



# Environmental News

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Jan. 15, 2025



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Welcome to the January issue of the Delaware County Environmental Clearinghouse newsletter, which brings you local and national environmental news and events. As of now, the newsletter is being sent to the leaders of Delaware County environmental organizations. We urge you to forward the newsletters to your members so they can sign up for it as well. And please visit our website, [enviodelco.org](http://enviodelco.org). *The Clearinghouse Team.*

[Check out these Upcoming Events on enviodelco.org!](#)



## [Delco Conservation District Leads Restoration of Stoney Creek Riparian Zones](#)

Reprinted from Delaware County Weekly Newsletter

The Delaware County Conservation District (DCCD), led by Director Karen Wilwol, spearheaded an impactful restoration project at Moore's Lake Park, also known as The Hollow, in Prospect Park earlier this winter.

This large-scale planting effort, conducted in collaboration with the Borough of Prospect Park and the Darby Creek Valley Association (DCVA), successfully enhanced the riparian zone of Stoney Creek with 170 newly planted trees and shrubs. "This project demonstrates the impact we can achieve when volunteers, municipalities, and organizations work together," said Karen Wilwol, Director of DCCD. "Healthy riparian zones play a vital role in protecting our waterways and ensuring a resilient natural environment for future generations." [Read more...](#)

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## [2024 Was a Great Year for Grid-Boosting Battery Energy Storage](#)

Canary Media – Dec. 23, 2024

Batteries reshaped the power grid in California and Texas, showing the rest of the country what's possible when the tech is allowed to flourish. Energy storage used to be the cute companion nipping at the heels of solar and wind. Now it's increasingly a main attraction, reshaping both the power grid and the automotive industry, and 2024 was easily the sector's biggest year yet. [Read more...](#)

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## [Geothermal Has Vast Potential to Meet the World's Clean Energy Needs](#)

Canary Media – Jan. 3, 2025

Thanks to next-generation technologies, geothermal has the potential to produce more electricity than any clean energy source but solar, per a recent [International Energy Agency analysis](#). About **16.3 gigawatts** of geothermal power capacity is installed worldwide. In 2022, geothermal



supplied about **97 terawatt-hours** of electricity, or only 0.3 percent of total global electricity generation. [Read more...](#)



## [Wind and Solar Overtook Coal Worldwide in 2024](#)

Canary Media – Dec. 20, 2024

In a first for the country, solar and wind generated more electricity than coal over most of 2024. The two renewable energy sources provided a record 17 percent of U.S. electricity from January to November, while coal contributed 15 percent, according to [data from think tank Ember](#).

[Read more...](#)



## [PennEnvironment: What to Do with E-Waste](#)

Do you know what makes up the fastest-growing portion of municipal waste? Electronics. Phones, TVs, computers—these electronic devices aren't just filling our landfills. They also contain heavy metals like lead and other toxic materials, which can seep into the air and groundwater, threatening wildlife and humans alike. [Read more...](#)

## [The Cleantech Companies that Didn't Make it in 2024—Lessons Learned](#)

Canary Media – Dec. 12, 2024

From carbon removal startups to solar icons, the climate world saw a number of corporate flameouts this year. Here are some takeaways and lessons learned. [Read more...](#)

## [How Cities and Towns Across America Are Sharing Recycling Ideas](#)

National League of Cities — Dec. 19, 2024

Since the launch of the Recycle Right pledge in April, [more than 100](#) cities, towns and villages across the country have taken the pledge and begun sharing their stories and experiences in building more awareness around proper recycling practices. Communities are not only explaining the [reasons behind their recycling initiatives](#) but also detailing their successes and ongoing efforts to address the “how” of proper recycling. From challenges specific to their communities to general confusion about proper recycling habits, local leaders’ dedication to improving recycling efforts highlights the collective effort needed to advance sustainable practices nationwide. [Read more...](#)

Follow [Climate.gov](https://www.climate.gov) for a one-stop government site for climate news, information, features and maps monitoring climate change around the world.

## [Environmentalists Worry about Trump Admin Impact on Clean Energy Programs, Progress](#)

Spotlight PA — Dec. 24, 2024

As a new presidential administration prepares to take power, people involved in fledgling clean energy projects in Pennsylvania say they're watching closely for policy changes that could hamstring their funding or make the initiatives less environmentally friendly. [Read more...](#)



## [Republicans May Preserve Carbon Capture Subsidies Because They Help the Fossil Fuel Industry Pump More](#)

Oil & Gas Watch — Dec. 19, 2024

Funded by billions of dollars in new taxpayer subsidies approved by the Biden Administration, more than [160 projects](#) have been proposed across the U.S. to capture carbon dioxide pollution from industry and bury it underground as a strategy to address climate change. [Read more...](#)

## [Solar for All Likely Protected under Biden IRA](#)

Floodlight News – Dec. 18, 2024

It may be too late for Donald Trump to follow through on threats to repeal outgoing President Joe Biden's Inflation Reduction Act — at least that appears to be the case for the \$7 billion Solar For All Program.

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## [How Heat Pumps Can Keep Momentum under Trump 2.0](#)

Canary Media – Dec. 18, 2024

Heat pumps are the single biggest tool for U.S. households to cut carbon emissions and curb unhealthy air pollution. They're also far more efficient than the fossil-fueled or electric resistance heating appliances found in most homes, meaning most households can save on utility bills by purchasing one. But making it as cheap and simple as possible for households to replace their fossil-fueled boilers, furnaces, and water heaters with electric heat pumps involves a lot of hard work — and not a little bit of extra money. Heat pumps, which are reversible air conditioners, can come with significant up-front costs. [Read More...](#)

## [Historian Heather Cox Richardson Recounts the History of the Clean Water Act on its 50th Anniversary](#)

December 16, 2024, was the fiftieth anniversary of the Safe Drinking Water Act, signed into law on December 16, 1974, by President Gerald R. Ford, a Republican. The measure required the Environmental Protection Agency to set maximum contaminant levels for drinking water and required states to comply with them. It protected the underground sources of drinking water and called for emergency measures to protect public health if a dangerous contaminant either was in or was likely to enter a public water system. [Read More...](#)



### [TAKE ACTION! Delco Homeowners Need to Act on Federal Tax Credits for Electrification, Solar, EVs Now](#)

Canary Media – Dec. 16, 2024

The election of Donald Trump throws a big question mark over the fate of clean energy investments under President Joe Biden's signature climate law, the Inflation Reduction Act. During his campaign, Trump promised to roll back IRA funds, including billions of dollars for households to buy new heat pumps, rooftop solar, electric vehicles, and other clean energy alternatives. It's too soon to say how many of Trump's pledges will end up materializing. Climate advocates argue that one reason for optimism is the proven popularity of the IRA's consumer incentives. In 2023, over 3.4 million households received \$8 billion in tax credits to make their homes more energy efficient. [Read more...](#)

### [TAKE ACTION! Help Stop LNG Export Terminals under Anti-Environment Trump Administration](#)

Action Network

We need your help to stop liquefied natural gas (LNG) exports! Last year, the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) put a pause on its authorizations for LNG exports. They have now released the report updating how they decide whether a proposed LNG export project is in the public interest based on public health impacts, environmental/climate impacts, and economic impacts. The extensive report explains that approving more LNG exports will undermine critical climate goals, increasing greenhouse gas emissions; bring economic hardship and instability for consumers; and harm public health, especially in communities already overburdened by pollution. [Read more...](#)

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