

Welcome to Schuylkill Environmental Careers Online Training



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Introductions

Before We Start

- Make sure to sign SmartWaiver link
- No risk to this program
- Photo Release





- An NHA is designated by the government
 - Encourages historic preservation of a landscape
- Connects residents and visitors to the Schuylkill River to promote civic engagement and economic growth
 - Provides educational resources, hosts events, maintains health of river and trail



Photo: GoPhillyGo

Some Programs and Projects

- Maintenance and development of Schuylkill River Trail
 - 75 completed miles along the river
 - 137 mile water trail
- Community events
 - Ride for the River
 - Sojourn
- Education
 - Schuylkill Explorers
 - Junior Ranger
 - Operation Pollination
 - SECO



Schuylkill Environmental Career Opportunities (E.C.O.)

- Mission:
 - Present high school students with environmentally-focused job opportunities in federal, state, nonprofit, local, and private sectors
 - Provide hands-on educational opportunities that link students with the natural environment
 - Inspire the next generation of watershed stewards.

Schuylkill Environmental Careers Online Training

- Mission:
 - Present students and young professionals with environmentally-focused job and educational opportunities
 - Provide participants with information and tips on how to enter any career field
 - Discuss and learn more about environmental importance and emerging issues
 - Provide a safe, socially-distant space for students young professionals to learn more about entering an environmental career field

Goals of SECOT

- Upon completion of this course, students and young professionals will acquire and learn desirable skills and tools needed to enter the environmental career field
 - Participants will understand new emerging issues that professionals are facing
 - Participants will gain transferable and essential professional skills to enter any career field
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Topics of Each Session

February 2: Introduction and Watersheds

February 9: Career and Educational Opportunities

February 16: Resume Building and Cover Letter Writing

February 23: Interviews

March 2: Professional Mentors

March 9: Professional Mentors 2

Professional Mentors

Kelly Knutson

Director for the Coalition for the Delaware River Watershed

Garrett White

Biological Science Technician at John Heinz National Wildlife Refuge

Kate Hanley

- Director for Climate Strategy for Aramark

Benefits of Participating

- Learn how to search and apply for jobs
 - Network
 - Improve and build your resume
 - Learn more about environmental issues
 - Receive a certificate of completion and other free gifts
-

Requirements for Completion

1

Attend every hour long session each week

2

Complete weekly assignments

3

Participate in discussions

4

Complete post survey

Resources

- [Schuylkillriver.org/seco](https://www.schuylkillriver.org/seco)
 - Syllabus
 - PowerPoints
 - Informational worksheets

PFAS

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“Forever Chemicals”

What is PFAS

- Per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS)
- A family of synthetic chemicals
- Found in many products, such as nonstick cookware, some food packaging, fire extinguishing foams
- Water-repellant
- Heat resistant



**Stain- & water-
resistance
treatments**



**Nonstick
cookware**



**Waterproof
apparel**



**Cleaning
products**



**Firefighting
foam**



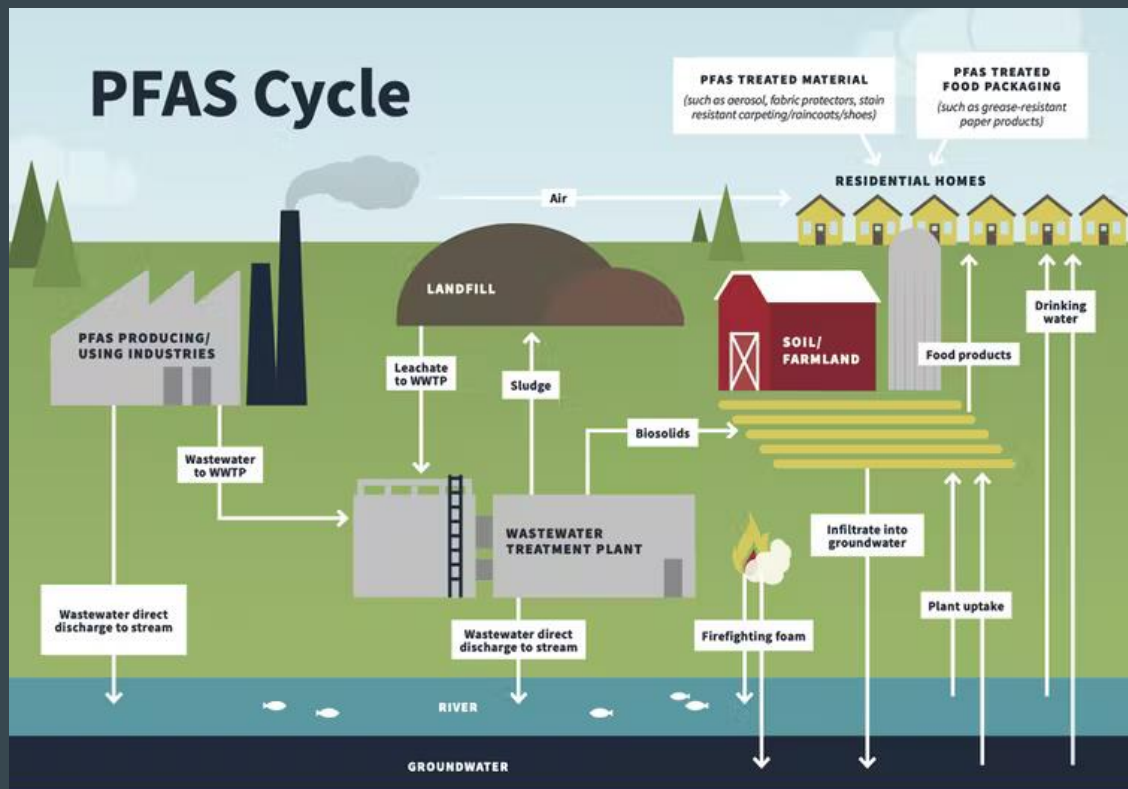
**Takeout
containers**



**Carpets &
textiles**

Why are they a problem?

- Adverse health effects
- Do not break down
 - “Forever Chemicals”
- Bio accumulate
- Found in 99% of people
- Contaminates water
 - Found in bottled water, surface water, and ground water
- Group of over 3,000 chemicals
- Used in many industries



PFAS Regulations

- Currently, there is no MCL for any PFAS chemicals according to The National Primary Drinking Water Regulations
- The EPA has established a non-enforceable health advisory level of 70 parts per trillion (ppt)
 - No federal regulations regarding PFAS in water
- The Delaware Riverkeeper Network has been fighting for regulation since 2017
- It will be years before a Mandatory Contamination Level (MCL) will be implemented

Discussion

- Why do you think it has taken so long for standards to be proposed?
 - When do you think regulations should have been implemented?
 - Do you think this issue is discussed enough?
 - How do you think industry has affected government standards?
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Next Week

- February 9th, 6:00-7:00pm
 - Career and Educational Opportunities
- Assignment:
 - Watershed Scavenger Hunt
 - Find it on our website schuylkillriver.org/seco