



ASBN's "Clean Water is Good for Business" campaign engages businesses in the Delaware River Watershed and across the U.S. to make the economic case for sensible clean water protections. We are excited to share our collective efforts to protect our water and build a more just & sustainable economy. If you are a business leader concerned about protecting the Delaware River Watershed or other watersheds in the U.S., please join our campaign by contacting Liza LaManna, ASBN's Manager of Regenerative Agriculture & Clean Water.

CLEAN WATER NEWSLETTER



With spring in full bloom, this quarter has been a busy time for the Clean Water is Good for Business Steering Committee!

From our policy advocacy work at the Coalition for the Delaware River Watershed Hill Day in March, where we championed federal legislation for water and wildlife protections, to the symposium hosted by Sustainable Business Network of Greater Philadelphia (SBN) this March, we've been at the forefront of driving positive change for clean water.

Delaware River Watershed Hill Day Advocacy



On March 13th, the Coalition for the Delaware River Watershed (CDRW) hosted its annual Delaware River Watershed Hill Day, advocating for federal legislation within the watershed. The American Sustainable Business Network's Regen Ag and Clean Water manager, Liza LaManna, joined the New York delegation to share the economic

impacts of clean water and wildlife protections for the state.

Did you know 3% of New York's GDP is outdoor recreation? And that is just one sector! Clean water policies and wildlife protection policies can have massive impacts on many state GDPs and businesses' bottom line across the nation.



Highlights from the Achieving Climate Resilience Through Water Symposium



(SBN's Achieving Climate Resilience Through Water Symposium,
Photo credit: Kara Foran Photography)

The momentum continued as SBN of Greater Philadelphia hosted its inaugural Achieving Climate Resilience Through Water Symposium on March 20 at the Science History Institute in Philadelphia. Over 100 professionals and academics came to Old City to hear from water experts, green stormwater infrastructure practitioners, leading environmental nonprofits, and renowned industry leaders during several sessions.

The symposium opened with a plenary discussion on addressing the impacts of urban stormwater across multiple sectors and the value of collaboration in tackling the growing risks of climate change.

The plenary was led by Dr. Pinar Balci, NYC Water Lead & Deputy East Water Lead with WSP, Marc Cammarata, Deputy Water Commissioner at Pennsylvania Water Department, Biswarup Guha, Research Scientist at NJ Department of Environmental Protections, and Caleb Stratton, Chief Resiliency Officer for the City of Hoboken.



Twelve sessions were offered across three tracks that spanned topics, including municipal stormwater management strategies, innovative stormwater management practices, soil media and approaches, maintenance strategies, community engagement and knowledge-sharing, new financial pathways and resources, and more. Arcadis' Urban Stormwater Innovation Lead, Shandor Szalay, provided closing remarks. Meals and treats were catered by SBN member Feast Your Eyes Catering.



(SBN's Achieving Climate Resilience Through Water Symposium, Photo credit: Kara Foran Photography)

SBN extends a special thanks to its event sponsors, including Aqua, the Platinum Sponsor; Oldcastle APG, the Bronze Sponsor; and Villanova University's Center for Resilient Water Systems, the Green Sponsor, who made the event possible.



American
Sustainable
Business
Network

BUSINESS FOR A
JUST & SUSTAINABLE ECONOMY

Mark Your Calendar!



May 17 | 12pm - 1:15pm ET, Webinar: New Jersey's Water Supply Plan New Jersey recently released its draft Water Supply Plan exploring the current and future availability of drinking water in the State. Join Jennifer Coffey, Executive Director of the Association of New Jersey Environmental Commissions and member of the NJ Water Supply

Advisory Council, and Laura Norkute, Director of Water Quality and Environmental Compliance for New Jersey American Water, who will discuss the draft plan and how drinking water suppliers use it to protect the sources of their water supply. Find out more and register.

June 5 | 9:45am - 3:30pm ET, In-Person: CDRW DEIJ Day of Learning

The CDRW just launched registration for the upcoming DEIJ (Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, and Justice) Day of Learning, a dynamic event fostering actionable strategies for change in our communities. Join the Coalition on Wednesday, June 5th, from 9:45 AM to 3:30 PM ET at the Social Profit Center, located at 1 N Johnston Ave, Hamilton Township, NJ 08609.

Interested participants can register for this free event [HERE](#).



State Updates

NEW YORK:

On New York's "Earth Day Advocacy Day" on April 16th, the New York Sustainable Business Council took action on a slate of issues to improve access to clean water. These included the Harmful Algal Blooms (HABs) bill (S.8356/A.8867) establishing the HABs monitoring and prevention fund, the Green Roof Tax Abatement (S.6409A/A.6901A) incentivizing green roof installations, the Rain Ready New York Act (S.8861/A.9435) creating stormwater management discounts for public agencies, and the PFAS Discharge Disclosure Act (S.227A/A.3296) requiring facilities to report on PFAS discharges so that we can better track this forever chemical contamination in our waterways.

