

2000-2025

HISTORY OF PERC



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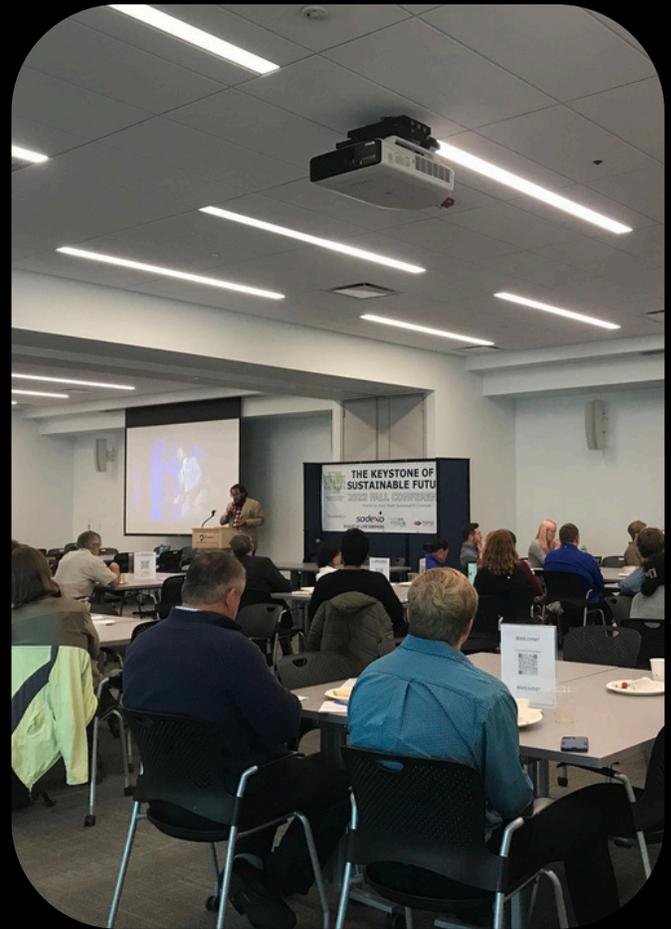
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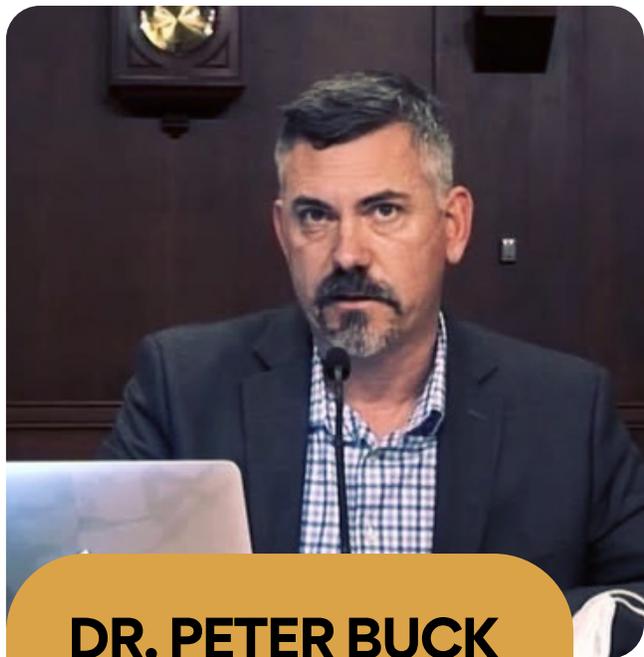
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LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT



DR. PETER BUCK

President,
Penn State Sustainability
Director for Education

Today, the Pennsylvania Environmental Resource Consortium (PERC) looks back on two decades of action for environment and sustainability across Pennsylvania's colleges and universities. We have provided thousands of students, faculty, staff, and community partners a platform to share knowledge and take action towards a sustainable future.

As a consortium of higher education institutions, we take every opportunity to be curious, to learn, and invite others to do the same. Therefore, we explore curriculum, operations, student life, and community engagement across our network to engage the challenges and opportunities of the Anthropocene.

We recognize that Pennsylvania occupies a special place in the world. We are the nation's second biggest electricity and natural gas exporter, the home of over 15 million acres of forests, and more miles of cold trout streams than almost any state in the nation. We are the home of the United States Constitution and a state with the "right to clean air, pure water, and to the preservation of the natural, scenic, historic and esthetic values of the environment" enshrined in our Commonwealth's constitution. Adding to Pennsylvania's richness, we also have many colleges and universities of different sizes and legacies, from small liberal arts schools like Dickinson and Haverford to giants like Penn State.

