

PERC NEWSLETTER

VOL. 1 ISSUE 3

9 APRIL 2025

HIGHER EDUCATION CONNECTING,
COLLABORATING, AND TAKING ACTION

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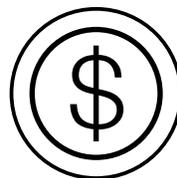


Brightside Report!



LARGEST BATTERY IN THE EU

Located in Scotland, the largest battery in the EU just went online to store large amounts of excess energy produced from offshore wind.



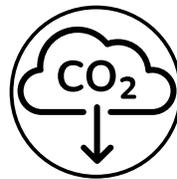
\$200 BILLION COMMITTED TO BIODIVERSITY

After meeting at COP16 in Columbia, nearly 200 countries committed a collective \$200 billion towards biodiversity efforts.



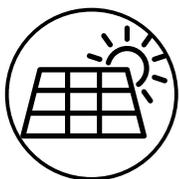
AUSTRALIA'S DECREASED COASTLINE PLASTIC WASTE

Following their 2025 pledge to phase out plastics, Australia has observed a 40% decrease in plastic waste along their coastal ecosystems.



VIRGINIA PEATLAND RESTORATION

State-protected peatlands in Virginia are being restored with the goal of reducing annual GHG emissions by an amount equivalent to up to 1.4 million cars



PIT AIRPORT OFFSETTING WITH SOLAR

Over the past four years, Pittsburgh International Airport's use of on-site solar through a microgrid has prevented outages and saved \$1M.



ECUADORIAN COASTAL ECOSYSTEMS RECEIVE RIGHTS

Ecuador's highest-ranking court ruled that coastal marine ecosystems now have legal rights, thus changing the playing field for conservation.

PERC ANNOUNCEMENT:

Pennsylvania

Campus Sustainability Champion

2025 CAMPUS SUSTAINABILITY CHAMPIONS

PERC is incredibly excited to announce this year's Campus Sustainability Champion awardees! The Campus Sustainability Champion title is awarded to students, faculty, administrators, and staff of Pennsylvania colleges and universities who have made meaningful contributions benefiting social, economic and/or environmental sustainability on their campus, in their community, or in society at large. Contributions can be in areas of teaching, research, co-curricular programs, campus culture, community service, and campus operations, including food recovery.

STUDENTS



CERCLE STUDENTS **URSINUS COLLEGE**

Isabella Dolan, Greyson Fusco, Danielle Monaco, Elwood Harney



HANNAH HORENGIC **LEBANON VALLEY COLLEGE**



ELSA WAIDELICH **ALLEGHENY COLLEGE**



SUSTAINABILITY INTERNS **JUNIATA COLLEGE**

Emma Burry, Caitlyn Handel, Gianna Leone, Marilyn Ogof, Ashley Robuck, Isatou Sonko



FOOD RECOVERY NETWORK **PENN STATE UNIVERSITY**

Adeline Peat, Anna Janaszek, Emmanuel Kraft, Anant Pothakamury, Irini Gentis, Eliana Wong



BAIRD SUSTAINABILITY FELLOWS **DICKINSON COLLEGE**

Natalia Donia, Karuna Gauchan, Noah Salsich, Kailey Sipe

OGRP FACILITATORS **FRANKLIN & MARSHALL COLLEGE**

Kate Cowan, Marin Lynch, Maddie Messer, Elijah Wallace

PERC ANNOUNCEMENT:

Pennsylvania

Campus Sustainability Champion

2025 CAMPUS SUSTAINABILITY CHAMPIONS

FACULTY & STAFF



ANDY GULATI
FRANKLIN & MARSHALL
COLLEGE



MARY ANN SMITH
PENN STATE UNIVERSITY,
SCHUYLKILL



BEN HAYES
BUCKNELL
UNIVERSITY



STEVE GUENTHER
CARNEGIE MELLON
UNIVERSITY

CELEBRATION RECEPTION

PERC will be hosting a virtual reception to celebrate all of this year's winners! The reception will be on **April 24th at 7pm EST!** The event will feature an introduction of each winner (individual/group) and their work, a keynote speech from Nyla Holland- a '22 Campus Sustainability Champion instrumental in developing the PennEnviroScreen (EJ Screen)- and the opportunity to network with champions from across the state!

Please RSVP for the event **before April 22nd** on PERC's event page to receive the Zoom link prior to the event. Friends, family, and colleagues are welcome!

Policy Radar



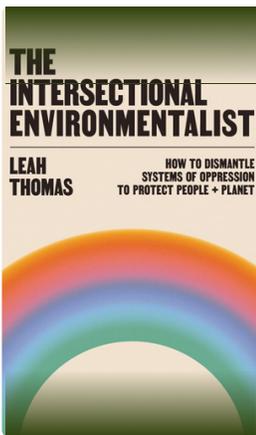
As the federal policy space continues to rapidly unfold, this section provides a brief non-partisan introduction of current key policies, their implementation date, and their implications.