You can help!

The New York State legislative session ends on June 6th, so there are just a few weeks left to advance these and other important water protections. There are many ways to leverage your business voice in pursuit of this goal. **As a first step**, email water@ny-sbc.org with the name of your business and where you are based. NYSBC will offer guidance from there and answer any questions. Thank you for your clean water leadership!



NEW JERSEY:

On March 14th, the NJ Senate Environment Committee voted to release the Green Amendment (SCR43, Greenstein, Zwicker) in New Jersey. This amendment would amend the state's constitution to recognize our right to clean air, clean water, and a healthy planet. The amendment would require that all residents have equal protection from government or private activities that are harmful to the environment.

The measure would decree that:

"the state's natural resources, among them its waters, air, flora, fauna, climate, and public lands, are the common property of all the people, including both present and future generations. The state shall serve as trustee of these resources, and shall conserve and maintain them for the benefit of all people."

The Amendment is designed to be self-executing and, if approved at the general election in November, would take effect on the first day of the following March. If the Amendment passes, New Jersey will join just three other states with analogous "Green Amendments" – Pennsylvania, New York, and Montana.



PENNSYLVANIA:

SBN members OLIN, Remark Glass/Bottle Underground, Engineering & Land Planning Associates (now AKRF), Circular Philadelphia, as well as other local businesses and the City of Philadelphia, have partnered to develop **an engineered glass-based soil (GBS) and engineered process that repurposes city-wide waste bottle glass into a soil blend suitable for horticultural and green infrastructure projects.**

This alternative and innovative soil, presented at *SBN's Achieving Climate Resilience Through Water Symposium* last month, is an engineered approach to converting glass waste and food compost into an engineered soil product that can serve the city and the surrounding region to develop green spaces and green stormwater infrastructure projects utilizing a circular product that could solve for shortages of sand and other soil medium challenges.

The project team has released their recent report, "Developmental Investigation of Recycled Mixed Color Glass in Engineered Soils." [Read about the medium and review the science and research for this project.](#)



National Updates

New EPA Final Ruling on Fossil Fuel-Fired Power Plants

The EPA announced its final ruling to Reduce Pollution from Fossil Fuel-Fired Power Plants. This group of final rulings included clean air and water protections, including:

- A final rule to reduce pollutants discharged through wastewater from coal-fired power plants by more than 660 million pounds per year, ensuring cleaner water for affected communities, including communities with environmental justice concerns that are disproportionately impacted.
- A final rule that will require the safe management of coal ash placed in areas that were unregulated at the federal level until now, including previously used disposal areas that may leak and contaminate groundwater.

[Read more about the clean air implications of this ruling in ASBN's media release here!](#)

EPA/GSA Announced Plan to Purchase Safer Cleaning Products



The U.S. General Services Administration (GSA) has announced a plan to cut PFAS "forever chemicals" in a planned multiyear phase-out in more than 1,500 U.S. government-owned buildings nationwide. The U.S. federal government is the world's largest single buyer of goods and services, with GSA custodial services contracts totaling more than \$400 million annually.

This will utilize the federal government's purchasing power to advance safer alternatives, ultimately rewarding innovation and supporting companies that already market products free as free from intentionally added PFAS.

[Read ASBN's full statement here](#)

Businesses Protecting the Watershed

The American Sustainable Business Network recently released *The Business Case for Safer Alternatives to Fertilizers and Pesticides*. This resource connects agricultural chemical inputs, like pesticides and synthetic fertilizers, with harm to soil health, clean water and the business solutions that exist to avoid dangerous chemicals like those currently negatively impacting waterways across the country. [Read and download the case study](#), share and [read the blog](#) on the Coalition for the Delaware River Watershed's site, and [use our handy toolkit](#) to amplify this resource with your constituents and followers.





What We're Reading

Waste Pollution 101 Interactive Guide

This comprehensive guide delves into the complexities of waste pollution driven by unsustainable production and consumption patterns. With 2.1 billion tonnes of municipal solid waste generated annually, the need for informed action has never been greater.



[This interactive page](#) covers everything from the basics of waste pollution to actionable strategies, such as the lifecycle approach, to significantly reduce waste generation.

What We're Watching



If you've been following the PFAS 'forever chemicals' investigations and policy updates as closely as we have, you may have already seen this piece from CNN. ICYMI, this video is worth a watch as it explores how PFAS has contaminated sewage sludge, waters, and been distributed on farmland across the US, including spotlighting farmers in Maine.



Other Resources

New EPA PFAS Communications Toolkit



EPA has developed [this toolkit of materials](#) for public water systems, local officials, and any other entities that need to communicate about PFAS, and about EPA's new drinking water limits on certain PFAS. These materials may be used and replicated by anyone.