

THE ENVIRONMENTAL ADVISORY COUNCIL AS A TOOL FOR WATERSHED CONSERVATION

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Local | Useful | Practical



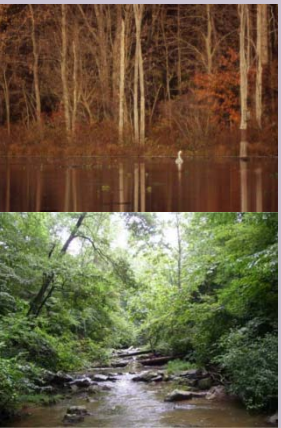


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Community-based watershed conservation

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What are EACs?



Official body of municipal government established to advise on range of environmental issues

3-7 community members appointed by Council

How are they formed?

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- Authorized under Municipalities Planning Code (Act 177)
- Presentation to Council
- Proposed municipal ordinance
- Once passed by Council, nominate and populate board with citizens



EAC activities

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DO...

- Identify potential problems
- Advise municipal officials on issues and decision-making
- Make recommendations about open space, water, and energy
- Provide educational programs on environmental issues
- Plan and implement projects to improve the environment

DO NOT...

- Regulate; they're advisory only)
- Take the place of existing boards, commissions, etc.
- Take strong activist positions



Benefits of an EAC



Part of local government
Build municipal partners
Community based

Hallmarks of good EACs

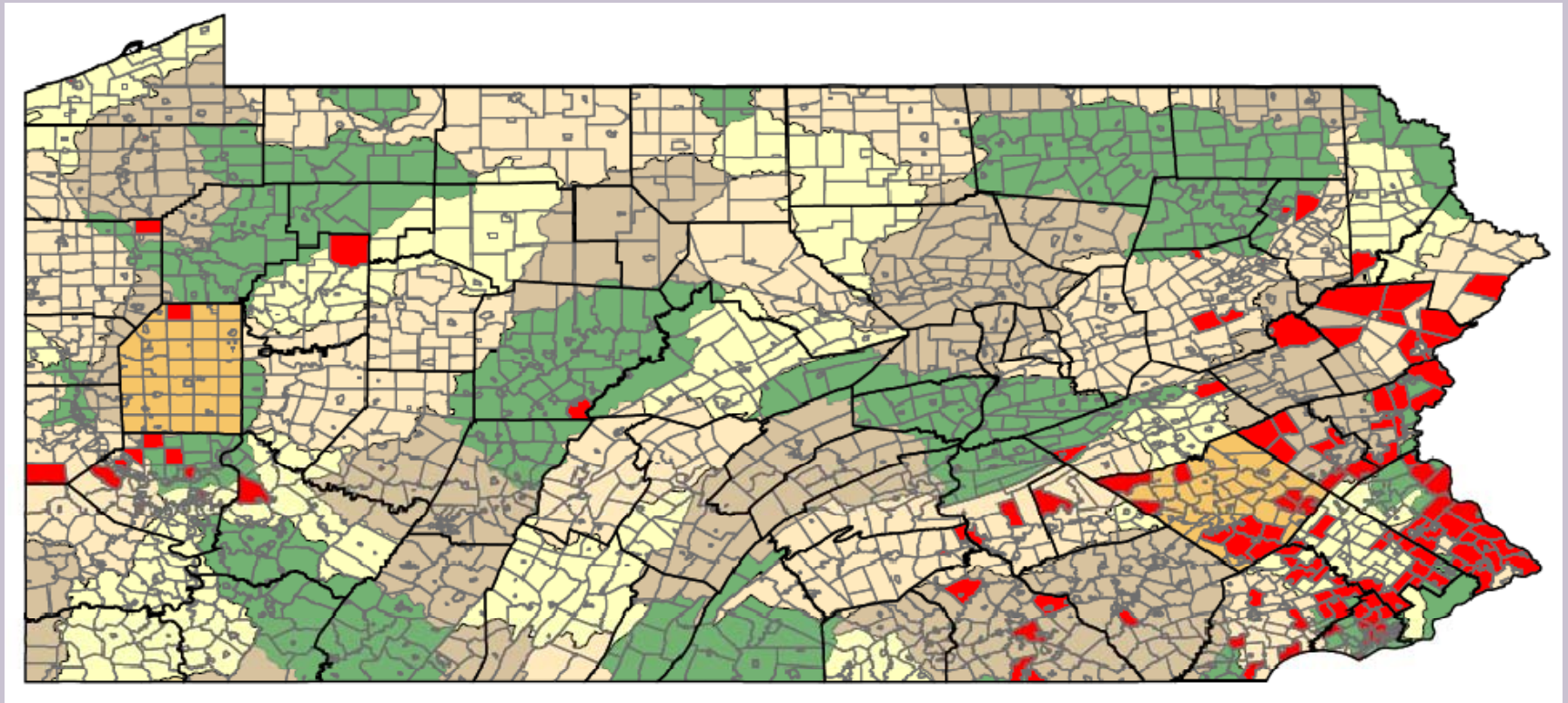
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- ❑ Open dialog with township officials
- ❑ Reasonable agenda of activities
- ❑ Focus on education
- ❑ Need to set agenda in concert with elected officials



