



CORPORATE ENVIRONMENTAL STEWARDSHIP PROGRAM (CESP): CORPORATIONS TO COMMUNITIES TO CONSERVATION

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Introduction

A select group of businesses in the Delaware Estuary is taking conservation into its own hands — literally. Members of the Partnership for the Delaware Estuary's (PDE) Corporate Environmental Stewardship Program (CESP) are companies that have become hands-on partners in on-the-ground conservation projects. CESP-member companies encourage employees to play an active role in conservation projects on corporate lands, or in their local communities. Working with PDE staff, these companies enhance land and protect wildlife by carrying out projects to restore native habitats and natural functions, while also educating employees, students, and the community. They also participate in an annual PDE-led excursion that is an opportunity to network with other CESP members and experience new locations in the estuary. The PDE would like to thank the following CESP members for their continued commitment to the Delaware Estuary in 2008:

Golden Eagle Members



Red Tail Hawk Members



2008 & 2009 Corporate Projects

Agilent Technologies continued its participation in CESP this spring by expanding upon its garden of plants which are native to the region. This "native-plant garden" is adjacent to an open-space meadow on the company's property in Wilmington, Delaware. By continually planting native species, employees are providing increased biodiversity for animals and birds, and they are helping to combat the invasion of exotic plants too. The employees of Agilent Technologies weed and tend to this garden regularly.

The stormwater pond on the campus of **Atlantic City Electric** has seen improved water quality since the company first began working with PDE in 2004. Their 2008 project continued to improve upon the pond's native-plant buffer by adding bushes such as winterberry holly and redosier dogwood. These will filter stormwater before it can wash pollutants into the pond from surrounding parking lots and roofs. Employees put a new spin on this year's planting by volunteering with their children on "Bring Your Child to Work Day." These youngsters had a good time getting muddy while they learned about the importance of environmental stewardship from their parents. Other more permanent residents also benefit from this enhanced stormwater pond. Among these are two swans that have recently become fixtures on the company's property in Carneys Point, New Jersey.



Children install shrubs alongside a stormwater runoff basin at Atlantic City Electric's offices in Carney's Point, New Jersey, during "Bring Your Child to Work Day" on May 2, 2008.

A multi-phased restoration project at the University of Pennsylvania's New Bolton Center in Kennett Square, Pennsylvania, began in October. Each of the four subsidiaries of Johnson & Johnson worked with the PDE to purchase and install native trees, shrubs, and grasses. These were used to plant a streamside buffer along an important tributary to the Red Clay Creek, which flows to the Delaware River. Phase one of the project consisted of planting a 10-foot-wide buffer along a stream that flows through a pasture where animals are allowed to roam. Nutrient-rich waste in this pasture was causing bacteria and algae to grow in this stream, reducing the amount of oxygen available for aquatic plants living downstream. Over 40 employees from the four companies came together to install about 600 plants specific to this region. This buffer will eventually prevent horses and cows from walking into the stream. It will also filter nutrients from rainwater and snowmelt as they wash manure from the pasture into the waterway. **Noramco, McNeil, Centocor, and GBSC** all plan to continue this project in the spring of 2009. Plans for phase two include additional plantings and the initiation of water-quality monitoring.



Logan Generating has carried out numerous CESP projects since 2002, including plantings that have restored a total of 17 acres of emergent wetlands, fields, and upland habitats. The company is now working with the PDE to plan a project that will reach beyond the boundaries of its Swedesboro, New Jersey, facility.



This year, the PDE kicked off its Freshwater Mussel Recovery Program, thanks to funding provided by CESP member, **ConocoPhillips**. The PDE is also working with **ConocoPhillips** to coordinate a CESP project in the spring of 2009.



Mannington Mills and the Audubon Society are restoring a large parcel of agricultural land starting in 2009. The parcel, known as the Griscom tract, is 38 acres: 8 acres of wetland mitigation site, 18 acres of wetland, and 12 acres of farmland. To provide early successional/shrub-scrub habitat, native trees, shrubs & grasses will be planted in 11 to 12 acres of the farmland portion of the property.

McNeil, a Johnson & Johnson Company, reached out to its community last spring by working with the PDE to provide a workshop for Whitmarsh Township in Pennsylvania. This gathering taught homeowners how to use rain barrels to capture rain water and reduce stormwater runoff. These rain barrels make good economic sense because the stormwater collected can be used to water lawns and gardens, thereby reducing homeowners' monthly water bills. **McNeil** provided a rain barrel, valued at about \$100, to every participant at the workshop. The company will continue to work with Whitmarsh Township in the future to provide tutorials on related topics, such as rain gardens and native plants.

GBSC, a division of Johnson & Johnson, helped to fund an environmental enhancement project at the Hatboro-Horsham School District's Jarrett Nature Center on October 21, with the help of PDE's CESP program. The Jarrett Nature Center is an excellent resource for both students and the community, serving as an outdoor classroom. Recently, an enormous number of invasive plants were removed from the wetlands located on the grounds of the nature center. These plants were replaced with native species to improve biodiversity and allow wildlife to thrive. Approximately 100 students from the school district's elementary, junior high, and high schools volunteered to plant about 100 trees and shrubs, and hundreds of ferns and perennials. These plants will remove pollutants picked up by rainwater and snowmelt before they can wash into an onsite tributary that leads to the Neshaminy Creek. **GBSC** hopes to contribute to the expansion of this project in the spring of 2009 with the installation of a new rain garden.



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Wheelabrator continues to sponsor its annual Symposium for Environment and Education, with assistance from PDE's CESP program. This event helps to enhance environmental and social awareness among students at a local middle school in Gloucester, New Jersey. Representatives from **Wheelabrator & PDE** began meeting with students in the fall of 2008 to help them develop a project to address a relevant environmental issue in their community. At the end of the school year, students will have an opportunity to present their projects at a national conference. This will help to improve the health of the Delaware Estuary by educating the next generation of environmental stewards.

Corporate environmental stewards combine assistance from the PDE with corporate funds and manpower to make tangible environmental improvements in Delaware Estuary communities. For more information or to join the Corporate Environmental Stewardship Program, please contact Laura Whalen or Karen Johnson at (800) 445-4935, extension 101, or lwhalen@DelawareEstuary.org.