



**Ken
Field**

**Owner of Slate
Belt Energy
Services**

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Sales and Service

It seems that everyone who services appliances installs them too. But everyone who installs them doesn't necessarily service them. To complicate matters, many companies won't service something they didn't install. On the surface that seems unfair but there are reasons for it. The biggest one is probably profit which is something business owners expect to make. There is more profit in selling and installing something than in servicing it but obligation is part of the installation package and no respectable business would abandon their customer after a sale. Having said that, it happens all too often. Last week I talked about mini split heat pumps and this is one of the top appliances that need frequent service if it was not installed exactly by the book. They all start up and run long enough for the check to clear the bank but then if there is any refrigerant leakage all bets are off. Anywhere from 3 months to 2 years later the units start underperforming and the problem is usually refrigerant leakage. It happens to the best of us occasionally and even one return visit in warranty can negate the profit from the installation. I believe that is the main reason some installers don't return to repair their work. It is also a reason that service techs don't like doing service on a system they didn't install. In order to find a leak in a mini split system it must be pressurized with nitrogen and every connection has to be checked for leakage. There are 4 connections for each indoor head and 2 of those connections are usually buried in a wall or in conduit on the exterior. Exposing all of those connections is time consuming and tedious. What usually happens is that one poorly made connection is found and that puts all the others in question. So should they fix just one connection and go through all the work of evacuating the system and recharging or check and repair all the connections? When I see one sloppy connection I usually suggest repairing them all. That can make a service visit on a relatively new system cost several hundred dollars. But after that it will probably run forever without needing refrigerant. Sometimes the leak is internal to the unit. If it is in warranty and did not come from a reputable source, the part may not be covered anyway so that will be an additional charge. I installed several mini split air conditioners over 30 years ago that never needed refrigerant. It can be done but the proper procedures need to be followed.

Ken Field is the owner of Slate Belt Energy and Field's Service, Inc. As a certified energy rater and contractor, he is qualified to assess every aspect of energy usage and prescribe solutions to save energy. He can be reached at 610-759-6306 or email Ken@FieldsService.com

Recycled Art Show to Kick-Off Earth Day at Grand Central Landfill

By Adrienne Fors

PLAINFIELD TOWNSHIP – WM's Grand Central Landfill and Northampton County will celebrate Earth Day this year by showcasing upcycled artwork created by art students from Pen Argyl and Bangor Area high schools. The first annual recycled art show will feature 34 art submissions created in various mediums evaluated by local artists Doug Wiltraut, Sherry Acevado and Sarah Lainer.

"The creativity is simply impressive. You wonder how some of the students came up with these ideas!" stated Lainer.

Winners of the contest will be announced at WM's Earth Day Celebration on April 15 at 11 a.m. at the Grand Central Environmental Education Center, 891 Grand Central Road, Pen Argyl, Pa.

In addition to the awards ceremony, WM's Kevin Kelly, who manages Grand Central's wildlife habitat programs, will provide a presentation on bird banding and beekeeping and how Grand Central's beehives are going to help pollinators.

The event will be on April 15, 10 a.m. to noon at Grand Central Environmental Education Center, 891 Grand Central Road, Pen Argyl, Pa.



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TOGETHER!**

KICK OFF EARTH MONTH THINKING GREEN

April 19, 2023

5:30pm—7pm

Grand Central Landfill/Energy Center

910 W Pennsylvania Ave Pen Argyl

An event for all ages—bring the family!

Sustainable Solutions for the home and the office

Learning Opportunities:

Waste Reduction Tips

Recycling the Right Items

Trash to Energy Tour

Landfill Bus Tour

Register by April 1, 2023

Email the Chamber

info@slatebeltchamber.org

