SEEDS March 2026 Newsletter
Sustainable Energy Education & Development Support of NEPA
*Community Energy * Lasting Change*

Good News from the SEEDS Community

Coming in Loud & Clear: Eco Voices Is Here!

SEEDS of Northeastern Pennsylvania (SEEDS of NEPA) is proud to announce the launch of Eco Voices, a new youth-driven program designed to elevate the perspectives, creativity, and leadership of high school and college students across the region.

Eco Voices invites young people to share their concerns about environmental issues, brainstorm solutions with peers, and collaborate directly with SEEDS to turn their ideas into real, community-impacting projects. The program's guiding theme — Your voice. Your community. Real change. — reflects SEEDS' commitment to empowering the next generation of sustainability leaders.

The first online kickoff meeting will take place on **March 11, 2026 at 6:00 PM**. Students interested can register here.

"Eco Voices is more than a discussion space — it's a launchpad," said SEEDS Outreach Coordinator Holly Zaluski, a current student at the University of Scranton. "Young people consistently tell us they want to make a difference but don't always know where to start. This program gives them structure, mentorship, and a community of peers who care just as deeply about the future of our region."

Participants will meet regularly to identify environmental challenges affecting their communities, develop actionable project ideas, receive guidance, support, and accountability from SEEDS staff and volunteers, and build leadership skills while contributing to meaningful, measurable change.

Eco Voices is open to all high school and college students in Northeast Pennsylvania, regardless of prior experience with sustainability or activism.

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SEEDS Is Seeking a Program Coordinator!

SEEDS is seeking a part-time **Program Coordinator** to support and deliver our 2026 Energy Efficiency Assessment & Coaching Program. This role combines hands-on home assessments, energy coaching, and program coordination with volunteers and high school interns. The Coordinator will serve as the primary point of contact for homeowners, help residents

understand their energy use, and guide them through available rebate and incentive programs.

This is a seasonal position from mid-May through August, with a mix of office work, field work, and flexible remote hours. The Program Coordinator will receive base pay with an opportunity to earn an additional stipend tied to program outcomes. Apply by April 3, 2026: director@seedsgroup.net

Image by Freepik.

Renewable & Sustainability News
Our monthly feature on what's happening here at home and around the world.

What the End of the 'Endangerment Finding' Means for NEPA

By Adam Freedgood
SEEDS Volunteer & Board Member

Administrators in Washington D.C. repealed a major piece of environmental policy this month which will have long-term implications for air quality and energy economics across the U.S. “The U.S. EPA finalized a rule overturning its own “endangerment finding” — established after years of scientific analysis — that concluded that greenhouse gas pollution endangers human health and requires regulation.” As federal oversight recedes, NEPA residents may be wondering what this means for their health and utility bills.

What Was the Endangerment Finding?
In 2009, based on a comprehensive review of scientific evidence, the EPA issued a formal determination stating that six greenhouse gases (GHGs)—including carbon dioxide and methane—threaten the public health and welfare of current and future generations. This was not a regulation in itself, but rather the legal trigger that compelled the EPA to act under the Clean Air Act.

Once the agency formally recognized that these emissions were harmful, it was legally obligated to regulate them. For the past 16 years, this finding served as the foundation for federal limits on emissions from light-duty cars, heavy-duty trucks, and power plants. It provided the regulatory certainty that allowed industries to plan for a cleaner future and spurred innovation in emissions-control technologies.

How Did the Rule Benefit Pennsylvanians?
The regulations derived from this finding overwhelmingly improved public health. Steps taken to reduce greenhouse gases almost always result in the reduction of co-pollutants like particulate matter (soot), nitrogen oxides, and sulfur dioxide.

For NEPA, a region that sits downwind from many industrial sources in the Ohio Valley, federal standards helped reduce the number of "Code Red" air quality days. This contributed to lower rates of asthma and respiratory illnesses, particularly among children and the elderly. Economically, the push toward decarbonization fostered a growing clean energy sector and was projected to save U.S. consumers $350 billion in fuel costs.

The Repeal: Will Energy Prices Drop?
The revocation of the Endangerment Finding effectively strips the federal government of its authority to regulate GHG emissions. The immediate consequences include the repeal of vehicle emissions standards and expected rollbacks on power plant rules. Supporters of the repeal argue that this is a victory for deregulation that will lower costs for consumers. The federal government claims that removing these "burdensome" rules will cause gas, electricity, and vehicle prices to tumble. However, for Pennsylvanians hoping for relief on their monthly bills, don't expect to see any difference.

While automakers may see reduced compliance costs, it is unclear if those savings will be passed to consumers or absorbed as profit. More importantly, electricity prices in Pennsylvania are not primarily driven by EPA regulations, but by global market forces. The price of electricity in our region is heavily tied to the price of natural gas and the increasingly competitive cost of renewables. Solar and wind energy have become the cheapest sources of new electricity generation in many markets, regardless of federal mandates.

Any marginal short-term savings must be weighed against long-term costs. NEPA is already experiencing the localized effects of a warming climate, including more frequent and severe flooding which damages infrastructure and homes. The financial burden of these events—reflected in higher insurance premiums, municipal taxes for road repairs, and healthcare costs—will likely outpace any savings at the pump.

