- The applicant's governing body has the capacity to complete the project
- Whether or not CDBG funding has been received for prior projects
- Professional services are being utilized for design and guidance of the project
- Municipality has committed their local funds to the project
- The project displays regionalized efforts, by including more than one municipality

The criteria for selection will be discussed at the public meeting along with the complete request for proposal application process. All municipalities intending to apply for 2009 CDBG funds from Clearfield County are required to attend the public meeting held on Wednesday, November 12, 2008.

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New PA Business Wilds Ombudswoman



Business & Entrepreneurial Assistance Now Available Through New Pennsylvania Wilds Ombudswoman

Tataboline Brant, a Warren County native, has been named the first Pennsylvania Wilds ombudswoman. Brant will travel through the 12-county region in north

central Pennsylvania, known as the Pennsylvania Wilds, to help small business owners and aspiring entrepreneurs develop services that will encourage the growth of tourism in the region and to provide information about financial and technical assistance available from the Commonwealth.

Ms. Brant can be reached at (814) 757-9190 or tbrant@pawilds.com.

Available Funding

The Pennsylvania Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP)

Details: The program opens November 3, 2008. Helps low income people pay their heating bills through home heating energy assistance grants and crisis grants. You need not have an unpaid bill to receive home heating energy assistance. You can receive this money without being in the Cash Assistance program. No lien is placed on your property if you receive this help.

Contact: 1-866-857-7095

PHMC Technical Assistance Grants

Details: Preservation Pennsylvania encourages non-profit organizations and local government entities to fund preservation planning activities. Eligible projects include: long-range planning, including capital campaign and fundraising training; seminars to introduce preservation tools to municipal officials; project development for public programming such as architectural tours and homeowner workshops; Main Street training for preservation programs; and community visioning. Technical Assistance Grants may also be used to subsidize registration costs for conferences and training workshops.

Contact: <u>info@preservationpa.org</u> or visit <u>www.preservationpa.org/resources/other/index.php</u>

Small Business Loan Program

Details: The Pollution Prevention Assistance Account (PPAA) is a loan program administered by the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection and Department of Community and Economic Development. PPAA provides low interest loans to small businesses undertaking projects (located within the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania) that reduces waste, pollution or energy use.

Contact: Visit <u>www.depweb.state.pa.us/energy/cwp/viewasp?a=3&q=484977</u>

Land Use Planning and Technical Assistance Program (LUPTAP)

Details: Provides funding for the preparation of community comprehensive plans and the ordinances to implement them. Funding can be used in preparing and the updating of comprehensive community development plans, policies, and implementing mechanisms such as zoning ordinances, subdivision regulations, functional plans such as downtown revitalization, water resource plans, and land development regulations.

Contact: www.newpa.com/programDetail. aspx?id=100

Local Government Capital Project Loan Program (LGCPL)

Details: Low-interest loans to local government for equipment and facility needs. Local governments with populations of 12,000 or less can utilize the program for rolling stock and data processing equipment purchases or the purchase, construction, renovation, or rehabilitation of municipal facilities.

Contact: www.newpa.com/programDetail.aspx?id=96

Pollution Prevention Reimbursement (Pump & Plug UST)

Details: Owners of 6 or less storage tanks can utilize this program to reimburse the cost of pumping and plugging storage tanks.

Contact: rcarmen@state.pa.us

PA Historical & Museum Commission Grants

1. Historic Preservation Project Grants Details: Application deadline is December 1, 2008. Available funding in the categories of cultural resource surveys, national register nominations, planning and development assistance, educational and interpretive programs, and archaeology.

Contact: Karen Arnold at 717-783-9927 or kaarnold@state.pa.us

2. Archives and Records Management Grants

Details: The application deadline is December 1, 2008. Funding is available in the categories of access and preservation programs and county records improvement programs.

Contact: Jerry Ellis at 717-787-3384 or geellis@state.pa.us

3. Collections Management Project Grants

Details: The application deadline is December 1, 2008. Grant assistance is available to provide better interpretation to the public through exhibits, seminars, demonstrations, and other programs and care for the needs of musuem collections including registration, cataloguing, research, and conservation.