Over the last two decades, we have coordinated and catalyzed efforts that make a difference. On climate change, we have encouraged emissions reduction by leading food recovery, provided the first platform for Pennsylvania schools to share greenhouse gas inventories, and organized one of the nation's largest Power Dialogs in 2016 where students commented on the Clean Power Plan.

Our founder, Don Brown, worked with staff at the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection to create the Local Climate Action Program and ICLEI: Local Governments for Sustainability which has supported greenhouse gas inventorying and climate planning in approximately 70 of Pennsylvania's local governments.

Recognizing that we are part of the environment and the environment is within us, PERC has run educational programs and conferences focused on the intersection of environmental justice, the United Nations sustainable development goals, and the social determinants of health. Keynote speakers have included co-recipients of the 2007 Nobel Prize, Richard Alley and Michael E. Mann, manager of the USA Sustainable Development Solutions Network Caroline Fox, founder of Black Birders Week Tykee James, and many others.

Of course, we cannot overlook the present day. We are just days past the devastating Eaton and Palisades fire that took place during the hottest January ever recorded. 2024 was the hottest year ever recorded at the end of the hottest decade ever recorded, capping a string of decades hotter than the last. Inequality, injustice, and anti-democratic forces are on the rise and already impacting higher education.

The American Association for University Professors has labeled the current presidential administration as “poised to accelerate attacks on higher education as a public good.” We live in a troubled an uncertain world.

Today, I am grateful for the students who have worked with and been recognized by PERC over the last 20 years. Each year, we recognize them through our Campus Sustainability Champions award. They invest their time, talent, and love in making their campuses and communities better places to live. Whether by developing sustainable campus food systems or advancing human rights, they are the ones taking the mantle. They are ultimately why we are here.

2025 has been an interesting year for PERC. We focused on creating high-quality programming and supporting communities. We supported the Sustainable Energy Fund's Energy Path conference, hosted Directors and Chief Sustainability Officers from across Pennsylvania's colleges, supported on-the-ground organizations taking action for environmental justice, and—of course—recognized our students' accomplishments.

We thank you for your support and engagement with PERC.



Peter Buck
PERC President





ORGANIZATIONAL OVERVIEW

MISSION (TO-DO)

“PERC enables Pennsylvania’s colleges and universities to share knowledge and take action towards a sustainable future.”

VISION

- Through collaboration, research, knowledge sharing and action taking, PERC schools will be seen as “momentum generators” toward statewide sustainability
- PERC will be a leading model for high education sustainability
- Member schools will be models of sustainability and find it easy for members to connect and

STRUCTURE

- Formed as a 501(c)3 non-profit organization with a committee structure defined by organizational by-laws
- Dues- and sponsorship-based consortium structure
- Paid positions include the Executive Director and Associate Director
- Unpaid positions include a president, the president’s council, the executive committee, and institutional representatives
 - Executive Committee positions include a secretary and treasurer

PERC INSTITUTIONS

OVER THE YEARS

* MEMBERS

- Allegheny College
- Bucknell University
- Chatham University
- Dickinson College
- Elizabethtown College
- Franklin & Marshall College
- Gettysburg College
- Harrisburg Area Community College
- Lebanon Valley College
- Lycoming College
- Mansfield University
- Mercyhurst College
- Messiah University
- Millersville University
- Montgomery County Community College
- Penn State University
- Robert Morris University
- Shippensburg University
- Susquehanna University
- Swarthmore College
- Villanova University
- West Chester University
- Widener University
- Wilkes University

* AFFILIATES

- Albright College
- Bloomsburg University
- Carnegie Mellon University
- Cheyney University of Pennsylvania
- Clarion University (PennWest)
- Delaware Valley University
- Drexel University
- Duquesne University
- East Stroudsburg University
- Edinboro University
- Gannon University
- Juniata College
- King's College
- Kutztown University
- Lafayette College
- Lehigh University
- Lock Haven University
- Moravian University
- Thomas Jefferson University
- Saint Francis University
- Saint Joseph's University
- Slippery Rock University
- Temple University
- University of Pennsylvania
- University of Pittsburgh
- Ursinus College
- Wilson College
- York College of Pennsylvania

STATE-LEVEL COLLABORATORS

Over the years, PERC has worked with and advocated before several state-level organizations, such as the ones below. This work included data analysis projects, report writing, and creating environmental standards. While this work is not currently under PERC's scope, PERC is proud of its historical relationships with these and other governmental bodies.



DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION



DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITY & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT



DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

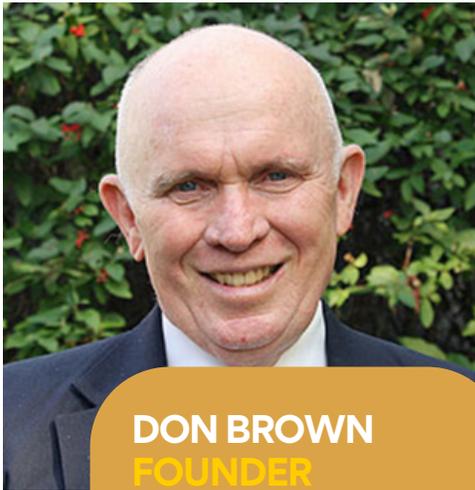


PENNSYLVANIA STATE CAPITOL

KEY PERC LEADERS

OVER THE YEARS

Over the years, PERC has had a suite of wonderful and talented Executive Committee members. Of those individuals, there have been a few exemplary leaders that were fundamental to the organization's success. PERC thanks these key leaders for their unwavering dedication over the lifespan of this organization.



DON BROWN
FOUNDER
WIDENER UNIVERSITY



RICHARD BOWDEN
+20 YEAR EXEC
ALLEGHENY COLLEGE

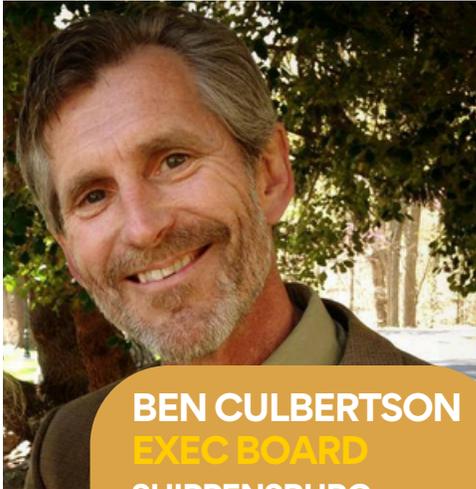


KATHY SCHREIBER
EXEC BOARD
MILLERSVILLE
UNIVERSITY



NEIL LEARY
EXEC BOARD
DICKINSON COLLEGE

KEY PERC LEADERS



BEN CULBERTSON
EXEC BOARD
SHIPPENSBURG
UNIVERSITY



AURORA WINSLADE
EXEC BOARD
SWARTHMORE
COLLEGE



ERIC FOLEY
EXEC BOARD
PENN STATE UNIVERSITY



SUSANNAH BARSOM
EXEC BOARD
PENN STATE UNIVERSITY



BRANDI ROBINSON
EXEC BOARD
PENN STATE UNIVERSITY



CHRIS STEUER
EXEC BOARD
MILLERSVILLE
UNIVERSITY

BOARD MEMBERS

OVER THE YEARS

* **AURORA WINSLADE**
2016-18, 2020

* **BEN CULBERTSON**
2016-23

* **BRANDI ROBINSON**
2016-18

* **BRANDON HOOVER**
2016

* **CHRIS STEUER**
2016-20, 2024

* **DINA EL-MOGAZI**
2015-17

* **DON BROWN**
2000-20

* **ERIK FOLEY**
