

Growing Your Community Connections

Welcome to the second issue of the newsletter from Penn Soil Resource Conservation & Development Council!



Givebutter Fundraiser Launched



A few photos from the Toy Shoppe of Warren open house celebrating their 25th anniversary! Penn Soil has served as the fiscal agent for the group for many years and has secured about \$75,000 in grants to enable them to continue their mission of making thousands of free toys for underprivileged children each year!



Penn Sol RC&D has launched our first year-end fundraising campaign utilizing the Givebutter platform. You can make a difference with how many projects Penn Soil can assist with! Since we are a not-for-profit 501(c)3 charitable organization with no constant funding source, the only way to remain sustainable to work on all the projects we commit to assist with is through donations and grants.

Our Givebutter page has lots of information about the history of Penn Soil and a partial list of some of the dozens of projects Penn Soil has completed or are currently working on in the 8 county region we serve. The campaign page will be active until Dec. 31, 2024. Please consider making a donation to help us continue our mission to further community development by improving the economy, environment and social well-being of the residents of Northwest PA!
Visit <https://givebutter.com/pQ5LDD>



Penn Soil RC&D is looking for individuals who are interested in serving on our Council from any of the 8 counties we serve. If interested, please call our office at 814-726-1441



Calling all artists!

We are still accepting registrations for the Nature Art Showcase and Sale in Franklin on Feb 7-8, 2025. Forms can be found on the website, by calling the office or [click this link to the Council of Greenway & Trails website](#). A new subcategory of pollinator's has been added for this year's show and each artist may submit up to 2 pieces. Registrations must be received by Jan. 8, 2025 to be included in the full-color program booklet!



Allegheny National Forest Centennial Geo-trail Extended!

The geo-trail has been extended through September of 2025. If you haven't had a chance to get out there and find the caches...your in luck! Visit the Allegheny National Forest centennial geo-trail Blog post on our website at www.pennsoil.org for more info and to download the passport.



Workshops for new and beginning farmers and women in forestry and agriculture will be taking place in several counties in the next few months. Visit the website or our Facebook page for updates on dates and locations. Remember, we can also meet one-on-one with you to discuss your goals and direct you to Conservation District or NRCS programs to assist you with growing your business.



Penn Soil is now assisting the Allegheny Greenhouse senior citizen group find a new home to grow and sell the bedding flowers, hanging baskets and vegetable plants that they sell to the public in Warren County through May each spring. Their old site was deemed structurally unsafe so the lease was terminated.

We are currently looking at options for a new site, greenhouse designs and avenues of funding for this big project! A large portion of the money the volunteer group raises through the sale of plants is redistributed to local non-profits and charities that do not have consistent funding. Historically, that amounted to \$15,000-20,000 a year!! The tentative plan, once they have a new home, is to recruit more volunteers and offer educational workshops to the public, from children to senior citizens!

Carbon Forest Management Study



Penn Soil RC&D has been working with numerous state and federal partners to complete a five-year research and education project that involves Carbon Forest Management and the tradeoffs between the various ecosystem services provided by forestland based on management of forest stands.

This effort will support policy formulation at the state level and to enable landowners to better understand management options which might include carbon related considerations. The US Forest Service has worked with Penn Soil RC&D to complete carbon modeling for two states (Pennsylvania and Maryland) and evaluate state needs across the region to explore the development of a Carbon Assessment Team for the region. We are winding down the project and wanted to share some of our findings or conclusions for public benefit.

Biogenic Carbon Cycle

In general, older forests typically have higher carbon storage due to larger trees, but lower sequestration rates on a per-acre basis when compared to young forests, because carbon uptake slows down as a forests age. Conversely, younger forests generally have lower carbon stocks owing to less biomass in smaller trees. But these young forests have very rapid growth rates and so high rates of sequestration compared to older forests. Carbon is returned to the atmosphere largely through the destruction of aboveground biomass, due to natural disturbance or harvest. Natural disturbances and harvest for wood products can alter the timing at which carbon returns to the atmosphere. Carbon cycles naturally from the atmosphere to land and back to the atmosphere. Forests take up carbon from the atmosphere, and secure carbon aboveground and belowground.

Carbon as One of Many Management Objectives

- In any given forest, management objectives may include any number of desired ecosystem benefits: water protection, wood products, wildlife, recreational opportunities, aesthetics, cultural uses, and more.
- However, there are unavoidable tradeoffs in managing multiple goals and it may not be possible to meet all goals, including those for carbon, in a single stand or at a single point in time.

