



# WEST CHESTER GREEN TEAM NEWS

February 2023

*Mission: The West Chester Green Team is a civic organization in West Chester, PA, that works to educate the local public and to establish and nourish green initiatives in the community in harmony with nature and each other, promoting the health of all living things and of planet Earth.*

## Inside:

Lots of coming events, Porchfest update, the latest from Bondsville, Dangerous waters?, Chesapeake Bay barely passes, Road salt in Pennsylvania, and What did Vanguard do?



# WCGT Calendar of Upcoming Events

## When – What – Where.



**February 20:** Dark Sky committee. E-mail Timothy Lawlor at [tml10@psu.edu](mailto:tml10@psu.edu) for details.

**February 21 at 7 pm:** Porchfest committee meeting via Zoom. Contact Rani Norley or Margaret Hudgings to join. [raninorley@gmail.com](mailto:raninorley@gmail.com) or [mhudgings@gmail.com](mailto:mhudgings@gmail.com)

**February 28 at 7 pm:** Green Team Board meeting. Virtual, chaired by Dianne Walsh. Details and Zoom link to come.

### Related groups and committees:

**4th Monday of every month:** East Bradford Environmental Advisory Council (EAC), 7 – 8:30pm, East Bradford Township Bldg, 676 Copeland School Rd.

**4th Monday of every month:** East Goshen Sustainability Advisory Committee, 7 – 8:30pm, East Goshen Township Bldg, 1580 Paoli Pike

**4th Tuesday of every month:** West Goshen Sustainability Advisory Committee, 6 – 8 pm, West Goshen Township Bldg., 1025 Paoli Pike

**4th Tuesday of every month:** Westtown Environmental Advisory Council, 7 – 8:30pm, Westtown Township Bldg., 1039 Wilmington Pike (Rt. 202)

**4th Thursday of every month:** West Chester Sustainability Advisory Committee, 6:30 – 8 pm, Room 240, Borough Hall, E. Gay St.

Be sure to visit our Web site at <https://wcgreenteam.com/> and our Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/WCGTeam/> (all are welcome to post environment- and sustainability-related items there). If you wish to support our work, please donate here: <https://wcgreenteam.com/contact-2/>

**NOTE:** Deadline for the March issue is **February 28!** We welcome contributions and suggestions from our readers for possible inclusion in a future issue. E-mail your ideas to Dianne Walsh at [LDwalsh318@gmail.com](mailto:LDwalsh318@gmail.com).

# This and That

## More Coming Attractions:

Lots of upcoming events, so save the dates now!

**March 9, 2023, at West Chester University:** Spirituality and Sustainability Symposium. This year it will feature [Dr. Christopher Carter](#) who will speak on *Race, Spirituality, and Food Justice*. It will be free and open to the public. Other programs part of the sustainability series are listed on the schedule to the right.

**March 11, 2023, at West Chester University,** The President's Speaker Series presents Erin Brockovich, 8 pm in the Asplundh Concert Hall. You've seen the movie, now see the real person! "Erin Brockovich's dogged persistence was the impelling force behind the largest medical settlement lawsuit in history. A modern-day "David" who loves a good brawl with today's "Goliaths," Erin thrives on being the voice for those who don't know how to yell. She is a rebel, an environmentalist, and a mother. She is also a strong believer that it only takes one person to make a difference."

Get your tickets now at

<https://wcupatix.com/president-s-speaker-series>



**March 25, 2023, Goose Creek Clean-up: West Chester and West Goshen sites.** Details to come.

**April 21, 2023, at West Chester University:** Doug Tallamy sign dedication in cooperation with Brad Flamm and the Sustainability Office. The WCGT will also honor three long time members.

**SUSTAINABILITY RESEARCH and PRACTICE SEMINAR**

Join us every Wednesday at lunchtime — in-person or via Zoom — to learn how WCU scholars and staff explore and apply principles of environmental, social, and economic sustainability in their research and on-campus work. Students, faculty, staff, and community members are all welcome.