Contact: Edith D. Walsh at 717-214-8649 or ewalsh@state.pa.us

4. Education, Public & Local History

Details: The application deadline is December 1, 2008. Funding may be requested for the research, development and execution of public programs that present some aspect of Pennsylvania life, history or culture and to support original research and writing on some aspect of Pennsylvania life, history, and culture leading to publications, public programs, or exhibits.

Contact: Kenneth Wolensky at 717-772-0921 or kwolensky@state.pa.us

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Clearfield County Department of Planning 650 Leonard Street, Suite 110 Clearfield, PA 16830

Staff:

Jodi Brennan, Director Phone: (814) 765-5149 ext. 211 Email: ccp@clearfieldco.org

Rob Thomas, Planning Specialist Phone: (814) 765-5149 ext. 210 Email: rthomas@clearfieldco.org

Lisa Kovalick, Community Development Specialist

Phone: (814) 765-5149 ext. 312 Email: lkovalick@clearfieldco.org

Bonnie Buzzanca, Administrative Assistant Phone: (814) 765-5149 ext. 209

Upcoming Events

Training:

Posting and Bonding of Local Roads

Date: 11/6/2008 **Time:** 8 a.m. -12 p.m.

Location: North Central PA Regional Planning and Development Commission Office, Ridgeway PA. **Contact:** Barry Mayes or Matt Marusiak at 1-800-242-

5872

Winter Maintenance Date: 9/23/2008 Time: 8 a.m.—3 p.m.

Location: Goshen Twp./Clearfield Cty

116 Knobs Road Clearfield, PA 16830

Contact: Barry Mayes or Matt Marusiak at 1-800-242-

5872

Pennsylvania Natural Gas Summit

Date: 12/10-12/11/2008 **Location:** Ramada Inn

450 S. Atherton Street State College, PA 16801

Description: The Summit will offer four different tracks: 1. Minimizing Environmental Impacts; 2. Employment Opportunities and Training Needs; 3. Issues for Local Governments and Municipal Officials; 4. Legal Issues in Natural Gas Leasing and

Development

Contact: For more information, please e-mail ConferenceInfo1@outreach.psu.edu.

PA Historical & Museum Commission Grant

Workshop Date: 10/08/08

Location: Temple University Harrisburg, PA **Contact:** (717) 214-8649

New Procedures for submitting your PennDOT and DCED forms

DCED forms

Date: 9/29/08 and 9/30/08

Time: One A.M. and One P.M. session Location: District 2-0 Building 1924-30 Daisy Street Clearfield, PA 16830

Contact: (814) 765-0583

Essential Tools for Effective Municipal Operations

Understanding Community Trends

Date: 9/29/08 **Time:** 7-9 p.m.

Location: 911 Center, McKean County

Description: Learn basic ground rules and techniques to facilitate discussions and public meetings, including how to deal with challenging or difficult facilitation

situations.

Contact: Terri Dickow, 1-800-232-7722

How to Select and Work with a Consultant

Date: 9/17/08 **Time:** 5:30 to 9 p.m.

Location: Days Inn Penn State 240 S. Pough St. State College, PA 16801

Cost: \$30.00

Description: Municipalities hire consultants for a variety of tasks. Consultants can make or break a project. Picking the right firm and working closely with it is very important. This workshop will explore how to choose a consultant that is right for your project.

Contact: 717-763-0930

Developing and Managing Your Municipal Budget

Date: 9/24/08 **Time:** 8:30 to 4 p.m. **Cost:** \$60.00

Location: Days Inn Penn State 240 S. Pough St. State College, PA 16801

Description: This course is designed to help municipal staff reduce budget stress by providing strategies to improve the year-round budget management process. Specifically, we will demonstrate how to set up,

implement, and monitor your budget.

Contact: 717-763-0930

PA Historical & Museum Commission Grant Workshop

Date: 10/03/08 **Time:** 1-4 p.m.

Location: Pennsylvania College of Technology

12880 Route 6 Wellsboro, PA 16910

Contact: Edith Walsh at 717-214-8649 or

ewalsh@state.pa.us

Gas Drilling Workshop for Municipal Officials

Date: 10/15/08 **Time:** 7-9 p.m.

Location: Bald Eagle High School in Wingate Description: This workshop is designed to provide relevant information to municipal officials on issues such as road bonding, water consumption, and

such as road bonding, water consumption, and emergency response related to the Marcellus Gas rush currently underway in Pennsylvania.

Contact: Centre County Planning & Development

Office at 814-335-6791