2011-13, 2015-17

* **JAMES MAY**
2016-17

* **JOSH HOOPER**
2015-2024

* **KATHERINE STRAUB**
2015-17

* **KATHY SCHREIBER**
2015-16

* **KEN SHULTES**
2020-25

* **LIESEL SCHWARZ**
2015-2017

* **MICHAEL MUMPER**
2019-25

* **NATHAN GRAF**
2018-19

* **NEIL LEARY**
2014-19

* **PETER BUCK**
2016-25

* **PETER WALKER**
2016-20

* **RICHARD BOWDEN**
2000-25

* **RYAN ADAMS**
2015-16

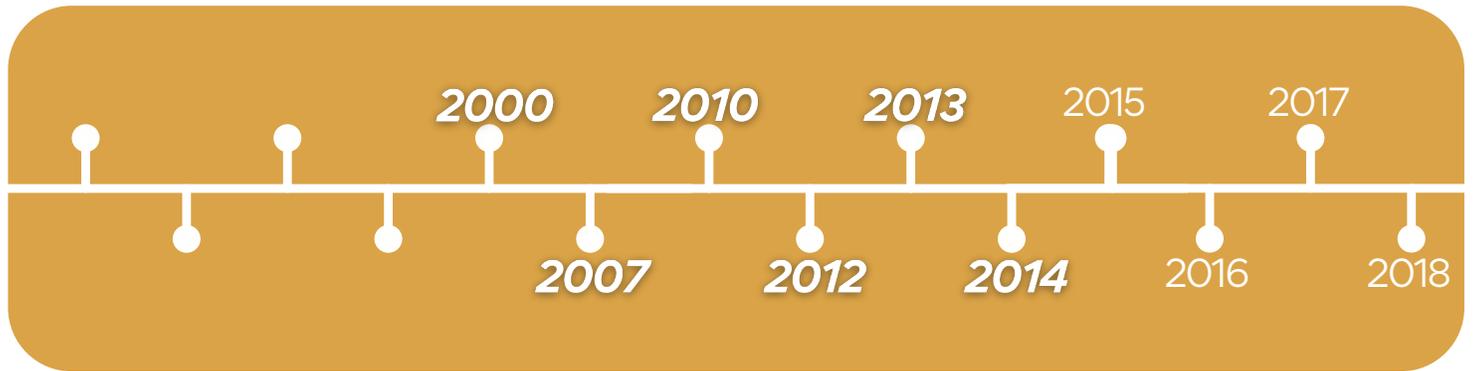
* **SHAUNNA BARNHART**
2017-25

* **SUSANNAH BARSOM**
2014-16

* **THOMAS SIMPSON**
2014-25

* **TIM HAWKINS**
2014

PERC'S TIMELINE



2000

- Don Brown, a DEP employee, founds the PA Consortium for Interdisciplinary Environmental Policy (PCIEP)
- Founded due to the “few connections between academia and state natural resource or environmental agencies.”

LATE 2000s

- St. Francis University established on-campus wind energy with PCIEP members able to purchase energy from

2010

- Switched from PCIEP to PERC
- Became a dues- and sponsorship-based consortium
- Established new structure
- 1st Fall conference

2012

- *Leveraging Strengths* Fall conference
- *Making Progress: A Climate Change Conference*

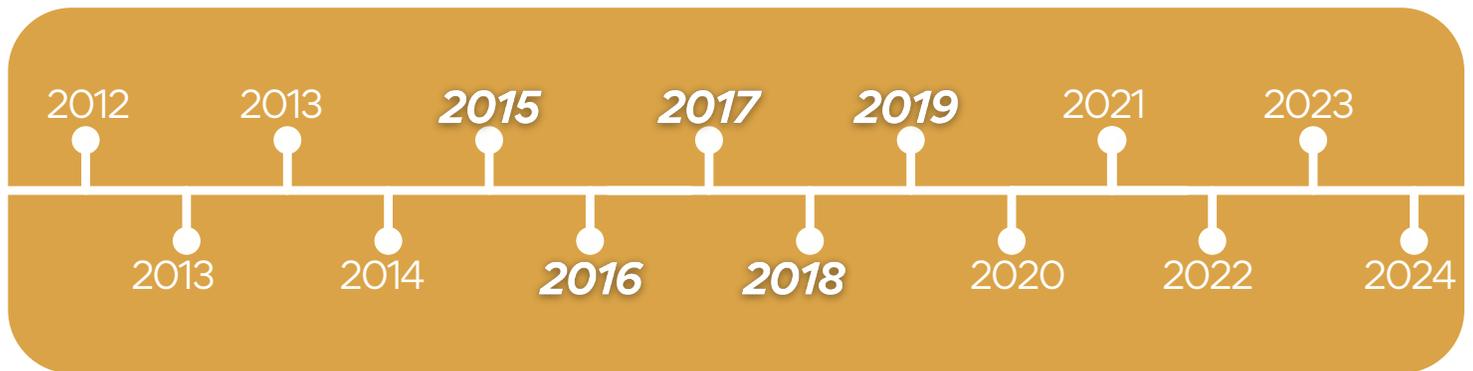
2013

- Ran climate change education programs for member universities
- 1st PERC Campus Sustainability Champions
- Established the Pennsylvania Higher Education Food Recovery Challenge
- PERC’s Commonwealth Report to the PA State Capitol
- *Leading the Change: Fall conference*

