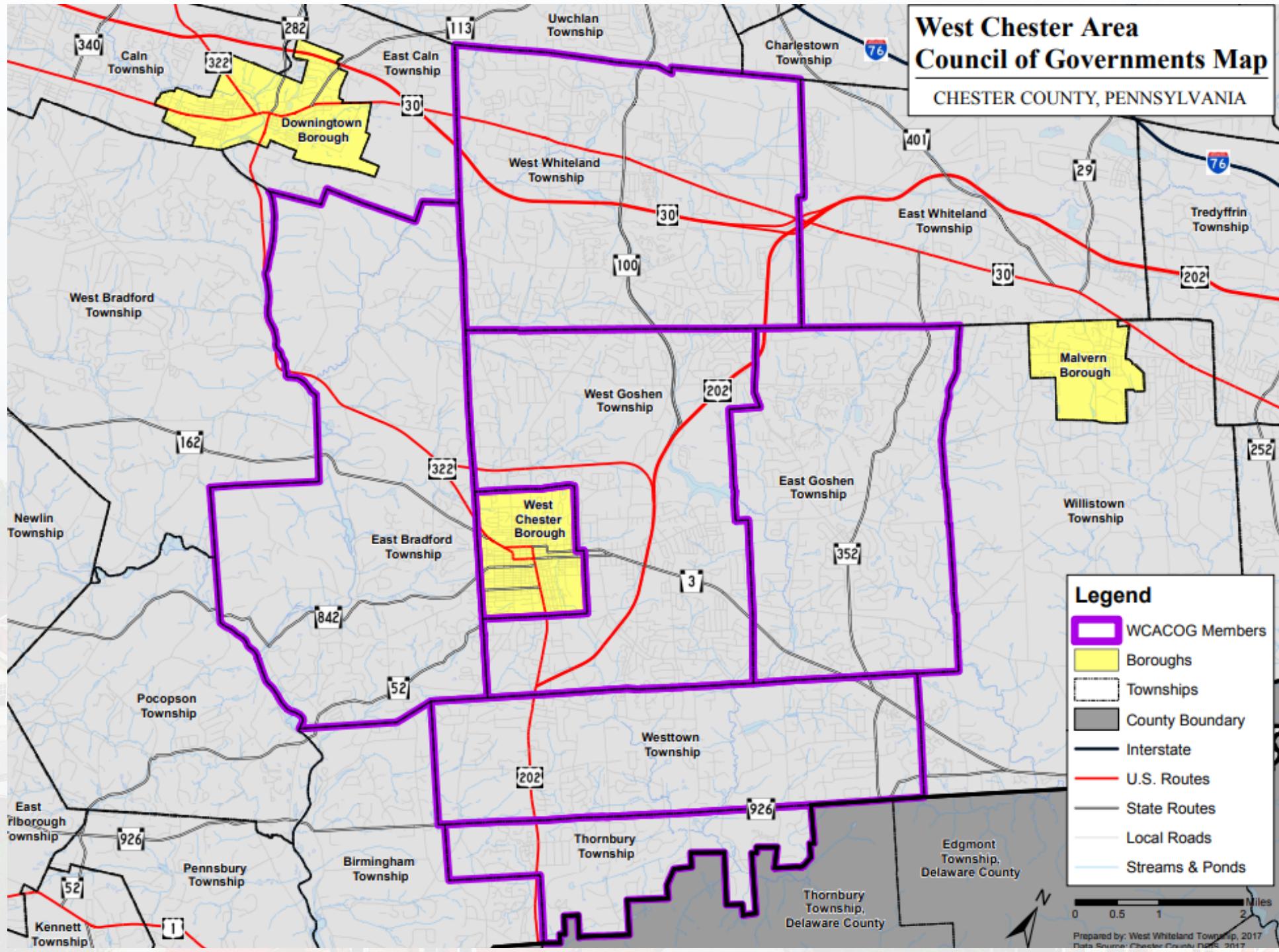


An aerial photograph of a suburban neighborhood. In the foreground, there are several houses, including a large red brick one on the left and a yellow two-story house in the center. A street with a few cars is visible. In the background, there is a dense line of green trees, and beyond that, a body of water under a blue sky with light clouds. A semi-transparent black rectangle with a thin white border is centered over the middle of the image, containing the title text.