**Wednesdays from 12:00 to 12:50 pm**  
in person (255 A/B Sykes Student Union) and via Zoom  
<https://wcupa.zoom.us/j/98607753162>, passcode: 878376

**FEBRUARY 1, 2023**  
Professor John Pisciotta  
Biology  
Sustainable and Organic Beekeeping in Chester County

**FEBRUARY 8, 2023**  
Professor Jacqueline Alnes  
English  
Milk Diets, Grape Cures, and Bananas Galore: An Examination of Past and Present Wellness Culture Turned Sour

**FEBRUARY 15, 2023**  
Professor Jen Maresh  
Biology  
Saving the Eastern Gray Whale: How Science, Industry, and the Public are Coming Together to Protect a Critically Endangered Species from Oil & Gas Activities

**FEBRUARY 22, 2023**  
Joshua Filer  
Finance '23  
Student Advocacy as a Catalyst for Sustainable and Social Change

**MARCH 1, 2023**  
Sari Steuber and Skip Shuda  
Transition Town Media  
What do Transition Towns Bring to the Table?

**MARCH 8, 2023**  
Professor Yingying Lyu  
Geography and Planning  
Walking Culture in China

**MARCH 15, 2023** = SPRING BREAK WEEK

**MARCH 22, 2023**  
Professor Cassandra L. Reyes  
Criminal Justice  
Something Fishy about Crime: How to Teach Conservation and Sustainable Use of the Oceans, Seas, and Resources for Sustainable Development in an Animal Cruelty Criminal Justice Elective Course

**MARCH 29, 2023**  
Dr. Omosehin Moyebi  
Urban Mass Transit: New York State and the MTA Sustainability Initiatives on Greenhouse Gas Emission Reduction

**APRIL 5, 2023**  
Professor Brent Ruswick  
History  
What's in a Name? The Politics of Commemoration from the un-naming of the Alexander Graham Bell dam at RIT to the Samuel Schmucker controversy at WCU

**APRIL 12, 2023**  
Professor Kurt Kolasinski  
Chemistry  
Energy Input and Economics of Silicon in Energy Storage and Generation

**APRIL 19, 2023**  
Professors Paul Sylvestre, Early & Middle Grades Education, and Michael Di Giovine, Anthropology, in conversation with Bradley Flamm  
Offsets and the Path to Carbon Neutrality in Higher Education and Study Abroad

**APRIL 26, 2023**  
Professor Aliza Richman  
Sociology  
The State of Sustainability at WCU: Key Insights from WCU's First Sustainability Census

Sponsored by WCU's Office of Sustainability, Office of Research and Sponsored Programs, and the Sustainability Council's Scholarly and Creative Activities Committee. For more information, visit [wcupa.edu/sustainability](http://wcupa.edu/sustainability) or write to [sustainability@wcupa.edu](mailto:sustainability@wcupa.edu).

**April 22, 2023 (Earth Day), Rally at Historic Courthouse, 1 pm**, with State Sen. Carolyn Comitta and County Commissioner Josh Maxwell. Theme: Climate: What Next? Then, march down High Street to the Unitarian Congregation where there will be a **Green Fair from 2:15 until 4:30**. Includes a Repair café, plantings, snacks and activities for children. What's a repair café? Essentially, attendees bring items in need of repair which other people fix! This keeps usable items from going to landfill and reduces the volume of raw materials and energy needed to make new products. It also provides those with repair skills the opportunity to put them to good use and share with others in the community! **We are looking for such people!** If you can repair clothing, small appliances, electronics, lamps, small pieces of furniture, etc, please contact Ginny Marcille-Kerslake at [gmarcillekerslake@fwwatch.org](mailto:gmarcillekerslake@fwwatch.org) . A great way to celebrate Earth Day!