2014

- 1st EnergyPath Conference and Expo
- *Cooling the Curriculum* Workshop
- PERC COP 20 Side Event

PERC'S TIMELINE



2015

- Climate change education symposium
- Teaching Climate Change event
- *Building Bridges*: Annual conference

2016

- *A Climate for Change*: Student sustainability symposium at Chatham University
- *PA Power Dialogue* events on implementing the Clean Power Plan
- *Changing Times*: Annual conference
- *Building Sustainability from the Inside Out*: Workshop



Changing Times Annual Conference, 2016

2017

- *Safe Climate PA*: Student conference

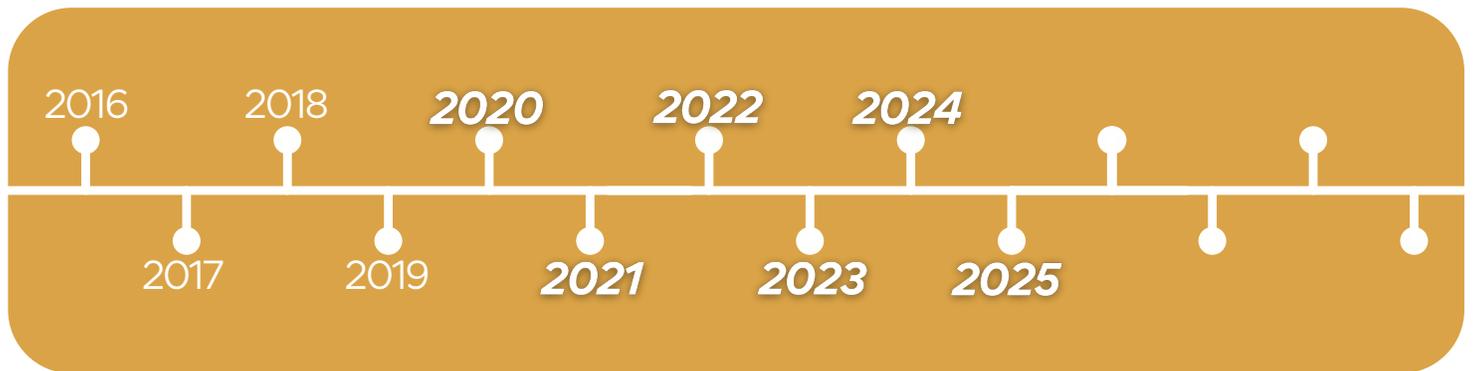
2018

- *Defending our Futures*: Conference

2019

- *Blueprint for the Future*: Annual conference with US SDSN speaker

PERC'S TIMELINE



2020

- *Partners by Nature*: Webinar series
- *Making it Work*: Annual conference

2021

- EJ in PA virtual event to activate local EJ hubs in PA
- *Partners by Nature*: Webinar series
- PERC held committees and programming to developed LCAP for the DEP

2022

- Ran an environmental health working group
- *The Keystone of a Sustainable Future*: Annual conference

2024

- 12th PERC Campus Sustainability Champions

2025

- Recipient PA non-profits selected as EJ in PA awardees
- *Under Increasing Uncertainty*: Webinar series
- 13th PERC Campus Sustainability Champions and celebration
- PERC's bi-monthly newsletter
- Spring *Sustainability Leaders Conference*



Sustainability Leaders Conference, 2025



CAMPUS SUSTAINABILITY CHAMPIONS

Initiated in 2013, the Campus Sustainability Champion award program aims to recognize exceptional individuals for their efforts in promoting sustainability in their lives, whether through academics, on their campus, or in the larger global community.

ELIGIBLE NOMINEES

* **Student Nominees:** Institutions may nominate up to three individual students or one student group, with no group size limit.

* **Non-student Nominees:** Institutions may nominate one individual that is faculty, staff, or otherwise connected to the institution.

