What is Resource Conservation and Development?

Resource Conservation and Development (RC&D) is a unique public-private partnership created under the United States Department of Agriculture, but are now independent regionally based 501©(3) non-profit corporation. We work closely with local community volunteers and USDA's Natural Resources Conservation Service, County Conservation Districts, local counties and their communities. In partnership with local, state, and federal government agencies, nonprofit organizations, and businesses, RC&D Councils complete beneficial natural resource, conservation, and community development projects. RC&D Councils can help secure the necessary technical and financial assistance, such as consultants, volunteers, materials and supplies, grants, and loans to complete a local project.

Who is involved in an RC&D?

Members of RC&D Councils can include county commissioners, businesses, non-profit organizations, county conservation districts, planning departments, economic development organizations, and individuals. The members are responsible for directing the efforts of the organization, implementing their plans, and completing projects.

How can local people get involved?

Local people can get involved in their area's RC&D Council by submitting project ideas, volunteering, serving on committees, and serving as a Director on the RC&D Council.

What does an RC&D Council do?

Using a multi-year area plan to guide their efforts, each RC&D Council develops an annual work plan to accomplish projects related to four elements:
• Water Management
• Community Development
• Land Conservation
• Land Management

Visit www.parcd.org for information about all Pennsylvania RC&D's.

What kinds of things have RC&Ds accomplished?

• Developed "PA Fuels for Schools and Beyond" Program.
• Provided "dry hydrants" for rural community fire protection which reduces insurance rates for townships and residents.
• Developed recreational trails for community enjoyment through the "Rails to Trails" program or water trails for boats and canoes.
• Sponsored the development of community organizations such as watershed groups, hardwood associations, forestry landowners associations and the Eastern and WesternPA Coalition for Abandoned Mine Reclamation.
• Promoted energy conservation through a solar power project.
• Initiated the Woodland Resource Adventure Camp for youth.
• Led urban and community forestry projects.
• Sponsored regional livestock grazing projects.
• Initiated "Farm to Market" projects such as Pocono Farm Fresh which promotes healthy agriculture.
• Constructed wetlands for acid mine drainage treatment.
• Provided composting demonstrations on farms.