

Southeastern PA RC&D Tidbits



Southeastern Pennsylvania Resource Conservation & Development Council a regional 501(c)3 nonprofit organization proudly serving the counties of Berks, Bucks, Chester, Delaware, Lehigh, Montgomery, and Northampton

Southeastern PA RC&D Council earns Circle of Diamonds Status



Diamonds Program is to highlight the work that RC&D Councils perform in their communities and to recognize good stewardship of the non-profit RC&D Councils.

Circle of Diamond Members are publicly accountable and realize that their accountability directly relates to their Council's structure, processes, and outcomes attained. Membership in the National Association of RC&D Councils' Circle of Diamonds shows the honesty, integrity, and strong commitment by a Council to the RC&D mission.

At the November Council Meeting, Jack Preston, Presi-

dent of the PA Association presented Council Chair Karen Holm with an symbolic diamond in honor of the Council's achievements.

Directors, Council Program Assistant, and Council Volunteer were each given a small symbolic blue diamonds in recognition of their efforts in helping the Council achieve Circle of Diamonds status.

Seven RC&D Councils in Pennsylvania qualified for the Circle of Diamonds Program in 2010. Nationally, approximately 60% of RC&D Councils have been awarded Circle of Diamonds status.

Inside this issue:

Meet new Director	2
Farm Bioenergy	2
Investing in RC&D	2
Conservation Outreach	3
Child Car Seat Donations	3
Stormwater Collaborative	3
Biofuels Conference	4

In October, the Southeastern PA RC&D was notified by the National Association of Resource Conservation and Development Councils that it had been awarded Circle of Diamonds status.

The purpose of the Circle of

Council Website Updated

Ten years is a long time. That is how long the Council has been using the current format of its website. While it is an excellent website providing information about the Council and its activities, there was a need for a more current web-

site using the latest technology. The Council has hired a leading website design firm to create the new website.

Director Art Lukoff, is leading the Council's efforts and working with the website de-

signers to create a modern website that is informative, easy for visitors to navigate, and can be quickly updated.

The new website is expected to be up and running in early spring 2011.

New Council Director

The Council welcomes new Bucks County Director Jeanne Scanlon. Jeanne brings a variety of business and non-profit experience to the Council.

She has worked with several Bucks County nonprofit organizations, private foundations, as well as serving as a grant reviewer for the US Department of Agriculture’s Farmers’ Market Promotion Program.

Prior to moving to Bucks



County, Jeanne worked for several financial firms in New York City.

Besides serving as a RC&D Director, Jeanne is also completing a Masters in Community and Regional Planning from Temple University.

Jeanne first learned about the Council by attending the 2010 Annual Meeting and was intrigued by the variety of projects and the community challenges the Council addresses.

Welcome Jeanne! We look forward to benefiting from your wisdom and talents.

“Never doubt that a small thoughtful committed group of people can change the world. Indeed it is the only thing that ever has”

Farm Bioenergy Project

The Southeastern PA RC&D Council is leading a project that will support local agriculture, stimulate economic development in region, protect the environment, and reduce America’s dependency on foreign oil.

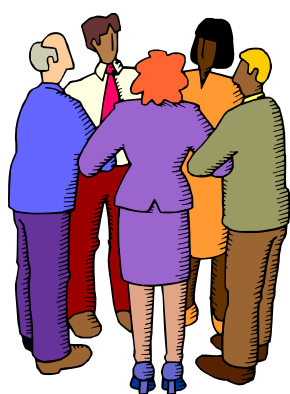
The Council hopes to build a mobile processing unit called the Kwesinator to convert

farm raised biomass into bio-oil, biochar, and a usable synthetic gas through a process called fast pyrolysis.

Southeastern PA RC&D wants to incubate this new technology because it will lead to the creation of green jobs, new businesses, and provide another market for farmers’ crops.

Other project partners include the USDA Ag Research Service, Montgomery County Chapter of the Farm Bureau, Montgomery County—Penn State Cooperative Extension, and USDA Natural Resource Conservation Service.

The Council is seeking grants and business partners to help fund the project.



Why you should invest in Southeastern PA RC&D

The Council is working hard to promote and enhance Southeastern Pennsylvania’s natural and community resources. Our projects are focused on trying to meet basic environmental and community needs in the region. With less federal and state funding available, we need your support to fulfill our mission.

Your membership fees and donation could be worth double or triple their face value because they can be used as leverage or match for government and foundation grants.