200

Campus Sustainability Champions since 2013



20

Institutions with Sustainability Champions



OUR CHAMPIONS

OVER THE YEARS

* 2013

Allegheny College Food for Sustainability Project, Stephen Durfee, Scott Perkins, Bob Iodice, Justice McCarty, Alyssa Windholtz, Bryttani Craigle, Michelle Krall, Ryan Adams, Lycoming College Student Senate, Jessica Holtzaple, Nadine Garner, Penn State Greener Behrend Student Club, Ann Bolla Quinn, Alex Stanish, Penn State Mont Alto Sustainability Committee, Steve Maurszewski, Rachel Passmore, Shippensburg University Campus Organic Farm, Sarah Komisar, Kathy Straub, Michelle Velez, Kaloni Baylor, Paul Morgan

* 2014

John Anderson, Nic Auwaerter, Josh and Zach Berliner, Stephanie Bradley, Lynette Dooley, Nick Iula, Briana Krewson, Mariah Murphy, Liesel Schwarz, Helen Takacs, Christopher Uhl, Caryl Waggett, Susan Washko

* 2015

Michelle Barakat, Jerry Coleman, Sean Cornell, Annalisa Crannell, Bennett Gould, Victoria Gluszko, Johanna Hripto, Julian Jones, Wendy Kedzierski, Alice Lenthe, David Mortensen, Edward Nase, Marie-Noelle Nwokolo, Claire Rodgers, Taylor Ryan, Robert Valgenti, Julie Vastine

* 2016

Hannah Albright, Betsy Boulton, Kelly Boulton, Dickinson College's Center for Sustainability Education Interns, Cecil Cooper, Barbara Donnini, Kristen Doverspike, David Errickson, Ellie Ezekiel, Karen Feather, Steven Goldsmith, Shippensburg InTeGrate Grant Team, Rebecca Raley, Indiana Reid-Shaw, John Roe, David Shipe, Jessica Stokes

* 2017-2018

Ian Carbone, Laura Guertin, Errol Huffman, Kelly Jacobs, Sonya Korzeniowsky, Gina Mertz, Paul Morgan, Marina Morton, Debbie Namugayi, Lauren O'Conner, Penn State Dance MaraTHON, Shelby Sawyer, Ted Schmid, Kathleen Schreiber, Andrew Shelly, Rebecca Urban, Villanova Garden Committee, Hugh Weldon

* 2019

Lebanon Valley College Climate Action Plan Committee, Gabrielle Cressman, Abbey Ford, Kristian Fox, Mira Lerner, Len Litowitz, Jen Schneidman Partica, Abbie Winter

OUR CHAMPIONS

OVER THE YEARS

* 2020

Kerstin Ams, Rene Benoit, Neil Boyd, Paige Bryson, Robert Cooper, Allegheny Green SOCS, Claire Jantz, Abigail Kennedy, Andrew Lau, Brenna Leary, Alliyah Lusuegro, Amy Maxcy, Charlotte McAdams, Shelly McKeague, Allison Miller, Maddy Mitchell, Isabella Petitta, Mike Prinkey, Wendell Ressler, Kyle Richmond-Crosset, Ken Shultes, Mark Spiro, Madison Tillman, Ashley Vecchio, Margaret Zheng

* 2021

Ananya Bhattacharya, Eve Bratman, Joy Charlton, Riley DeBaecke, Brooke Dickey, Alex Flowers, Robin Forsa, Jeffrey Gibbs, Mihyun Kang, Prism Li, Rain Lu, Sebastian McRae, Philip Onffroy, Haley Scopelliti, Chelsea Semper, Mark Sentesy, Andrew Stuhl, Gillian Williams, Terrence Xiao, Kalie Yuen

* 2022

Alan Ballagh, Diana Biesecker, Alicia Contrera, Perri Druen, Glory Jacquat, Alex King, Sarah Martin, Eric Pallant, Ashlynn Peachy, Christopher Proctor, Carol Putman, Mark Sentesy, Scott Stroupe, Reginald Sullivan, Molly Tarvin, Mike Wetzel, Josh Wyrick, Ziheng Zeng

* 2023

Olivia Ave, Heidi Beardsley, Matt Betherum, Isabella Briseno, Allyssa Decker, London Dejarnette, Rachel Helt, Mahsa Kazempour, Julia Kreuzer, Maggie McConnell, Jennifer Nell, Reece Pauling, Dr. Jennifer Pomeroy