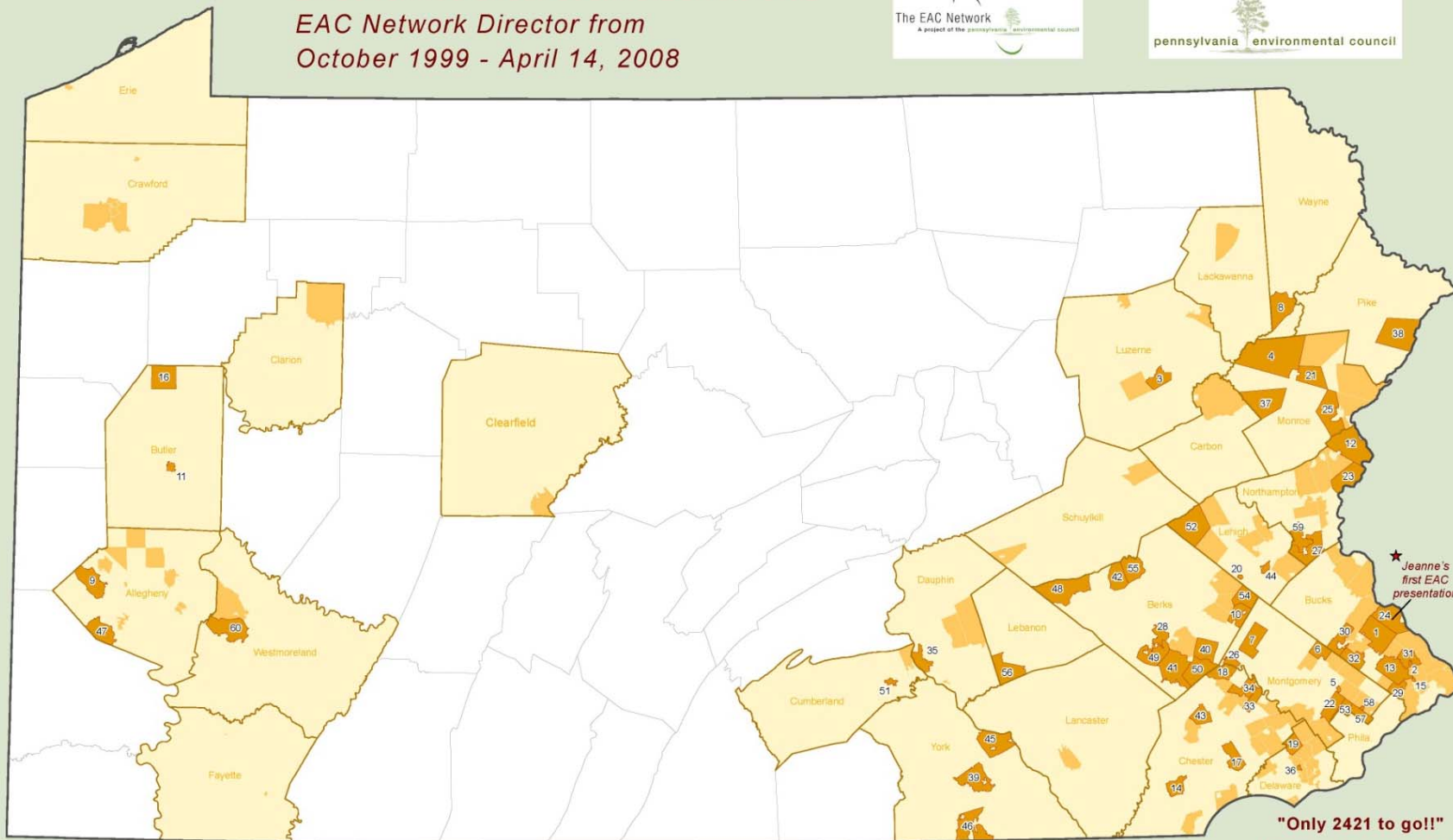
EACs, watersheds and counties

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The Pennsylvania Environmental Council Environmental Advisory Council Network

EACs formed under *Jeanne Barrett Ortiz*
EAC Network Director from
October 1999 - April 14, 2008



"Only 2421 to go!"

