

PERC

NEWSLETTER

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Welcome to the inaugural edition of the Pennsylvania Environmental Resource Consortium's bimonthly newsletter! Members can use this newsletter to stay informed on member institutions' efforts, PERC's upcoming events, and fluctuating federal and state policies while gaining positive sustainability news and recommendations!

**HIGHER EDUCATION
CONNECTING, COLLABORATING,
AND TAKING ACTION**

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**F&M: BIKE
LOANS FOR A
SUSTAINABLE
CAMPUS**

Brightside Report!



DEFORESTATION RATES DECLINE

In the Brazilian Amazon, deforestation is at a five-year low with the area seeing a 51% decrease in deforestation in 2024!



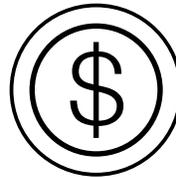
LOCAL LEADERS & THE PARIS AGREEMENT

Since January, over 30 mayors and 3 governors across the U.S. have committed or re-committed to the Paris Agreement.



YOUTH V. MONTANA VICTORY

In a 6-to-1 decision, 16 youth plaintiffs won the first constitutional climate change trial to include a stable climate under Montana's guarantee of a "clean and healthy environment."



PA ENVIRONMENTAL FUNDING

In 2024, at least \$86 million in state budget funding was awarded to environmental efforts including the Solar for Schools Program and the PA Clean Streams Program



HAWAIIAN CROW REINTRODUCTION

Extinct in the wild since 2002, five 'alalā (Hawaiian crows) were recently released to support biodiversity and preserve the bird's cultural significance!



CHICAGO'S RENEWABLE BUILDINGS

In Chicago, over 400 municipal buildings now rely on 100% renewable energy and are slated to cut annual emissions by 290,000 CO₂eq.

FRANKLIN AND MARSHALL COLLEGE

BIKE LOANS FOR A SUSTAINABLE CAMPUS

Approaching its twenty-year anniversary, Franklin and Marshall College's Bike Loan program serves as a beloved program supporting the student community. Established in 2008 with the generosity of a former alumnus, the Franklin and Marshall Bike Loan program aimed to decrease campus transportation emissions while simultaneously providing opportunities for exercise, nature accessibility, and micro-mobility. As the program has flourished over the years, Franklin and Marshall's administration sets an annual designated bike program budget to support the increased student demand and bike equipment maintenance.

"It [the Bike Loan Program] reduces the need for automobiles on campus, provides students with a pleasant form of exercise, and allows students the ability to easily travel to and from classes and to stores and attractions in Lancaster and beyond."

Tom Simpson, Director of the Center for the Sustainable Environment

Currently, the college's loan program has 105 bikes that around 30 students loan out over the course of each semester. Each four-week loan includes not only the bike, but also a helmet and a lock for free! To further support this initiative, the college established two on-campus bike repair stations to compliment the two downtown bike shops available for more serious needs.

As a result of the college's dedication to the Bike Loan Program, Franklin and Marshall has received the status of a Bicycle Friendly University from the League of American Bicyclists. Earning Bronze status in 2017 and, recently, Silver status in 2022, Franklin and Marshall continues to prioritize their mission of decreased environmental impacts and increased student wellbeing through this amazing program!



STUDENT RENTING A BIKE AT F&M

Policy Radar



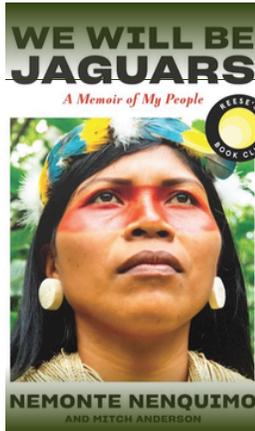
As the federal policy space continues to rapidly unfold, this section provides a brief non-partisan introduction of current key policies, their implementation date, and their implications.