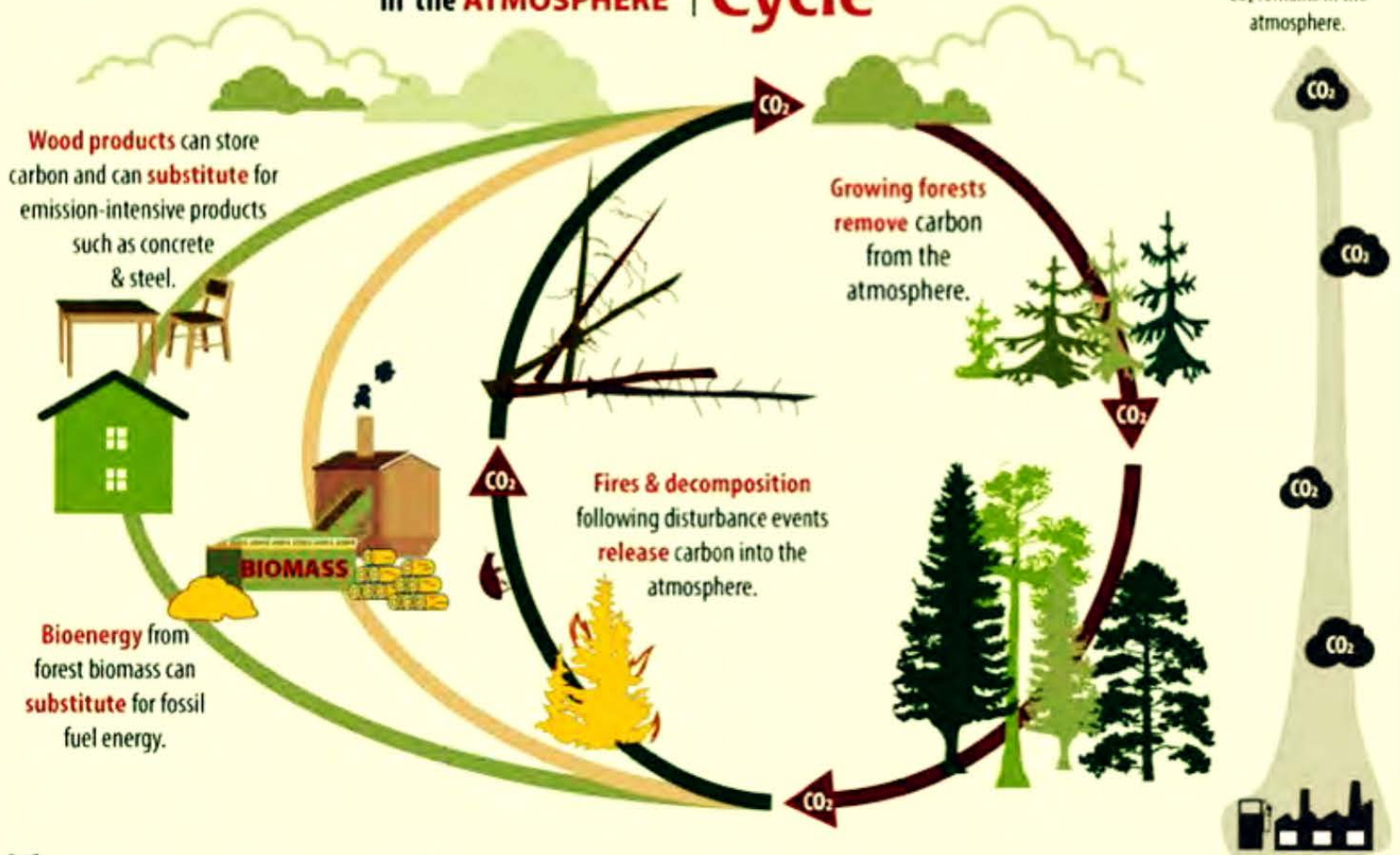
Active management involves social and ecological tradeoffs, including tradeoffs for carbon goals. See the carbon cycle graph on the next page.



The closed loop of FOREST CARBON in the ATMOSPHERE

Carbon Cycle

Fossil fuel use is an
OPEN SYSTEM where
CO₂ remains in the
atmosphere.



The Kinzua Heritage Festival organizers are looking for volunteers to help with next year's festival. If you are interested in helping during the event or in the kitchen, visit their Facebook page and send them a message.

The Master Watershed Steward program, through Penn State Extension, is accepting applicants for the next training session for the next winter/spring training. If interested, call the office at 814-726-1441 and ask for Sue!



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