

Resource Conservation & Development

..... Fact Sheet

What is Resource Conservation and Development?

Resource Conservation and Development (RC&D) is a unique public-private partnership involving local community volunteers and USDA's Natural Resources Conservation Service. In partnership with local, state, and federal government agencies, non-profit organizations, and businesses, RC&D Councils complete beneficial natural resource, conservation, and community development projects. RC&D Councils can help secure the necessary technical and financial assistance, such as consultants, volunteers, materials and supplies, grants, and loans to complete a local project.

What does an RC&D Council do?

..... Using a multi-year area plan to guide their efforts, each RC&D Council develops an annual work plan to accomplish projects related to four elements:

- • Water Management
- Community Development
- Land Conservation
- Land Management

The "Fuels for Schools and Beyond" project is one of many that Pennsylvania RC&D Councils are involved in.



Who is involved in an RC&D?

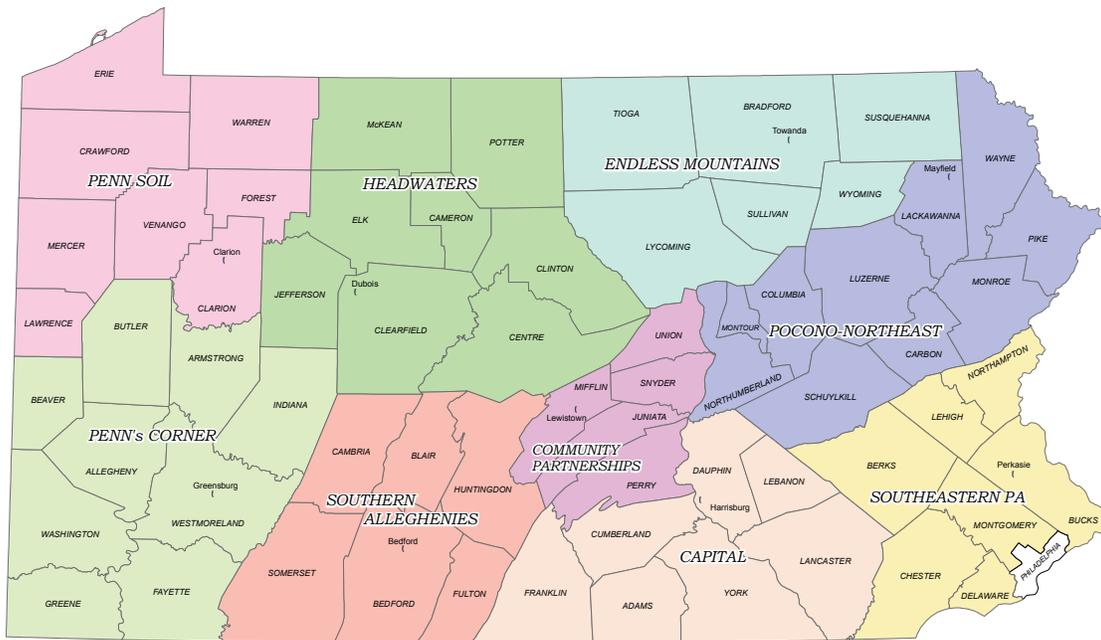
Members of RC&D Councils can include county commissioners, businesses, non-profit organizations, county conservation districts, planning departments, economic development organizations, and individuals. The members are responsible for directing the efforts of the organization, implementing their plans, and completing projects.

How can local people get involved?

Local people can get involved in their area's RC&D Council by submitting project ideas, volunteering, serving on committees, and serving as a Director on the RC&D Council.

Where are RC&D Councils in Pennsylvania?

There are 9 authorized RC&Ds in Pennsylvania:



Endless Mountains
570-265-5288 ext. 5
www.endlessmountainsrcd.org

Pocono Northeast
570-282-8732 ext. 4
www.pnercd.org

Southeastern PA
215-453-9527, ext. 5
www.separcd.org

Capital Area
717-241-4361
www.capitalrcd.org

Southern Alleghenies
814-623-7900 ext. 5
<http://sac-sarcd.org>

Penn Soil
814-226-8160 ext. 5
www.pennsoilrcd.org

Penn's Corner
724-853-5555 ext. 116

Headwaters
814-375-1372 ext. 4
www.headwaterspa.org

Community Partnerships
717-248-4901
<http://cpartnerships.com>

What kinds of things have RC&Ds accomplished?

- Developed "PA Fuels for Schools and Beyond" Program.
- Provided "dry hydrants" for rural community fire protection which reduces insurance rates for townships and residents.
- Developed recreational trails for community enjoyment through the "Rails to Trails" program or water trails for boats and canoes.
- Sponsored the development of community organizations such as watershed groups, hardwood associations, forestry landowners associations and the Eastern and WesternPA Coalition for Abandoned Mine Reclamation.
- Promoted energy conservation through a solar power project.
- Initiated the Woodland Resource Adventure Camp for youth.
- Led urban and community forestry projects.
- Sponsored regional livestock grazing projects.
- Initiated "Farm to Market" projects such as Pocono Farm Fresh which promotes healthy agriculture.
- Constructed wetlands for acid mine drainage treatment.
- Provided composting demonstrations on farms.
- Conducted a regional biomass energy assessment.
- Facilitated public acquisition of water reservoirs and the formation of a joint County Authority for regional economic development.
- Assisted in planning/implementing numerous forums, conferences, and workshops on innovative topics related to resource issues.

For more information

Contact one of the RC&D Councils listed above or your local USDA Service Center for more information. The contact numbers for NRCS can be found in the phone book Under U.S. Government, U.S. Department of Agriculture.

Also visit: www.pa.nrcs.usda.gov/programs and www.parc.org

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