

Office of the Governor

PO BOX 004
TRENTON, NJ 08625

NEWS RELEASE

CONTACT: Jayne O'Connor
Steffanie Bell
609-777-2600

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Governor Attends "Flowing Toward the Future" Governors' Summit Presents Award to Couple Dedicated to the Protection of the Delaware River Basin

Gov. Christie Whitman today pledged to continue her commitment to the protection of the Delaware River. The Governor also presented the "Flowing Toward the Future Award" to Peg and Hal Haskin, two New Jerseyans dedicated to protecting the resources of the Delaware River Basin.

"To reach our environmental goals, we are establishing partnerships with federal and state governments and getting stakeholders involved in the decisions we make and the programs we create," said Governor Whitman. "We know that we can't do it alone. We need the cooperation of businesses, community organizations, and all levels of government."

The Governors' Summit is the second in a series of three events that are scheduled as part of "Flowing Towards the River," a process designed to generate a vision for the Delaware River Basin in the new millenium. Organized by 15 agencies in four states (NJ, PA, DE, NY), the events are geared towards identifying the values that affect the region and the creation of a shared vision for the basin.

Joined at the event by Delaware Governor Tom Carper, the Governor presented the "Flowing Toward the Future Award" to Peg and Hal Haskin. A long time supporter and advisor to the Delaware River Basin Commission, Peg Haskin took part in the Water Conservation Advisory Committee and the Groundwater Advisory Committee. Haskin also led the Water Conservation Showerhead Distribution Program in Cape May. Hal Haskin is a former Professor of Biology at Rutgers University where the Bivalve Shellfish Lab is named after him. The Haskins divide their time between Cape May and Piscataway.

Governors Whitman and Carper also signed a resolution commending participants and recognizing the need to create a vision for the basin. Governors Pataki and Ridge, who were unable to attend today's summit, have already signed the resolution.

The first event of the series consisted of ten regional workshops conducted throughout the basin area. Workshops were held to generate information and ideas from citizens. This resulted in a "Directions Report" which presents issues that need to be resolved and programs that need to be implemented over the next several years.

The final step will be a conference that will build upon the information gathered and will help establish what direction should be taken to sustain the river and its watersheds.

The Delaware River Basin is home to nearly eight million people living in four states. The last undammed river in the east, the Delaware River Basin provides almost seven percent of the nation's population with water for drinking and industrial use.

