

TOWNSHIP OF  
—MIDDLETOWN—  
BUCKS COUNTY

# Climate Action Plan & Implementation Update

Nick Valla, Assistant Township Manager

# About Middletown Township

- ▶ 46,040 residents (2020) located at the heart of lower Bucks County.
- ▶ Comprised of Langhorne and Levittown addresses.
- ▶ Key landmarks include Sesame Place, Saint Mary Medical Center, and the Oxford Valley Mall.
- ▶ Major thoroughfares include Route 1, Route 1 Business, I-295, SR 413, and SR 213.
- ▶ Midpoint between NE Philadelphia and Trenton, NJ.
- ▶ Township experiencing significant commercial redevelopment in recent years.



# What is a Climate Action Plan (CAP)?

- ▶ A CAP is a detailed, strategic framework for measuring, planning, and reducing greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions and related climate impacts.
- ▶ Contains goals for mitigation outcomes and strategies to achieve them.
- ▶ Focuses on reducing both municipal and community-wide GHG emissions.
- ▶ **Our Mission:** To create an environmentally friendly future that improves the quality of life by promoting environmental sustainability to residents, businesses, and the community.

# Key Issues to Address with a CAP

- ▶ Where do our GHG emissions come from?
- ▶ How does our community determine our current GHG emissions output?
- ▶ How can we set goals to reduce community-wide GHG emissions?
- ▶ How do we monitor our progress on accomplishing our goals?
- ▶ How can we effectuate change over GHG emissions seemingly beyond our control?



# Pre-CAP Sustainability Efforts

- ▶ LED Streetlight conversion (2017)
- ▶ EV Charging Stations at Municipal Center, Public Works (2019)
- ▶ Interior LED light conversion (2020)
- ▶ Update HVAC System, Water Heater, & Backup Generator (2021)
- ▶ LED Field Lighting at Twin Oaks Park (2021)

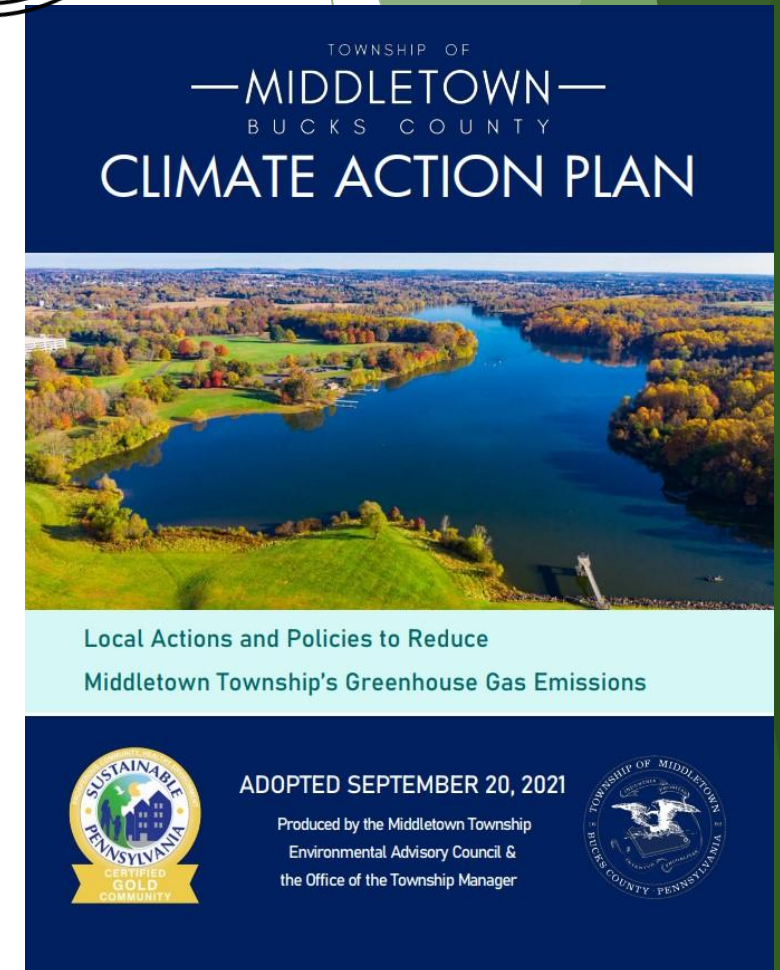


# CAP Adoption

- ▶ Adopted by Board of Supervisors September 20, 2021
- ▶ Developed by PA Department of Environmental Protection (DEP)'s Local Climate Action Program (LCAP) with Environmental Engineering students from Wilkes University.
- ▶ Environmental Advisory Council (EAC) served as steering committee.

Middletown Township's CAP was the...