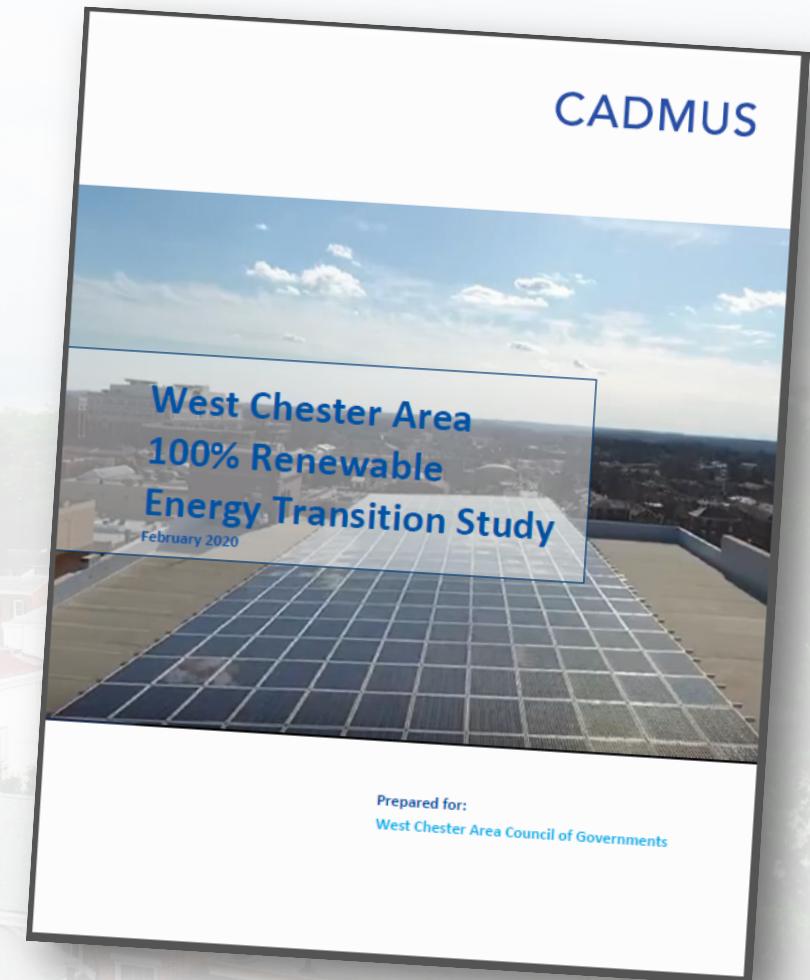
West Chester Area Energy Transition Planning