**April 29, 2023—2 pm, Unitarian Congregation, S. High St.** Workshop by Dee Durham, president of Plastic-free Delaware (see her other credentials at <https://www.friendsfordeedurham.us/about/>). Advance registration required. Topic: HOW to ban PLASTIC. She will be discussing getting rid of plastic--which she did successfully in Delaware--and successfully running a non-profit group--as it grows. Spaces for this event are limited so please rsvp to save a spot. Josh Maxwell from our own Chester County government will be joining us. Contact [mhudgings@gmail.com](mailto:mhudgings@gmail.com) to sign up.

**May 20--PORCHFEST** 1-7 pm. Southwest quadrant of West Chester. See additional details following.

**May 21--Porchfest** rain date

As always, see updates and other events in our website calendar at the bottom of our Web site homepage at <https://wcgreenteam.com>

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## Porchfest 2023 Update



The second annual Porchfest will be held Saturday, May 20 (Rain date is the following day, May 21). West Chester Mayor Lillian DeBaptiste will again be co-sponsoring with us. So far, 19 bands or individuals have signed on to perform and we're looking for more! To volunteer to perform, host, sponsor or help out visit <https://westchesterporchfest.com/>

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## Also at WCU . . .



Beginning on February 13, 2023, WCU will have two collection locations on campus for personal electronic device recyclables. Note that **this is aimed at students and employees of the university, not the general public**. But [PAR-Recycle Works](#), the organization WCU will be working with, also organizes larger community collection events.

## The Latest from our Friends at Bondsville Park

*By Sandy Moser*

Believe it or not, 99.9% of the ornaments on the White Trail are now down and packed away. If you do spot one, please leave it by the Spinning Room door.

The Mill park will be hosting the Great Backyard Bird Count and you're invited. The Mill's count will be held on Saturday, February 18<sup>th</sup> from 10 till 1. Many park birds can be seen flitting through the brush around the Mill race. We'll be hanging birdfeeders in the Mill's new Bird Watch area on Saturday hoping to encourage even the most cautious birds to come out where they can be seen.



Check out two recent bird sightings at <https://www.facebook.com/bondsvillemillpark>. No doubt we'll be able to add the Carolina Wren to our list on 2/18 but the Great-horned Owl is a night owl and might not be awake yet. For more information on the Great Backyard Bird Count and how you can participate, go to <https://www.birdcount.org>. To learn more about what birds like to eat, check out <https://blog.nwf.org/2015/01/tips-for-winter-bird-feeding/>

Reminder from last year, smearing Vaseline on the poles that support your birdfeeders can 'glue' the birds feathers and they won't be able to fly. A baffle or slinky is a more effective and kind way to deter squirrels, according to the Center for Wildlife.

There were several positive replies to last week's question about an ultraviolet technology product that is said to be only visible to the birds, [www.WindowAlert.com](http://www.WindowAlert.com). The following article was forwarded by a reader: <https://ksltv.com/492798/zion-national-park-develops-windows-more-visible-for-birds-to-avoid-the-common-collision/>.

Prior to the Covid shut down, I was a volunteer dog-walker at a dog rescue. Rules on how to approach a dog new to the rescue were repeated again and again and again. Last week, there was *NOT* a dog-bites-child incident because the dog's owner was very alert to the three small children running toward her and her dog. Here's an excellent article on keeping kids and dogs safe from each other: [https://www.patriciamcconnell.com/theotherendoftheleash/keeping-kids-and-dogs-safe?mc\\_cid=e739de0b9b&mc\\_eid=a5b239347b](https://www.patriciamcconnell.com/theotherendoftheleash/keeping-kids-and-dogs-safe?mc_cid=e739de0b9b&mc_eid=a5b239347b).



## Dangerous Waters?

*Letter to the Editor of the Philadelphia Inquirer published January 16, 2023  
By Cheryl Wanko*

Isn't it amusing how conservative groups, think tanks, and NIMBY organizations have suddenly developed concern for animals and the environment? Despite a simple timeline that shows how whale deaths in New Jersey couldn't be linked to offshore wind development, and despite the actual science that shows how warming waters caused by climate change would lure more whales to the coast (and thus there would be more whale mortality), these groups persist in linking whale deaths to wind. I am completely in favor of researching how wind will affect both marine and avian life: We need to know these costs so that we can mitigate them.



