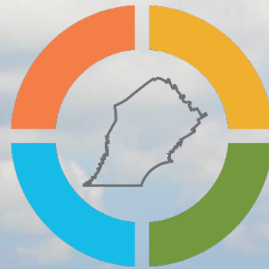


CHESTER COUNTY CLIMATE ACTION PLAN

Objectives and Actions for
County Facilities & Operations
and Community Engagement



PRIMARY GOAL:

Reduce Greenhouse Gas Emissions in Chester County by 80% by 2050

- County goal aligns with regional and state Climate Action Plan Reduction Goals
- Identifies future actions to continue the positive trend

HOW TO REDUCE GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSIONS AND ADDRESS CLIMATE CHANGE?

Objectives and Actions



BUILDINGS AND ENERGY



TRANSPORTATION AND LAND USE



WASTE MANAGEMENT



AGRICULTURE, FOOD, AND FORESTRY

 **CHESTER COUNTY FACILITIES & OPERATIONS ACTIONS**

 **COMMUNITY-WIDE ENGAGEMENT ACTIONS**

Plan identifies potential impact, priority, timeframe, and primary implementer(s) for each action.

PLANNING PROCESS

Pa DEP Local Climate Action Plan Program

Fall 2019 to Spring 2020

Program provides consultant assistance to local government in collaboration with university faculty and students

Environmental & Energy Advisory Board

Spring through 2020

Citizens, Businesses, CCEDC, CCATO, Municipal Managers, Conservancies, Utilities, County Departments

Review of County Actions by Implementing Departments

Mid - 2020

Facilities, Parks & Preservation, CCWRA, CCCD, DCD, ADC, DES, CC Solid Waste Authority

Public Input

Early 2021

EEAB Action

April 28, 2021

Commissioner Action

October 2021

60-Day comment period—February and March

Public meeting—March 4, 2021

Draft revisions complete

EEAB recommends adoption

PLANNING PROCESS

Challenges

- Planning during a pandemic
- County-wide vs. Single Municipality
- Our Environmental & Energy Advisory Board was not in place in advance of draft.
- Input from County Depts, EEAB, and Public followed creation of first draft.

Successes

- Completed the plan despite the pandemic and limited staff.
- Plan was adopted as county policy with full support of County Commissioners.
- Sustainability Director position created.
- Internal buy-in for the plan

Lessons Learned

- Be flexible – remote public meetings can reach a lot more people.
- Focus implementation strategies – perhaps too many?
- Internal strategies – be sure to coordinate with implementers!
- Be clear about who the plan is for

OUTCOMES



Internal operations

- Sustainability director as official implementation leader
- Adopted plan gives teeth to the “why” – helps with internal and external messaging
- “Assignments” for EEAB- helps give them direction
- Developing an internal framework for interdepartmental collaboration and accountability
- Reinvigorated county employee “Go Green” committee
- Changes to county grant programs



OUTCOMES



External communication and coordination

- Opportunity for community outreach and setting the narrative
- Provides “excuse” for outreach to a variety of audiences/groups
- Education partnership with League of Women Voters
- Outreach to municipalities
- Regional collaboration

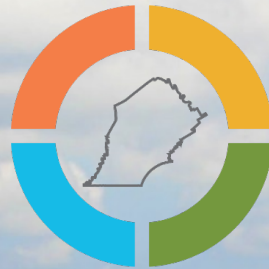


Final thoughts...

- Connect GHG reduction goal with a bigger vision for your community
- Co-benefits are more than additional selling points
- Including SMART targets in the plan is a helpful motivator
- Use the planning process to build and solidify your implementing team

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Plan can be viewed at
www.chescoplanning.org