

## Safe Drinking Water



Drinking water in Pennsylvania comes from both surface water and groundwater. While many people have public water supplies, there are also over 1 million private wells in Pennsylvania. Private water supplies are not covered by statewide regulations in PA and many are contaminated.

**Find Out More:** <https://tinyurl.com/3rf5vjrn>

## Harmful Algal Blooms



Certain types of algae produce a toxin that can be deadly to livestock, pets, and even humans. These algae have occurred in large blooms in some of Pennsylvania's lakes.

**Find Out More:** <https://tinyurl.com/4zrntmmm>

## Urban Stormwater Runoff



Our towns, cities, and neighborhoods contain a lot of pavement and rooftops where rain water turns into stormwater runoff. This causes flooding, erosion, and pollution in our communities.

**Find Out More:** <https://tinyurl.com/mpc75s55>

## Wastewater



After we use water, it is returned to the environment. Most water goes through wastewater treatment first. In PA, some wastewater treatment facilities, including private septic systems, are outdated and failing to clean water properly before it re-enters the environment.

**Find Out More:** <https://tinyurl.com/35bc4naf>

## Stream Impairment



Many of Pennsylvania's rivers and streams are not clean and pure enough to support fish and other aquatic life; recreation; water supply for drinking, agriculture, and industry; and other protected uses.

**Find Out More:** <https://tinyurl.com/4enwbp6z>

## Emerging Contaminants



Emerging Contaminants are a diverse collection of thousands of chemical substances that range from prescription, veterinary, and over-the-counter therapeutic drugs to cosmetics, sunscreens, and fragrances. They are a threat to PA's water quality and impact drinking water and aquatic life.

**Find Out More:** <https://tinyurl.com/yckt4pmx>

## Riparian Buffers



Riparian buffers are the trees, shrubs, and grasses planted along streams that play an important role in maintaining the health of our waterways. They act as filters for sediments and pollutants to help keep them from reaching the water.

**Find Out More:** <https://tinyurl.com/yc428hs3>

## Agricultural Impacts



Agriculture is PA's #1 Industry. Agricultural runoff can carry potential pollutants into streams, lakes and groundwater supplies. Pennsylvania has identified sediment and nutrients as the most extensive agricultural contaminants affecting surface water quality, while nutrients and agrichemicals are the major concerns for groundwater.

**Find Out More:** <https://tinyurl.com/2njaj7hv>

## Energy Industry



We use a lot of energy to support our daily lives. To make that energy, a lot of potential impacts can take place in our watersheds. From acid mine drainage to shale gas fracking wastewater disposal and even installation of natural gas transmission lines, implementing best practices are key to protecting our water resources.

**Find Out More:** <https://tinyurl.com/44kikxk3>

## Invasive Species



Invasive species are living things that have been moved from their native homes to a new location and then spread in a manner that is harmful to that new ecosystem. Invasive species threaten native plants and wildlife, on land and in water, by overwhelming or outcompeting them, often killing them off. Once these species are introduced into an ecosystem, it is typically very difficult to get rid of them.

**Find Out More:** <https://tinyurl.com/374kk758>

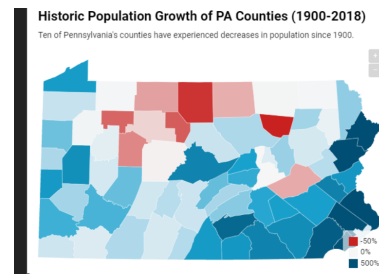
## Climate Change



Climate change refers to significant, long-term changes in weather patterns that result in warming temperatures and sea-level rise, unpredictable weather patterns and increased storm intensity." The effects of climate change threaten the environment, human health and well-being, and the economy.

**Find Out More:** <https://tinyurl.com/yeym4crh>

## Population Growth & Development



While the overall population of Pennsylvania has declined, land use and development across the state has increased. The suburban sprawl and development of farm and forest lands threaten PA water quality, degrades natural ecosystems, and increases greenhouse gas emissions.

**Find Out More:** <https://tinyurl.com/muemd8c9>



## Wildlife Threats



Loss of habitat due to development, forest fragmentation, and water pollution, continues to impact species in decline. In addition, climate change will likely usher in broad-scale habitat changes that will affect our species in ways we cannot fully predict. Three of Pennsylvania's wildlife symbols are impacted by these issues including the ruffed grouse, the brook trout and the hellbender.

**Find Out More:** <https://tinyurl.com/svu4utp3>

## Forestry



Pennsylvania is the largest producer of hardwoods in the country. Forests are of value not only because of their use in manufacturing, but also in keeping the environment healthy. Trees offer shade to cool the land and water, habitat for wildlife, and more. Pennsylvania's changing forests may be impacting our local watersheds..

**Find Out More:** <https://tinyurl.com/2p97hksi>

## Environmental Justice



Environmental Justice has been defined as the fair treatment and meaningful involvement of all people regardless of race, color, national origin, or income with respect to the development, implementation, and enforcement of environmental laws, regulations, and policies.

**Find Out More:** <https://tinyurl.com/34srn2c>

To find more links for the issue cards, visit:

[https://drive.google.com/file/d/1\\_S6M5coRiflbSOTHiY9YZrMczDviJ1h2/view?usp=sharing](https://drive.google.com/file/d/1_S6M5coRiflbSOTHiY9YZrMczDviJ1h2/view?usp=sharing)