Map prepared by K. Luong, D. Pitz, and C. Pollard

Year	Map ID	Municipality	County
1999	1	Buckingham Township	Bucks
	2	Newtown Borough	Bucks
	3	Wright Township	Luzerne
	4	Coolbaugh Township	Monroe
	5	Ambler Borough	Montgomery
	6	Hatfield Township	Montgomery
	7	New Hanover Township	Montgomery
	8	Sterling Township	Wayne
2000	9	Moon Township	Allegheny
	10	Washington Township	Berks
	11	Butler County	Butler
	12	Upper Mount Bethel Township	Northampton

Year	Map ID	Municipality	County
2001	13	Northampton Township	Bucks
	14	Londonderry Township	Chester
	15	Langhorne Borough	Bucks
2002	16	Marion Township	Butler
	17	East Bradford Township	Chester
	18	North Coventry Township	Chester
	19	Newtown Township	Delaware
	20	Alburtis Borough	Lehigh
	21	Paradise Township	Monroe
	22	Whitemarsh Township	Montgomery
	23	Lower Mount Bethel Township	Northampton

Year	Map ID	Municipality	County
2003	24	Solebury Township	Bucks
	25	Stroud Township	Monroe
	26	Pottstown Borough	Montgomery
	27	Lower Saucon Township	Northampton
2004	28	Berks County	Berks
	29	Lower Southampton Township	Bucks
	30	New Britain Township	Bucks
	31	Newtown Township	Bucks
	32	Warrington Township	Bucks
	33	East Pikealand Township	Chester
	34	East Vincent Township	Chester
	35	Hansburg	Dauphin
	36	Media Borough	Delaware
	37	Tunkhannock Township	Monroe
	38	Delaware Township	Pike
	39	York Township	York

Year	Map ID	Municipality	County
2005	40	Amity Township	Berks
	41	Robeson Township	Berks
	42	Upper Bern Township	Berks
	43	Wallace Township	Chester
	44	Emmaus Borough	Lehigh
	45	Hellam Township	York
2006	46	Shrewsbury Township	York
	47	South Fayette Township	Allegheny
	48	Bethel Township	Berks
	49	Cumru Township	Berks
	50	Union Township	Berks
	51	Mechanicsburg Borough	Cumberland
	52	Lynn Township	Lehigh
	53	Springfield Township	Montgomery

Year	Map ID	Municipality	County
2007	54	Hereford Township	Berks
	55	Tilden Township	Berks
	56	South Londonderry Township	Lebanon
	57	Cheltenham Township	Montgomery
	58	Jenkintown Borough	Montgomery
	59	Bethlehem City	Northampton
	60	Allegheny Township	Westmoreland

Countries with an EAC
Municipalities with an EAC

- Year Adopted
- 1999 to 2006
- Prior to 1999/NA

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Can EACs help protect our water?





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Protecting drinking water is a community responsibility

As an extension of municipal officials, EACS help foster better stewardship of water resources.

Stormwater management

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- Promoting rain gardens & rain barrels
- Workshops and educational forums
- BMP tours (Montgomery Co.)
- Stream cleanups
- Meadow restorations
- Detention basin retrofits

Wrightstown EAC Streamside Restoration Project





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Watershed monitoring is incredibly valuable

By working closely with watershed associations, school groups, conservation districts, and local land trusts, EACs can help promote volunteer monitoring efforts.

Watershed health

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EACs work closely with watershed associations on watershed health projects

- River conservation plans (Durham)
- Streambank assessments
- Riparian buffer plantings (Wrightstown and Horsham)



Other example projects

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- Open space preservation, planning acquisition
- Environmental Resource Inventories
- Ordinance/SALDO review and improvements (e.g., steep slope, riparian buffers) – Lehigh Valley Planning Commission
- Planning project review
- Symposiums and conferences
- Posters and other educational materials (Jenkintown)



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What's the network all about?



EAC Network Support

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- Networking with other EAC members
- Model ordinances
- Handbook, training, and development materials
- Website – www.eacnetwork.org
- Annual meetings in Southeast PA and Lehigh Valley
- Email listserve
 - ▣ Highlight good projects
 - ▣ Provide background information
 - ▣ Disseminate information on events, websites, press releases, training & grant opportunities, podcasts

Pennsylvania Environmental Council Projects

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- 2007 stormwater listening sessions to identify issues and propose solutions
- Targeted organizing in four watersheds
 - ▣ Pine Creek
 - ▣ Upper Perkiomen
 - ▣ Darby
 - ▣ Lower Delaware
- Promote development of EACs (some already exist)
- Encourage ERIs (Environmental Resource Inventories)
 - ▣ Mapping of land use/cover, roads, topography, streams, ponds, etc.