* 2024

Allegheny College Watershed Conservation Research Center, Karen Beall, Kaitlin Danneberg, Dickinson College Baird Sustainability Fellows, Franklin & Marshall Custodial Team, Josh Geller, Molly Hoffman, Melissa Intindola, Sophia Marsh, Dr. Sherri Mason, AJ Merlino, Amanda Pennett, Kaitlyn Royal, Jacob Seiler, Matt Steiman, Caden Vitti

* 2025

CERCLE Ursinus Student Group, Dickinson College Baird Sustainability Fellows, Food Recovery Network, Steve Guenther, Andy Gulati, Ben Hayes, Hannah Horengic, Juniata College Sustainability Interns, Mary Ann Smith, OGRP Franklin & Marshall Student Facilitators

ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE IN PA



PROVIDING COMMUNITY PLATFORMS TO LEARN ABOUT AND ENGAGE IN ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE

In 2021, the City of Harrisburg, PERC, and the Harrisburg University of Science and Technology convened a virtual day-long event to educate participants and create state-wide collaborations that support environmental justice. The event established regional coalitions, known as EJ Community Hubs, that received a plethora of educational and operational resources. Furthermore, members of these hubs could (and still can!) utilize the network to obtain and provide support for other members. The regional coalitions are located in Northcentral, Northeast, Northwest, South-central, Southeast, and Southwest Pennsylvania.

EJ IN PA RECIPIENTS

In 2025, PERC was incredibly excited and honored to select three recipients of the EJ in PA award! These organizations have demonstrated unwavering dedication to environmental stewardship, community engagement, and justice, which has fostered salient change both at the community-wide and the individual level. Each organization received a financial award that would support blossoming as well as steadfast programming that is set to impact communities across PA in the way they need it most. As Dr. Robert Bullard, the Father of Environmental Justice, once said,

“Community organizations, institutions, that have been doing this work in the city for many, many years, they need to be funded. They need to have—they need capacity to staff up and to start doing the kind of work, because they have the trust and because they have the experience and because they are here, they are local.”



**412 JUSTICE
PITTSBURGH, PA**

Programs: EJ candidate forums, member meetings, EJ game nights, Get Out the Vote, advocacy days, EJ Reports, MAAP

<https://412justice.org/>



**CENTER FOR
COALFIELD JUSTICE
GREEN COUNTY, PA**

Programs: MAD-FACTS Cecil Township Ordinance Campaign, community roundtables, advocacy days

<https://centerforcoalfieldjustice.org/>



**URBAN ERIE
COMMUNITY
DEVELOPMENT CORP.
ERIE, PA**

Programs: Eastside Grassroots Coalition, MCI Coalition, Grow Erie Aquaponics, EJAB speakers, cleanups

<https://uecdc.org/>



HIGHER EDUCATION FOOD RECOVERY CHALLENGE

Established in 2013, the Pennsylvania Higher Education Food Recovery Challenge worked to recruit colleges and universities to the EPA's Food Recovery Challenge. As a collaboration between PERC and the EPA, the program provided technical and operational assistance regarding diverting, collecting, or composting waste to participating institutions.

QUICK FACTS

- * During its duration, PERC's institutions would report food diversion, donation, and composting data for national tracking efforts.
- * In 2014, PERC was awarded the EPA's Food Recovery Challenge Endorser of the Year Award.

22

PERC institutions
participating



+100,000

students' food waste
targeted



ANNUAL CONFERENCES



+20

Conferences and events



2

Annual conferences

FROM MEMBERSHIP MEETINGS TO STUDENT PRESENTATIONS, CONFERENCES SERVED AS KEY PROGRAMMING FOR PERC

Since 2010, PERC has worked to fulfill its mission and achieve its vision by hosting annual conferences. Each year, PERC hosts a member institution meeting for faculty, staff, and administrators as well as a poster conference for member institutions' students. Complementing this programming, PERC has run a variety of events ranging from educational workshops, sustainability symposiums, and campus tours over the years. After being limited by the COVID-19 pandemic, PERC was able to resume this portion of the organization's mission in late 2022. PERC's final in-person event was held in the Spring of 2025 and focused on the role of campus sustainability leaders.

2025 SUSTAINABILITY LEADERS CONFERENCE

In the Spring of 2025, PERC, in cooperation with Penn State Sustainability, hosted a one-day conference event at the Eric J. Barron Innovation Hub in State College, PA. The day featured four presentations, a workshop, and PERC's short film premiere that covered everything from curriculum to campus emissions planning! Additionally, the conference featured designated time for leaders to network, share ideas, and make new connections that strengthened institutional sustainability relations from across the state.



