

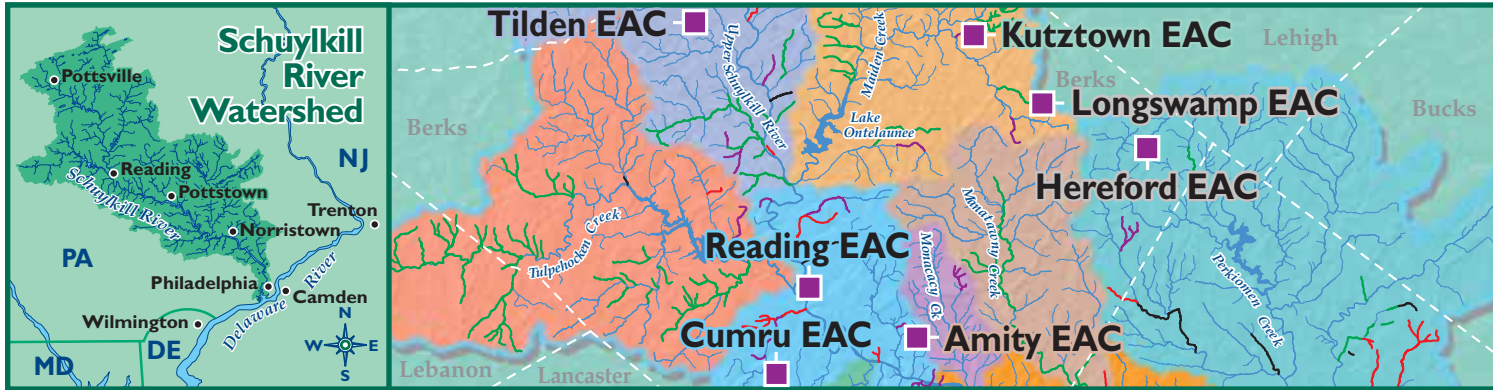
EDUCATION & OUTREACH

Environmental Advisory Councils

Environmental Advisory Councils (EACs) are volunteer groups recruited by townships to advocate and participate in environmental practices and initiatives in their local communities. In the Philadelphia Water Department's Source Water Assessment, it was discovered that townships with active EACs generally had more environmentally-friendly approaches to land management and development.

With an established EAC development outreach program in place, the Pennsylvania Environmental Council (PEC) utilized Schuylkill Watershed Initiative Grant funds to expand its program to high priority communities throughout the Schuylkill River Watershed. In the headwaters alone, a list of 15 priority townships was established with the assistance of the Schuylkill Action Network (SAN) Stormwater Workgroup and the Berks County Planning Commission. PEC reached out to these communities to offer training, funding, and other services to those interested in creating EACs. Through this effort, PEC was able to establish several new EACs in the watershed, and evaluate existing EACs to enhance stormwater management activities. Working with other partners, PEC and the SAN Stormwater Workgroup met with townships in other areas of the watershed to update them on upcoming stormwater management policies and regulations, and help prepare them to take the necessary steps for compliance.





By focusing new and existing EACs on the Schuylkill River Watershed, this program is helping to develop stewardship in local decision makers, and establish relationships in communities where SAN can work on future projects. Ideally, local EAC's will take the helm, steer community decision makers, educate residents, and initiate on-the-ground projects to protect and improve water quality throughout the watershed.



The Schuylkill Watershed Initiative Grant is a targeted watershed grant awarded by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency for the completion of a suite of water quality improvement demonstration projects in the Schuylkill River Watershed. The EAC project is one of more than 40 projects that received funding from this source, in addition to other funds and/or support. The grant is administered by the Partnership for the Delaware Estuary and the Philadelphia Water Department.