



Clean Water is Good For Business at The Coalition for the Delaware River Watershed Hill Day

On March 8th, Clean Water is Good for Business joined the Coalition for the Delaware River Watershed at their annual DC Hill day representing New York and New Jersey. Each year, the Coalition meets with Members of Congress from jurisdictions within the Delaware River Watershed to advocate for clean water and restoration. This year's priorities focused on two FY 2024 budget requests, increased investment to the Delaware River Basin Restoration Program (DRBRP) and the Clean Water State Revolving funds (CWSRF), and two legislative requests, cosponsor the reauthorization of the Delaware River Basin Conservation Act and the Recovering America's Wildlife Act.

The DRBRP, established by the Delaware River Basin Conservation Act, is a non-regulatory effort that uses a relatively small federal investment to leverage private investment, regional partnerships, and local knowledge to protect and restore the resources of the watershed.

In addition to increased funding for the program, the reauthorization of the act would allow a 90% federal investment with a 10% match for small, rural, or disadvantaged communities to make this much more accessible to a broader array of prospective grantees.

The CWSRF helps communities nationwide address their local water infrastructure needs by providing low-interest loans to local governments and increased funding, with 20% of the funds going to green stormwater infrastructure (GSI). In the meetings, ASBN shared the case study on [The Business Case for Water Infrastructure Investment](#).

A main goal of the Clean Water is Good for Business initiative is to connect business leaders with advocacy opportunities like this Hill day in Washington D.C. Please fill out [this survey](#) to let us know how you would like to get involved.



Bob Rossi, New York Sustainable Business Council, outside New York Senator Kirsten Gillbrand's office partaking in the Coalition For the Delaware River Watershed Hill Day.



Liza LaManna, American Sustainable Business Network, outside New Jersey Representative Christopher Smith's office partaking in the Coalition For the Delaware River Watershed Hill Day.

If you want to learn more about the work of the Clean Water is Good for Business initiative, check out past issues [here](#) and the initiative home page [here](#).



Delaware River Watershed Updates

The Philadelphia Chemical Spill



On March 24th, a burst pipe at the Trineso Atlugas chemical facility spilled an estimated 4,200 gallons of an industrial chemical called ferric chloride, which is used in wastewater treatment, at a facility in the Bridesburg neighborhood and made its way into the Delaware River disrupting Philadelphia businesses. Some decided to close while others chose to switch to single-use plastics, bottled water, and other unsustainable options. On average, [U.S. businesses lose \\$230 in sales per employee every day there is a disruption in water service and up to \\$5,800 per day for businesses in industries most reliant on water](#). Amanda Rucker, owner of River Twice Restaurant in Philadelphia shared, “Following the initial emergency alert that interrupted our

lunch service and sent the city into panic, we were concerned, fearful and confused which was extremely distributive to conduct business. While we have a commercial water filtration system in place, we could not confirm what chemicals spilled were spilled and if they would be filtered, which left us to use bottled water for the remainder of service. The following announcements regarding the safety of the water drinking deadlines left us even more fearful of what followed the timestamp given and left us in disarray to prepare for the following day’s service”. This spill is a key indicator as to why regulation and greater protections for water are needed for businesses that rely on clean water to operate safely and sustainably.



New Jersey Moves to Protect Communities and Businesses from Flooding

Last month, the New Jersey Legislature passed the [Flood Disclosure Bill S3110/A4783](#). [NJ Sustainable Business Council](#) advocated for this bill which requires the disclosure of past flood events to potential homebuyers or renters when considering a property, and provides a tool to them to analyze prospective

flooding. This bill will protect families and businesses by sharing valuable information about flood hazards in a transparent and simple fashion. This new disclosure requirement will benefit people along the coast and in inland communities, both of which will feel the increased effects of flooding brought on by climate change.



New York Bans PFAS in Food Packaging

As of January 1st 2023, New York State has banned per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) in food packaging. PFAS are a class of manufactured chemicals used in products to

drinking water presents “one of the most seminal public health challenges for the next decades.”

resist heat, stains, oil, and water. PFAS chemicals cannot be broken down naturally, so they bioaccumulate in the environment, in our water, and in our bodies. Research continues to uncover their detrimental health effects, such as birth defects, reproductive challenges, thyroid dysfunction, weakened immune systems, and cancer. Food packaging has been a widespread, non-point source of PFAS pollution in our waterways, and wastewater treatment plants were simply not designed to remove PFAS. These chemicals are now pervasive in major water supplies across the United States. [According to one senior CDC official](#) the resulting PFAS in U.S.