WITH MORE THAN 20 LEADERS IN ATTENDANCE, PERC'S FIRST CONFERENCE IN ALMOST THREE YEARS WAS A SUCCESS!



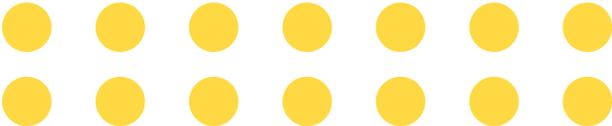
LEADERS FROM ACROSS THE COMMONWEALTH CONNECTED AND NETWORKED THROUGHOUT THE DAY, INCLUDING THESE ATTENDEES FROM PSU, WCU, MU, AND DU!



THE DAY FEATURED PRESENTATIONS FROM LEADERS IN EDUCATION, FACILITIES, AND CLIMATE SCIENCE, INCLUDING DR. RICHARD ALLEY!



ATTENDEES GOT THE CHANCE TO WORK COLLABORATIVELY DURING WORKSHOPS TO SOLVE INSTITUTIONAL SUSTAINABILITY ISSUES!



CLOSING ANNOUNCEMENT

Dear PERC members, affiliates, and supporters,

We hope you are enjoying the summer so far and, for those in higher education, that your institution had a joyous graduation season! We appreciate your continued support of and interest in PERC's services and network. Today, the Pennsylvania Environmental Resource Consortium (PERC) looks back on more than two decades of action for environment and sustainability across Pennsylvania's colleges and universities. We have provided thousands of students, faculty, staff, and community partners with a platform to share knowledge and take action toward a sustainable future.

Over the years, we have coordinated and catalyzed efforts that make a difference. On climate change, we have encouraged emissions reduction by leading food recovery, provided the first platform for Pennsylvania schools to share greenhouse gas inventories, and organized one of the nation's largest Power Dialogs to comment on the Clean Power Plan. Furthermore, recognizing that we are part of the environment and the environment is within us, PERC has run educational programs and conferences on the intersection of environmental justice, the United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals, and the social determinants of health. Finally, our programming focused on facilitating and empowering collective student, faculty, and staff action through programs such as the Food Recovery Challenge and the Campus

Sustainability Champions.

With the impact of our network readily visible across the state, PERC is proud to have been a hub for Pennsylvania institutions for over twenty years. In a typical year, such a reflection would be shared to highlight where PERC and our members have been and communicate what PERC envisages for the upcoming year. However, this year is not like the rest. PERC is writing to share with you all that we will be closing our doors over the next few months. After serious reflection, the Executive Committee came to this conclusion with a heavy heart, but with extensive gratitude for the organization's history, members, and impact. The choice to close was not an easy one and PERC did investigate alternative routes to keep the organization operational.

For each Executive committee member, this organization holds a prominent place in our hearts, with some being here since the organization's inception. As the current President, Dr. Peter Buck shares that serving as a connector, communicator, and catalyst for a more sustainable higher education sector in Pennsylvania has been one of the great honors of his professional career. Concurrently, as the acting Associate Director and lifelong resident of Pennsylvania, PERC and its mission to make this state a better, more sustainable place that fosters the sustainable leaders of tomorrow matters greatly to me. My role at PERC has provided me with the opportunity to give back to my state while also developing critical career skills and experience, which I will always be grateful

CLOSING ANNOUNCEMENT

or as an emerging young professional. Ultimately, PERC's impact has changed hundreds of lives, including our own.

With PERC set to close within the next fiscal year, the organization will be winding down its services starting in the fall. On PERC's website, there are several resources available. While we are saddened to share this news, we truly appreciate your interest in and support of PERC over time. If you have any questions, please feel free to email PERC's Associate Director, Olivia DiPrinzio, at greencolleges@gmail.com. As we enter this new chapter, PERC looks forward to providing quality programming, resources, and guidance on staying engaged with institutional sustainability efforts during this transition period.

Thank you,




*Peter Buck,
President*

*Olivia DiPrinzio,
Associate Director*



*Thank you from
all of us at PERC*



Peter Buck
President



Rich Bowden
Exec Board



Michael Mumper
Exec Board



Shaunna Barnhart
Exec Board



Ken Shultes
Exec Board



Olivia DiPrinzio
Associate Director



Josh Hooper
*Emeritus Executive
Director*

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