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Outdoor experiences are critical

PA Organization for Watersheds and Rivers

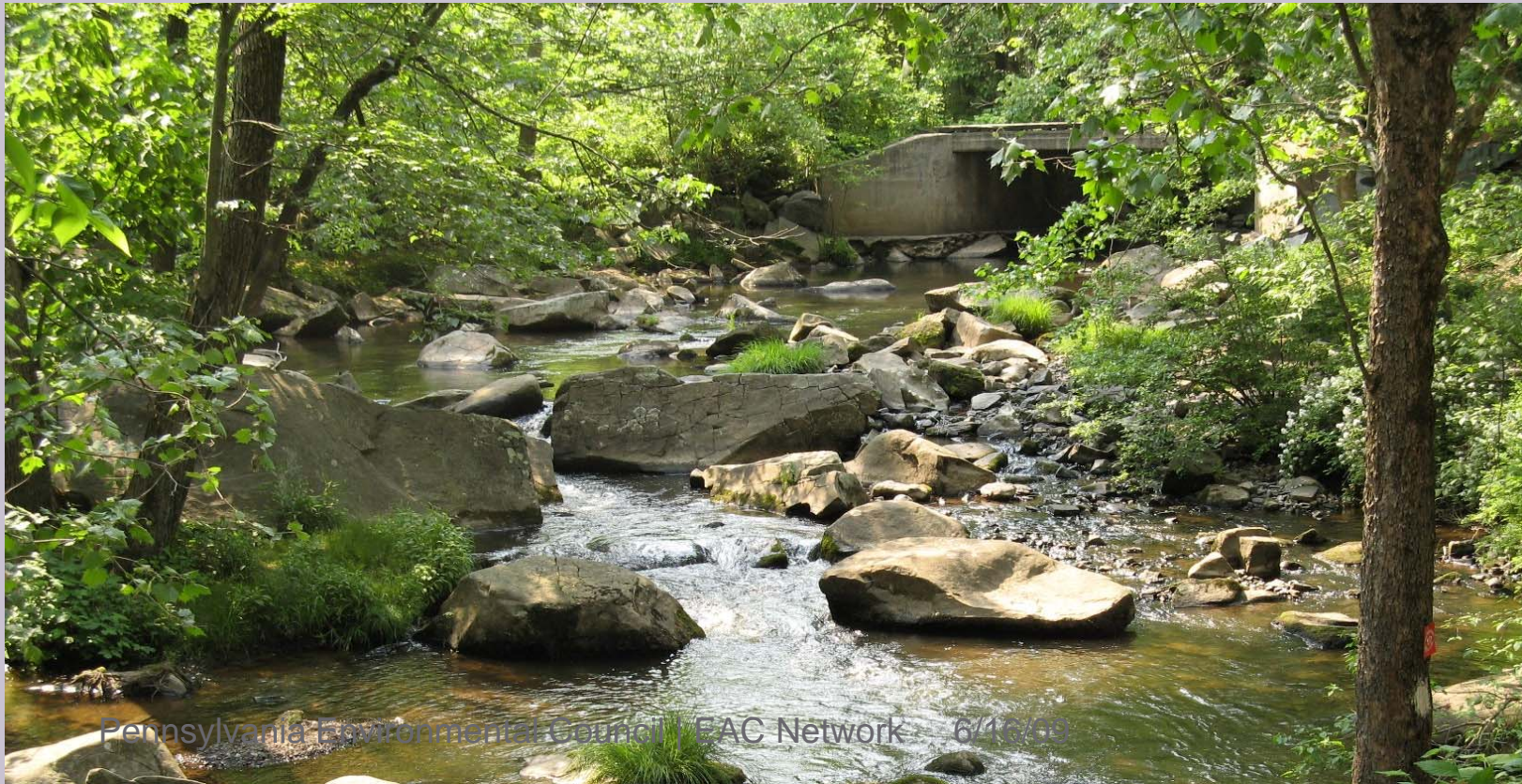
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- Independent 501c3 nonprofit AND supporting organization of PEC
- Membership association of local watershed groups
- Statewide Sojourn program (12 sojourns, 500 river miles, 2000+ participants)
- Keystone Monitoring Network



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Questions?



For more information

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<http://www.eacnetwork.org>

<http://www.pecpa.org>

<http://pawatersheds.org>