Policy or Action	Effective	Implication	Source
USDA Secretarial Memorandum 1078-006: Increasing Timber Production and Designating an Emergency Situation on National Forest System Lands	4/3/2025	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Instructs the rollback of national forest protections for ~60% of forests, equal to more than 112 million acres. • Allows for the opportunity for increased timber operations in the timber industry. • As an “emergency situation”, the USDA can bypass existing environmental rulings and statutes. 	1, 2
Executive Order 14225: Immediate Expansion of American Timber Production	3/1/2025	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Requires the Secretary of Interior and Agriculture to review and issue new rulings/guidance on a variety of topics to support increased timber production from federal forests, including revisiting previous agreements such as the Good Neighbor Authority and Tribal Forest Protection Act. • Requires the elimination of all “undue delays” with the permitting process related to timber production • Agencies are instructed to use the Endangered Species Act’s (ESA) regulations on “consultations in emergencies” to boost domestic timber production. 	3, 4
Environmental Supreme Court Cases up for Review	N/A	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A case on the National Environmental Policy Act that could alter the requirement for climate considerations in projects receiving federal funding and/or oversight. • A case on the nondelegation doctrine, which gives federal agencies “broad authority.” • A case on Clean Water Act permitting. • A case on licensing for the storage of nuclear waste. • A case on the Clean Air Act via California’s provision of emission waivers. 	5

Media Roundup

THIS WEEK'S SUSTAINABILITY MEDIA RECOMMENDATIONS!

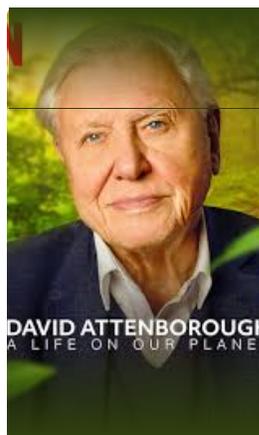
BOOK



The Intersectional Environmentalist by Leah Thomas

Acting as both a comprehensive history and a guidebook, learn about how racism, privilege, and environmentalism have and still do impact environmental efforts of communities around the world.

FILM



A Life on Our Planet by Sir David Attenborough

Reflecting on his life, Sir David Attenborough highlights the changes to the environment he has witnessed both professionally and personally over the past 60 years. In light of these changes, Sir Attenborough provides potential avenues for change moving forward.

PODCAST



“How to build an equitable and just climate future” by TED Climate with Peggy Shepard

Serving as the co-founder and Executive Director of WE ACT for Environmental Justice, Peggy Shepard discusses the convergence of identities and environmental justice, highlights the legacy of segregation on cumulative environmental effects, and introduces the notion of “Green Zones.”



UPCOMING EVENTS

PERC EVENTS

- *Under Increasing Uncertainty* Webinar Series (RSVP)
 - Navigating Sustainability Jobs -- 4/10
 - Fortifying DEIA & Environmental Justice – 4/17
- 2025 Campus Sustainability Champions Celebration
 - April 24th, 7 PM on Zoom
 - Must RSVP!
- Spring Sustainability Leaders Conference
 - May 18th, all day
 - Invitation only for institutions' Directors, Coordinators, and Chief Officers
 - Must RSVP

MEMBER SCHOOL EVENTS

- Dickinson College's 2025 Valley & Ridge Faculty Development Workshop
 - May 20th-22nd
 - Dickinson College
 - Must RSVP by March 28th!

OTHER EVENTS

- Sustainable Energy Fund's EnergyPath Conference
 - July 16, 2025
 - DeSales University
 - Speaker proposals are open!

HAVE AN EVENT?

EMAIL OLIVIADIPRINZIO@GMAIL.COM

Resources



<u>Reference Number</u>	<u>Link</u>
<u>1</u>	https://www.usatoday.com/story/news/nation/2025/04/08/national-forests-logging-forest-service-order/82974502007/
<u>2</u>	https://www.usda.gov/sites/default/files/documents/sm-1078-006.pdf
<u>3</u>	https://www.usatoday.com/story/news/politics/2025/03/05/trump-timber-production-logging-oregon-forests/81664464007/
<u>4</u>	https://www.whitehouse.gov/presidential-actions/2025/03/immediate-expansion-of-american-timber-production/?emci=6a530308-40f5-ef11-90cb-0022482a94f4&emdi=f72e5007-77f7-ef11-90cb-0022482a93b5&ceid=3987772
<u>5</u>	https://www.ehn.org/supreme-court-to-address-environmental-and-regulatory-cases-in-2025