Offshore wind turbines near Block Island, R.I. A large offshore wind energy project planned off the coast of New Jersey will connect onshore to two former power plants, and cables will run under two of the state's most popular beaches. Michael Dwyer / Associated Press, File

But please do not print another article on the supposed “dangers” of renewable power structures without providing the statistics on how much wildlife is killed by the soundings necessary for oceanic oil and gas exploration and infrastructure, or by the oil fields and tar sands, pipelines, fracking, refineries, and oil spills. Or without tabulating the human life endangered by and lost to particulate pollution and carcinogens caused by the fossil fuel industry. (Researchers at Harvard learned that in 2018, pollution from fossil fuel combustion was linked to eight million premature deaths worldwide.) Do not print such stories without asking those opposed to offshore wind if they are willing to dramatically cut their carbon emissions in order to make up for the renewable power lost by delaying these projects.

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## How Road Salting Impacts Pa. Waterways

*From NorthcentralPA.com, December 27, 2022*

Last winter, the Pennsylvania Department of Transportation applied 12.3 million gallons of salt-based brine to the state's roadways and has spread an average of 807,766 tons of rock salt a year over the last five winters.

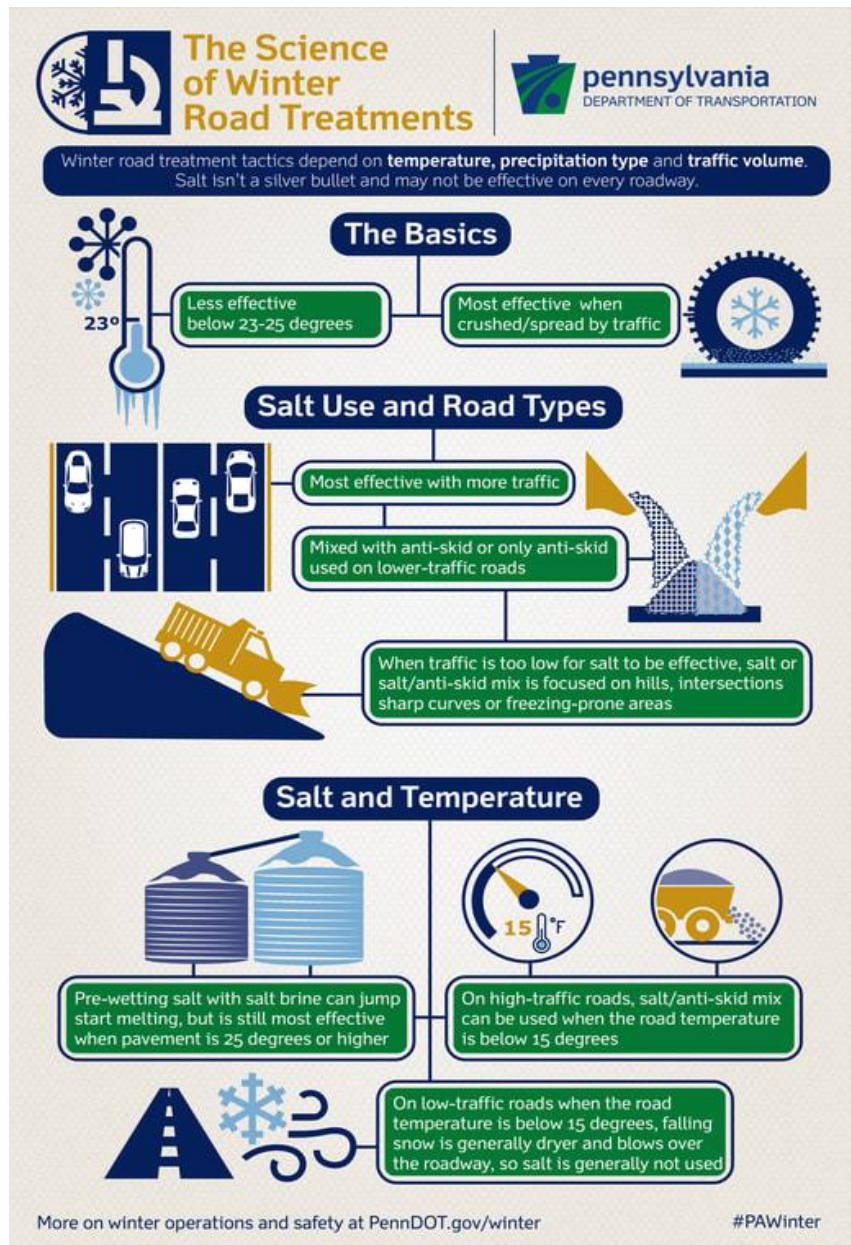
“They are just one entity that spreads road salt in Pennsylvania, but there is a comparable amount of additional road salt spread by municipal and private entities,” said Ben Lorson, Watershed Analysis Section Chief for the Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission. “When someone says road salt, you think PennDOT, but it is just one part of a larger problem.”

