

For Immediate Release
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Montgomery County Green Futures' Annual Spring Open Space Workshop and Dinner

WHAT: Open Space Workshop and Dinner for Community Leaders and Open Space Advocates

WHERE: Upper Dublin Township building, 801 Lock Alsh Ave., Fort Washington, PA 19034

WHEN: May 27, 2010 – 4:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.

Harleysville, PA--- Montgomery County Lands Trust and Natural Lands Trust announce *Growing and Tending Your Green Resources*, the fifth annual Open Space Workshop and Dinner for officials, staff, and open space advocates of Montgomery County municipalities. The free program will take place on Thursday, May 27, 2010 from 4:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. at the Upper Dublin Township municipal building. The event is a component of the Montgomery County Green Futures program and is presented by PECO. The updated format includes an opening roundtable discussion on open space funding at the county and state levels along with ideas for generating new financial resources. This will be followed by workshop sessions that focus on these two timely open space topics:

- A) ***Cost-Effective Natural Area Management*** will provide practical hands-on advice and guidelines for managing open lands. Subjects will include establishing meadows that encourage native wildlife, native plant selection for woodlands and streamside buffer projects, invasive plant control, naturalizing stormwater basins, and preventing deer damage;
- B) ***Let the Voters Decide: Ballot Measures for Land Conservation*** will explore how to design and pass open space pass ballot measures at the local level. An overview of the history and trends of Montgomery County ballot measures along with the strategies and lessons learned from regional successes will show how winning ballot campaigns can reap generous rewards for communities.

For additional information or to register, visit www.mclt.org and click on **2010 Green Futures**.

Major funding for this workshop is provided by **PECO**. In 2009, PECO launched a more than \$15 million initiative to preserve the environment and help customers become more environmentally responsible. The initiative includes the installation of a 45,000 square foot green roof and new LED Crown Lights messaging system at their Center City headquarters; upgrades to secure Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) certification for many of their buildings; the increased use of hybrid and biodiesel vehicles; and support for environmental and energy efficiency projects and programs. **PECO's parent company, Exelon**, has set a goal of reducing, offsetting or displacing more than 15 million metric tons of greenhouse gas emissions per year by 2020. This is more than the company's current annual carbon footprint and is equivalent to taking nearly 3 million cars off American roads and highways.

*Inspired by the November, 2003 Green Fields/Green Towns referendum and the passage of Pennsylvania's \$625 million Growing Greener II Bond Initiative, the **Montgomery County Green Futures program** is a three-pronged initiative that has reached over 1,200 participants. The components of this multifaceted approach consist of education, outreach, and training. The workshops are designed to provide local leaders with the tools they need to make enlightened decisions and public investments regarding land conservation, water resource protection, and smart growth strategies.*

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Growing and Tending Your Green Resources is sponsored by



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