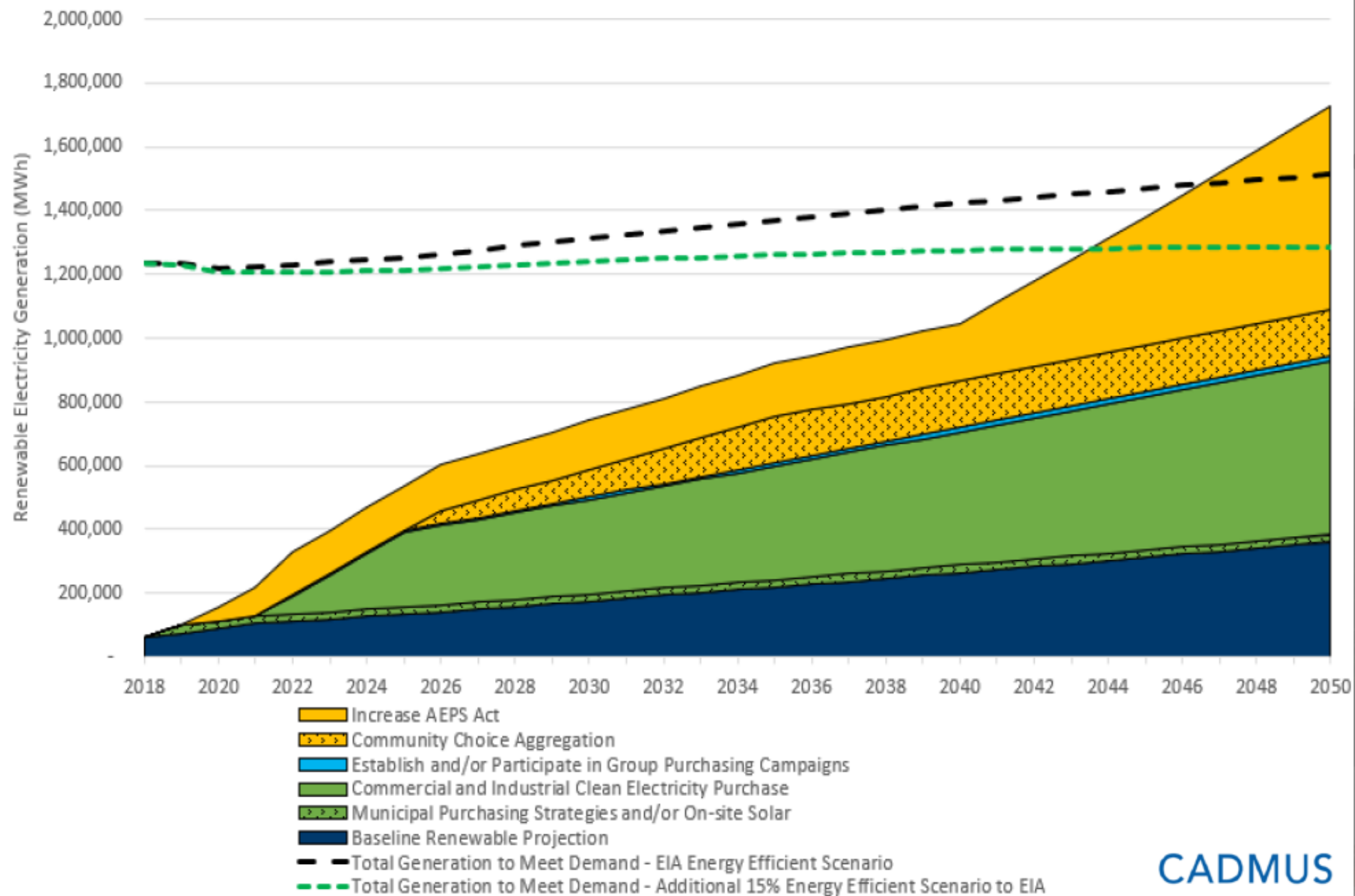


Project Timeline

- A few RF100 resolutions in 2017-2018
- RFP for planning issued 2018 – nine responses received
 - One municipality dropped out at this time
- \$75k paid by five remaining COG municipalities based on population
 - \$8-17k each
- Kickoff meetings with munis and consultant – June 2019
- Formation of project Advisory Group
- Community visioning event –July 2019
- Stakeholder interviews – Fall 2019
 - large energy users in community
- Review of 18 policy options, “barrier analysis” (e.g. costs, legal, etc.), and policy impact modeling for each
- Final public meeting – Jan 2020
- Received final report – Feb 2020



Projected Power Mix by Year: Effect on Renewable Share by Strategy Type



Project Takeaways

- Local gov can't dictate local energy decisions (Harrisburg is most important, then D.C.)
- Municipalities can/should:
 - Be a leader on energy issues, and tell our story
 - Focus on municipal facilities, including streetlights
 - Energy benchmarking, audits, good ROI conservation/efficiency projects
 - New facilities should be exemplary
 - Fleet analysis, electrification, public EV infrastructure
 - Meaningfully procure clean energy for municipal operations (new, local*)
 - Use limited policy levers to encourage a more “energy-intelligent” future
 - e.g. zoning, SALDO, etc.
 - Get ourselves and HOAs out of the way
 - e.g. streamlined permitting, solar rights
 - Support community education initiatives

A Few Specific Outcomes

- Better understanding of how our communities use energy, and barriers that prevent meaningful change
- Roadmap and budgeting tools for near-term energy improvements/electrification in operations
- High-level Solar PV analysis at 9 municipal-owned sites
- Volunteer-led community education initiatives
- RFI for clean energy procurement
- Ongoing collaboration between municipalities
- Model for similar projects elsewhere!



Site 3. West Chester Borough Hall Estimated PV

| | |
|--|---------|
| DC Capacity (kW) | 178.1 |
| AC Capacity (kW) | 141.5 |
| No. Modules | 488 |
| Estimated Annual Production (kWh) | 247,100 |
| Percent of Current Electricity Load Offset | 77% |

What Worked... and What Didn't

- West Chester Area Council of Governments structure
- Cost-sharing
- Public input/participation
 - Advisory Group and public meetings
- Strong consultant
- Volunteer time
- Philosophical differences on planning process between volunteers and staff
- Varying degrees of municipal commitment
- A global pandemic

Final Thoughts on Muni Energy Planning

- A PA township or Borough can directly influence energy usage within a given municipality by ~2-3%. State and federal leadership is driver of change
- 2,560 municipalities in PA - does each need its own plan?
 - Intermunicipal projects are great and cheaper, but do we need 250-300?
- Public engagement is critical, but don't let residents or elected officials drive the bus
 - This energy should be focused on community education and lobbying
- Intermunicipal cooperation on a planning exercise is one thing, action is another