That problem, Lorson added, is closely tied to bigger issue – increased salinization of our freshwater resources across the state. Ben Lorson, Watershed Analysis Section Chief for the Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission, talks about his role with the agency and his concerns about road salt use and increasing salinity of our freshwater systems in the newest episode of the Middle Susquehanna Riverkeeper Podcast.

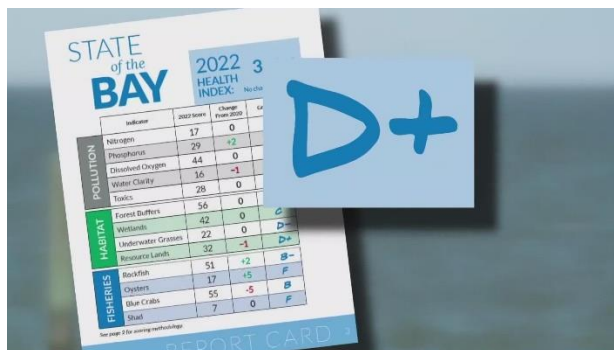
Find the podcast link on the [Middle Susquehanna Riverkeeper website](#).

## Road Salt, con't.

If you've ever wondered how, how, why, and when road salting is done, this chart explains the science behind it all.



## Chesapeake Bay Gets a D+



At least it wasn't an F, but the important message is that we still need to do better to protect this important watershed.

The Chesapeake Bay this month earned a D+ in the 2022 *State of the Bay*, CBF's biennial report card on the watershed's health. These [five takeaways](#) help explain what's going on behind the unchanged score. You can also explore each of the 13 indicators—assessing water quality, habitat, and fisheries—in the [full report](#).

## Mother Compost is Coming to West Chester



Mother Compost, already known on the Main Line, is expanding into West Chester this spring. They will be offering curbside residential and commercial compost collection in the borough. If you are interested in this concept and the services they provide, check out their website at [www.mothercompst.com](http://www.mothercompst.com).

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## Vanguard's Withdrawal from Net Zero Endangers All of Us

*by Jonathan Ogle, For The Philadelphia Inquirer, Updated Jan 9, 2023*

In December, Vanguard, the world's second-largest asset manager, [announced that it would withdraw from the Net Zero Asset Managers initiative](#), a largely symbolic pledge by asset managers to take climate change seriously by replacing fossil fuels with energy sources less likely to contribute to climate change.

The implications of Vanguard's retreat from this climate commitment should alarm both investors and anyone who lives on this planet.

Read the remainder of the article here: <https://www.inquirer.com/opinion/commentary/vanguard-net-zero-withdrawal-climate-change-investment-risk-20230109.html>



Demonstrators organized by the Sunrise Project and others gather at Cedar Hollow Park to rally and march to Vanguard's Malvern headquarters to call for Vanguard to take action on climate matters on Thursday, June 24, 2021  
Photo by TYGER WILLIAMS / Staff Photographer