State-Level Solutions: The SAVER Proposal

The most important takeaway for our community is that the loss of federal leadership does not signal the end of climate action. Pennsylvania has the tools and the legal authority to chart its own course, and right now, a critical proposal is on the table: the SAVER program. SAVER stands for "Stability and Affordability Via Emissions Reduction. It is a legislative proposal that would be implemented under Pennsylvania's Air Pollution Control Act. This state law gives the Department of Environmental Protection the authority to regulate air pollution independent of federal EPA decisions.

The SAVER program utilizes a "cap-and-invest" model that sets a declining limit (or cap) on carbon emissions from major pollution sources. Companies must obtain allowances for their emissions, and the number of available allowances decreases over time, ensuring that pollution goes down.

The program is designed to reinvest the proceeds directly into Pennsylvania's economy. The revenue generated from the auction of allowances would be used to:

- Provide direct rebates to consumers to offset utility bills.
- Fund energy efficiency upgrades for homes and businesses.
- Support solar and wind projects that create local jobs.

SEEDS Supports SAVER

At SEEDS, we advocate for smart policies that protect our region's distinct environmental and economic interests. Therefore, SEEDS has officially endorsed the SAVER proposal. We believe this program offers a balanced, market-based approach that reduces emissions while protecting working class ratepayers.

We have submitted a formal letter of support to the Environmental Quality Board (EQB), urging them to adopt these measures to ensure Pennsylvania remains competitive and healthy.

Read SEEDS Support Letter to the EQB here

The Path Forward

The termination of the EPA's Endangerment Finding creates a vacuum in federal climate leadership, but it does not stop the transition to a cleaner energy economy. Through state-level advocacy and continued community commitment to efficiency and renewables, we can secure a sustainable future for NEPA. For a comprehensive, non-paywalled analysis of the legal and global implications of this decision, we recommend reading:

EPA Repeals Legal Basis for Regulating Greenhouse Gases. What it Means for the US — and the World

Upcoming Events

Eco Voices

Date: Wednesday, March 11, 2026

Time: 6:00-7:00 PM
Where: Zoom Link provided when you register
Students interested can register here.
Youth-driven program designed to elevate the perspectives, creativity, and leadership of high school and college students across the region.

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Back to Basics Series:
How to Save Money on Your Energy Bills
Date: Friday, March 20, 2026
Time: 5:30-6:30 PM
Where: Zoom - register here
Learn from SEEDS experts on how to save money on your energy bills!

Image by Vecteezy.

Energy Efficiency Tip of the Month

This month's tip is: Switch to LED Lighting!

Lighting may seem like a small part of your energy use, but outdated incandescent bulbs, halogen bulbs, and compact fluorescent lamps consume significantly more electricity and produce excess heat. There is no better time than right now to make the switch and save on your energy bills! Replacing frequently used bulbs with ENERGY STAR® certified LED bulbs can reduce lighting energy use by up to 75% and last up to 25 times longer. LEDs also generate less heat, which can help maintain indoor comfort and reduce strain on your heating and cooling systems throughout the year. This simple upgrade lowers utility costs and reduces the need for frequent bulb replacements.

Read more and learn how to dispose of your old bulbs at: Department of Energy – LED

Lighting

SEEDS Reads!
Looking for your next read? Check out the book recommendations below from our Volunteers. These titles support curious minds and sustainable futures.

CHILDREN'S PICK

Curious George Makes Maple Syrup by H.A. Rey
George enjoys pancakes every Sunday, especially with his favorite topping — maple syrup! But when the syrup bottle runs out, it's time to make more. Join George as he learns how to gather sap from maple trees with the help of his friends.

ADULT PICK

Botany of Desire by Michael Pollan
Journalist and Harvard professor Michael Pollan analyzes four types of human desires via a unique approach; by diving into the cultivation and genetic engineering of plants. Each plant profiled plays a specific role in our everyday lives and results in different yearnings: the sweet apple; the beautiful tulip; intoxicating cannabis; and the control provided by the versatile potato.

Message Board Info

Subscribe to the SEEDS new online message board to ask questions, share expertise, and get alerts on upcoming learning opportunities! Have a specific question about solar, energy efficiency, or clean tech? Want to promote an upcoming event or resource? SEEDS is building an online forum to serve as a center of knowledge on all things clean energy!

Visit https://groups.io/g/NEPA-solar-and-energy-efficiency or send an email to NEPA-solar-and-energy-efficiency+subscribe@groups.io to subscribe!

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES!

- **Outreach Circle** - Meets bimonthly via Zoom or in person to develop and implement messaging around what a "sustainable future" means to our community. Be part of an energetic group seeking ways to amplify SEEDS messaging and programming.

- **Tabling events** - We have some exciting events coming up this spring and are looking for individuals to help out at our displays. A few hours helping out can make a huge difference in getting our resources into

the hands of folks that may benefit from them, such as our Energy Efficiency Checklist!

Contact Development Director Michele Long if you are interested in any volunteer opportunities at director@seedsgroup.net

Donate to support SEEDS!

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