To ensure transparency and accountability, the Council registers with the PA Bureau of Charitable Organizations (registration does not mean

endorsement) and has its financial records audited by a Certified Public Accountant every year.

Memberships start at \$40 and donations are acknowledged and fully tax deductible as allowed under the law.

Visit www.separcd.org for membership and donation information.

Outreach to Small Farmers

In an effort to assist small specialty crop, organic, and nontraditional farmers in the region, the Southeastern PA RC&D Council has contracted with Ian Phelps as an Outreach Specialist.

Ian Phelps is a lifelong ag producer from Lehigh County and a Delaware Valley College graduate.

Ian will be visiting farmers in Berks, Bucks, Chester, Delaware, Lehigh, Montgomery, and Northampton Counties to

explain the many USDA conservation programs. He can also assist farmers in prepar-



ing their applications for the conservation programs.

Later this year he plans on organizing several on-farm meetings for farmers to meet, see conservation practices, and discuss the conservation funding programs.

Farmers are encouraged to contact Ian if they would like to discuss the various USDA conservation programs. He can be reached by sending an email to ianphelps@enter.net or calling 610-346-9037

Eastern Delaware County Stormwater Collaborative

Progress continues on the formation of a multi-municipal organization to address stormwater management in small urban communities. Representatives from over a half dozen municipalities in Eastern Delaware County have been working on the formal agreement and the duties of the collaborative. The group is also in the process of testing a comput-

erized tracking tool that will help municipalities record staff time and expenses for stormwater related activities. Thanks to funding from the US EPA and The William Penn Foundation, the Southeastern PA RC&D Council has been able to contract with a consultant and also legal counsel to assist the group.

The Delaware County Planning Department and Delaware County Conservation District have also been sharing their skills and expertise with the group. Some benefits of the Collaborative will be:

- Cost-savings
- Consistency across municipal boundaries
- Greater potential to leverage outside resources

**“Be the
change you
want to see in
the world”**

Car Seat Donations

Because of the current economic conditions, the Directors wanted to donate child car seats leftover from a council project to individuals and families who are experiencing difficult times and needing a car seat to safely transport a child.

The child car seats were given to Child Home & Community in Bucks County and to the Community Action Agency of Delaware County.



Council Chair Karen L. Holm is shown giving two child car seats to Edward T. Coleman, CEO of the Community Action Agency of Delaware County.

Southeastern Pennsylvania Resource Conservation & Development

1000 East Walnut Street, Suite 704
Perkasie, PA 18944-5463

Phone: 215-453-9527 Ext. 5

FAX: 877-265-1846

Email: chairman@separcd.org

**A nonprofit organization that
makes things happen!**

We are on the web!
www.separcd.org

The Southeastern Pennsylvania Resource Conservation and Development Council is a regional 501(c)3 nonprofit organization serving the counties of Berks, Bucks, Chester, Delaware, Lehigh, Montgomery and Northampton Counties. The Council has been working with local community groups and agencies to promote conservation and enhancement of natural and community resources for over 10 years. It is 1 of 9 RC&D Councils in Pennsylvania and 1 of 375 in the United States and its territories. Southeastern PA RC&D works in partnership with the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service.

To learn more about the Council and its projects:

- 1) Visit website- www.separcd.org
- 2) Visit the Council's Facebook Page, www.facebook.com/Southeastern Pennsylvania Resource Conservation and Development Council
- 3) Send an email to chairman@separcd.org
- 4) Call the office at 215-453-9527 Ext. 5

SEPA RC&D and USDA-NRCS are equal opportunity employers and providers

Coming soon: Bio-Fuels for the Future Conference

On Saturday, May 14th, the Southeastern PA RC&D Council will be co-sponsoring a "Bio-Fuels for the Future Conference" at the Berks County Ag Center.

It will be an opportunity for farmers, landowners, school board members and staff, municipal officials, and representatives of environmental organizations to learn how biomass grown on local farms can play an important role in providing sustainable, dependable, and ecologically sound energy supplies.

Conference Topics include

- Fuels for School & Beyond Program
- Converting Biomass into Bio-oil
- Commercial user of Biomass
- Wildlife Benefits of Switchgrass
- Biomass Panel Discussion
- Government Programs that support growing biomass

Other Conference Sponsors include Reading Electric Renewables, PA Department of Conservation and Natural Resources, Berks County - Penn State Cooperative Extension and USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service.

Date: Saturday, May 14th

Time: 9:00 AM—3:30 PM

Location: Berks Ag Center

Cost: \$20

More Information:

www.separcd.org

215-453-9527 Ext. 5