- ▶ First CAP in Bucks County
- ▶ First CAP by a Township in Southeastern Pennsylvania
- ▶ ~10<sup>th</sup> CAP by a municipality in Pennsylvania

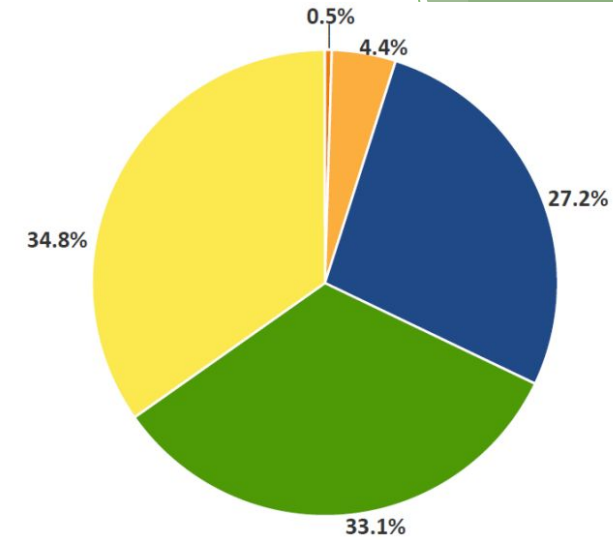




# About our CAP






- ▶ GHG Inventory evaluates data from 2018 from various emission sources in five categories:
  - ▶ Commercial Energy
  - ▶ Residential Energy
  - ▶ Transportation & Mobile Sources
  - ▶ Waste, Composting, & Recycling
  - ▶ Transportation
- ▶ Identifies objectives within each category.
- ▶ Multiple actions listed for each objective.
- ▶ Co-Benefits identified to show additional positive impact of proposed actions.

**Over 95% of  
our emissions!**



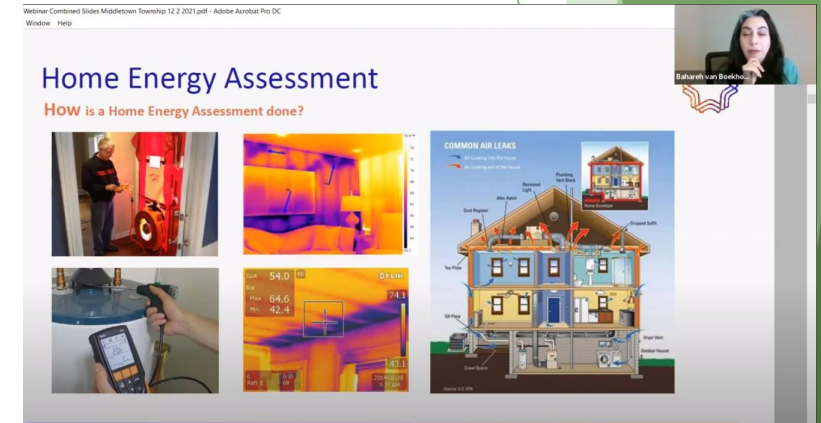
Water & Wastewater   Solid Waste   Residential Energy  
Commercial Energy   Transportation & Mobile Sources

Figure 2: Middletown Township Community-Wide GHG Emissions by Sector, 2018

Symbol	Co-Benefit
	Supports jobs and economic prosperity
	Advances social equity
	Fosters resource security
	Improves public health and local environmental quality
	Reduces utility/operating costs

# Projects Implemented Since CAP Adoption

- ▶ Partnership with East Stroudsburg University & PA DEP
  - ▶ Weatherization Webinar (12/02/2021) - [www.middletownbucks.org/weatherization](http://www.middletownbucks.org/weatherization)
- ▶ Enacted Alternative Energy Ordinance (12/06/2021)
- ▶ Purchase of first two (2) hybrid Police vehicles (02/02/2022)
- ▶ Transition to sustainable cleaning products (03/2022)
- ▶ Earned Sustainable PA Platinum Certification (06/2022)
  - ▶ 9<sup>th</sup> Community in Pennsylvania
- ▶ Installed two (2) Level 2 EV charging stations at Styer Orchard (07/2022)





# Projects In Progress

- ▶ New electric supply agreement with 100% renewable energy (04/03/2022)
- ▶ Awarded \$215,000 from DEP Alternative Fuels Incentive Grant (AFIG) to construct four-Level 3 EV Charging Station at Twp. Building (04/2022)
  - ▶ Middletown Township will be the first municipality in Pennsylvania to build Level 3 EV stations with AFIG.
- ▶ Awarded \$132,713 from DEP Section 902 Recycling Grant for new recycling container distribution program (04/23/2022)
- ▶ Solar Energy Educational Webinar for residents (10/18/2022)
- ▶ Multimodal Improvement Plan (2023)
- ▶ Parks/Trails Master Plan (2023)

# Governor's Award for Excellence in Local Government

- ▶ Award for Innovative Planning & Sound Land Use Practices presented by DCED Center for Local Government Services (04/13/2022)

Pictured, left to right:

Richard Vilello, Deputy Secretary of Community Affairs and Development, Pennsylvania DCED

Mike Ksiazek, Chairperson, Middletown Township Board of Supervisors

Anna Payne, Vice Chairperson, Middletown Township Board of Supervisors

Stephanie Teoli Kuhls, Township Manager, Middletown Township

Nick Valla, Assistant Township Manager, Middletown Township

C. Kim Bracey, Executive Director of the Center for Local Government Services, Pennsylvania DCED.



# Projects on the Horizon

- ▶ Solar Panels at Municipal Center
- ▶ Adding recycling containers to Township parks
- ▶ Building EV infrastructure for Township fleet
- ▶ Acquiring first electric vehicle in Township fleet
- ▶ Fuel tank replacement
- ▶ Walkability/Multimodal Improvement Plan
- ▶ Green Business Guides



...and the list goes on!

# Positive Outcomes - Impact on Development

- ▶ New Elementary School
  - ▶ Durable and maintainable flooring
  - ▶ Efficient HVAC system, plumbing systems
  - ▶ Constructed for future solarization and EV stations
- ▶ Neshaminy Athletic Fields
  - ▶ LED Lighting
- ▶ Stone Farm Settlement
  - ▶ Efficient fixtures & appliances
  - ▶ R49 Insulation
  - ▶ Wiring for EV chargers in garages



# More Positive Outcomes

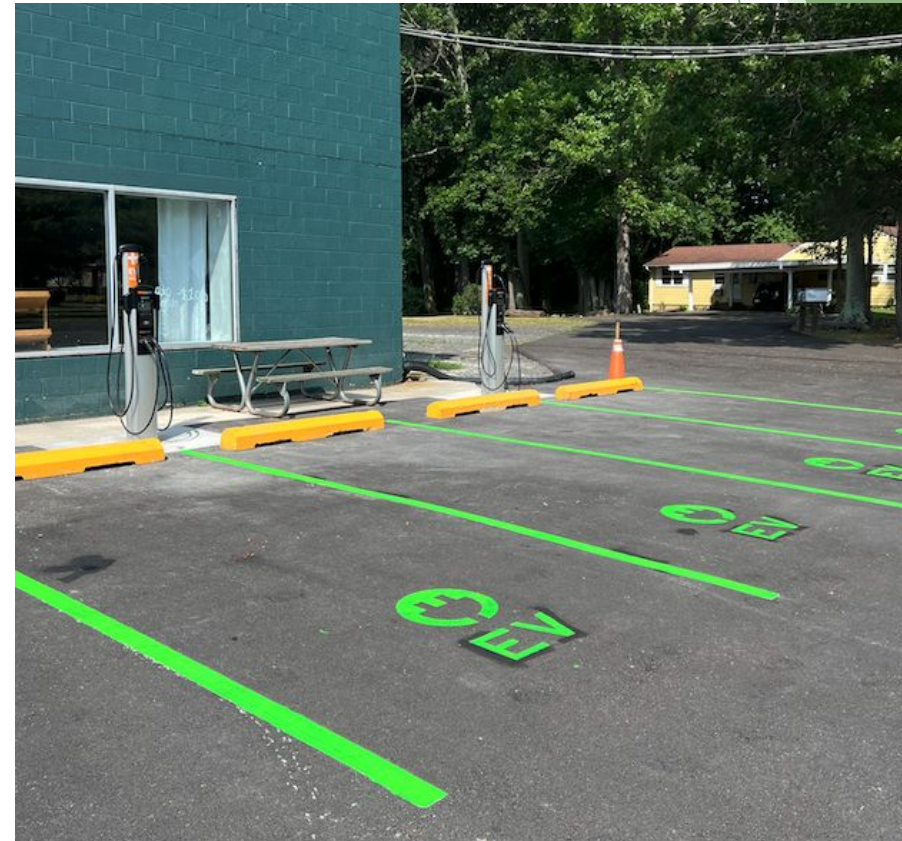
- ▶ Increases discourse on topic of sustainability
- ▶ More community awareness events/webinars
- ▶ Spurred other plans- Multimodal Improvement Plan
- ▶ Improved relations with SEPTA, TMA Bucks, DEP
- ▶ Increased grant funding
- ▶ Model for other communities/encouraging others to act





# Lessons Learned

- ▶ Culture change.
- ▶ Start small; start with awareness.
- ▶ Managing expectations.
- ▶ You don't have to be an expert to be a leader.
- ▶ And sometimes, it's better to be a follower.





# Why develop a CAP?

- ▶ Engage elected/appointed officials and municipal staff.
- ▶ Identify objective goals and develop a monitoring approach/plan.
- ▶ Develop a strategy behind sustainable initiatives.
- ▶ Create documentation.



# Thank You!



[www.middletownbucks.org/CAP](http://www.middletownbucks.org/CAP)

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