Policy or Action	Effective	Implication	Source
Executive Order 141612 and Withdrawal from Paris Agreement	1/20/25	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cease UNFCCC financial commitments • Cease NDC reporting • Removes USA from negotiations 	1, 2
Executive Order 14154: Unleashing American Energy	1/20/25	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • EPA to report on “legality” of 2009 GHG Endangerment Finding • Bars agencies from using methods, such as Social Cost of Carbon, in analysis • Pauses IRA and IIJA fund disbursement, against District Court orders (D.C. and RI) 	3, 4
Department of Education <i>Dear Colleague</i> Letter	3/2/25	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Federally funded schools must cease using (DEIA) race preferences and stereotypes as a factor for admissions and other programs • Failure to comply may be investigated and lose funding (ex: Title IV, curriculum development, special needs resources) 	5, 6
Executive Order 14151: Ending Radical and Wasteful Government DEI Programs and Preferencing	1/20/25	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Eliminates Dept. of Education’s Diversity and Inclusion Council • Removal of >200 resources from Dept. of Education’s website • Cancels Dept. of Education’s DEI training and service contracts 	7, 8
Removal of National Environmental Policy Act regulations	April 2025	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Removal from the Code of Federal regulations due to EO 14154 • Federal agencies and their actions are no longer subject to overarching framework of environmental regulations, standards, or rulings 	9, 10
Rescinding of EJ Executive Orders	1/24/25	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rescinded EO 14096 which incorporated EJ into all Executive branch decisions • Rescinded EO 14008, thus removing the Climate and Economic Justice Screening Tool 	11, 12

Media Roundup

THIS WEEK'S SUSTAINABILITY MEDIA RECOMMENDATIONS!

BOOK

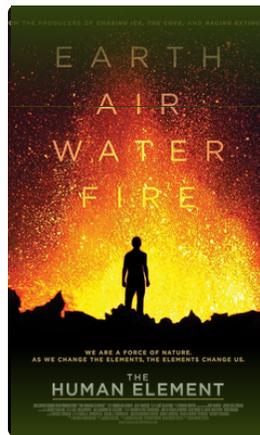


We Will Be Jaguars by Nemonte Nenquimo

Explore the recent history of Big Oil's expansion into the Ecuadorian Amazon through the eyes of Waorani Climate Activist, Nemonte Nenquimo. From childhood to today, Nemonte details her experience with identity, the environment, and Indigenous livelihood.

****Please consult trigger warnings prior to reading***

FILM



The Human Element by James Balog

Travel across the American landscape to see climate change impacts on frontline communities in real time. James Balog explores the connection between climate change and the four elements, as they pose significant changes and threats to American communities.

PODCAST



“Wellness 2.0: When it is all too much” by Hidden Brain

Listen to Sarah Jaquette Ray discuss how to continue working in areas defined by “wicked challenges,” such as climate change. Gain perspective on reclaiming self efficacy and purpose in the wake of addressing such overwhelming topics.

****Please consult trigger warnings prior to listening***



UPCOMING EVENTS

PERC EVENTS

- 2025 Campus Sustainability Champions
 - Nominations are open until March 18th at 5 pm!
- New webinar series
 - Scheduled from mid-March to mid-April
 - Look out for RSVPs (free!)

OTHER EVENTS

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

MEMBER SCHOOL EVENTS

- Bucknell's 12th Sustainability Symposium: Change Makers and Community Builders
 - April 3rd from 12:00-5:30 pm
 - Bucknell University
 - Must RSVP!
- Penn State Sustainability Showcases: Pattie Gonia Keynote Talk
 - March 25th
 - HUB-Robeson Center
- Dickinson College's 2025 Valley & Ridge Faculty Development Workshop
 - May 20th-22nd
 - Dickinson College
 - Must RSVP!

HAVE AN EVENT?

EMAIL OLIVIADIPRINZIO@GMAIL.COM

Resources



Reference Number	Link
1	https://environmentalenergybrief.sidley.com/2025/01/21/top-5-environmental-actions-you-should-know-from-president-trumps-first-day/
2	https://climate.law.columbia.edu/content/president-trump-announces-withdrawal-paris-agreement-0
3	https://www.nytimes.com/2025/03/02/climate/trump-us-climate-policy-changes.html
4	https://www.foley.com/insights/publications/2025/02/trump-administration-developments-environmental-policy/
5	https://www.ed.gov/about/news/press-release/us-department-of-education-directs-schools-end-racial-preferences
6	https://www.npr.org/2025/02/19/nx-s1-5300992/the-department-of-education-has-given-schools-a-deadline-to-eliminate-dei-programs
7	https://www.wsgr.com/en/insights/2025-environmental-and-social-developments.html
8	https://www.ed.gov/about/news/press-release/us-department-of-education-takes-action-eliminate-dei
9	https://www.crowell.com/en/insights/client-alerts/council-on-environmental-quality-withdraws-nepa-regulations-and-issues-interim-guidance-to-agencies
10	https://www.federalregister.gov/documents/2025/02/25/2025-03014/removal-of-national-environmental-policy-act-implementing-regulations
11	https://www.crowell.com/en/insights/client-alerts/council-on-environmental-quality-withdraws-nepa-regulations-and-issues-interim-guidance-to-agencies
12	https://www.federalregister.gov/documents/2025/02/25/2025-03014/removal-of-national-environmental-policy-act-implementing-regulations