Businesses and our economy overall depend on clean water. As agencies begin to implement much needed [drinking water regulations of PFAS](#) and other emerging contaminants, the cost of adopting new purification technologies at water utilities may be passed to families, consumers, and businesses. It is imperative that we transition quickly to safer alternatives and stop contamination at its source with laws like New York's PFAS packaging ban. Some businesses are already [leading the way](#) in this transition, and it's time for others to get on board.

Other Water News

ASBN advocates for a stronger “Waters of the U.S.” rule

In March, Congress voted to overturn the 2022 EPA “Clean Water Restoration” rule. The rule, finalized in December, replaced the Trump Administration’s Navigable Waters Protection Rule and returned to a framework for applying the Clean Water Act that EPA and the US Army Corps of Engineers have used since President George W. Bush’s administration, which enables them to protect our wetlands, streams, and other waters when they have important impacts on downstream water quality.

Ahead of the vote, ASBN and 500 businesses sent a [letter](#) to Congress urging the House of

Representatives and the Senate to oppose the resolution. To further these efforts ASBN brought member Rick Baumann, owner and founder of Murrells Inlet Seafood, to D.C. to [testify](#) at the hearing for Small Business Perspectives on the Impacts of the Biden Administration’s Waters of the United States (WOTUS) Rule. Rick shared with the committee how non-point source pollution, which would increase if WOTUS was weakened, is impacting his and other small businesses. This was a major messaging loss for advocates of clean water, but fortunately, the President is expected to veto Congress’ decision and maintain the rule his administration implemented.



Rick Baumann, Owner of Murrells Inlet Seafood, testified in Washington D.C. at the hearing for Small Business Perspectives on the Impacts of the Biden Administration’s Waters of the United States (WOTUS) Rule

Clean Water Resources



Rodale Institute’s Research Continues to Prove Connection Between Regenerative Organic Agriculture, Economic Resiliency, and Clean Water

For World Water Day, Clean Water is Good for Business member Rodale Institute published a new blog highlighting the connection between clean water and regenerative organic agriculture. Rodale’s [Farming System’s Trial](#) compares various conventional and organic cropping systems across 72 different test plots. Data from [the Farming Systems Trail 40-Year Report](#) showed organic management increases soil organic matter and decreases

such as droughts. Further, the data shows that organic management replenishes the water table, and does not contribute to the accumulation of toxins in waterways caused by conventional agriculture. Supporting local farmers who use regenerative organic farming methods is one of the best ways to invest in watershed health and keep synthetic chemicals out of our watersheds. By [taking the pledge to Grow Clean Water](#), you can join

soil compaction, improving water infiltration, retaining more water in the soil for longer, and allowing roots to extend deeper into soil. This is especially important for maintaining crop yields in times of extreme weather,

forces with Rodale Institute to support organic farmers who work to regenerate the health of people, soil, and watersheds. Read the full report [here](#).



An overhead view of Rodale Institute's Farming Systems Trail's side-by-side organic and conventional plots. See more [here](#).

Trials and Tributaries of the Delaware River Watershed Webinar

In a new multimedia series, "[Water's Edge: Trials and tributaries of the Delaware River Watershed](#)," [NJ Spotlight News](#) examines the transformation of the Delaware River's urban estuary from a polluted body of water to one frequented by bald eagles and boaters alike. The transformation was largely made possible by federal and multistate regulations, but the work is still unfinished. Problems caused by development, climate change and other issues threaten the watershed on which the river depends. This informative series underscores why the [business case for protecting clean water in the Delaware River watershed](#) is as relevant as ever.



PFAS Packaging Webinar

The New York Sustainable Business Council (NYSBC) partnered with Emerald Brand, a leader in sustainable and PFAS-free packaging, on [this half-hour webinar](#) to food service businesses coast to coast as a primer

on effectively transitioning their food packaging to safer alternatives in compliance with this new regulation. This webinar provides guidance on the law, the rationale for it, and the opportunities for businesses to lead in this area.

Upcoming Events

In New Jersey, a state with the highest percent of impervious surfaces, investing in green infrastructure is an effective way to reduce stormwater runoff, pollution, and flood risk. Rain gardens are an attractive form of green infrastructure that businesses, municipalities, and residents can install. Learn more at this upcoming webinar from our friends at Pinelands Preservation Alliance & South Jersey Water Savers.



Rain Garden 101: Build a Rain Garden Webinar

Wednesday, April 19, 12PM & 7PM, Virtually via Zoom

[SIGN UP FOR THE 12PM SESSION](#)

[SIGN UP FOR THE 7PM SESSION](#)

If you are a business leader concerned about protecting the Delaware River Watershed or other watersheds across the U.S. and would like to join other business leaders in finding and advocating for solutions, please reach out to

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American Sustainable Business Network

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