The government of Cheltenham Township strives to be a leader in sustainability. To do so, the Township seeks to enact action items that will help it achieve a vibrant local economy, a healthy community, and a protected environment. These actions will in turn encourage local residents to live more sustainably as well. Some may not be accomplished immediately and some will take years to accomplish, but all the items are worthy of review and consideration. Numerous action items in the Municipal Action Plan will require cooperation and assistance from the public to accomplish. Many of the action items are not solely in the purview of the municipal government and can be adopted by citizens and community groups and accomplished through their efforts. The action items that easily lend themselves to community involvement are given a special designation in the Municipal Action Plan. In an effort to foster community sustainability efforts, Cheltenham Township would support the creation or continued existence of a Cheltenham Sustainability Implementation Organization that will promote the sustainability goals and work as a possible partner for the implementation of the action items.

The Action Items are organized under each goal and contain a brief description followed by:

Phasing - A discussion of when the action item could begin and how long it may take to accomplish.

Cost and Possible Funding Issues – A discussion of cost and funding issues that may be associated with the action item. The costs are generalized statements and typically a more detailed study of cost factors will be required. The Plan does not cite specific grant opportunities due to the constantly changing nature of grants. Many of the links found in the Sustainability Resources section may be valuable in researching the most current grant opportunities for that Goal.

Possible Partners – An identification of possible partner organizations and institutions to increase the chances of accomplishing action items. Some of the frequently-mentioned Possible Partners include:

The Environmental Advisory Committee (EAC) is a Township advisory committee that was established to advise the Township on environmental matters such as protection, conservation and management of natural resources like air, water and land in a sustainable way. The EAC pursues these goals by organizing into committees and partners with many like-minded groups.

Township organizations and institutions may include entities such as the Economic Development Task Force, and Township organizations like religious groups, hospitals and community groups.

A Cheltenham Sustainability Implementation Organization if identified or formed in the future. This could be a sustainability non-profit group similar to *Sustainable Cherry Hill* in New Jersey which would promote the sustainability goals and work as a possible partner for the implementation of the action items.

This symbol is inserted next to Municipal Action Items that have a strong community component. That may mean that community involvement will be required for the Township to achieve the Action Item, or it is an Action Item that can be adopted and accomplished by citizens or community groups in the Township.

This symbol is inserted next to Municipal Action Items that can be initiated and accomplished in a short amount of time without considerable cost. These types of projects are commonly referred to as "low-hanging fruit." The insertion of this icon is not meant to be a prioritization of the Action Item or a guarantee that it will easily be accomplished, but to identify items that may be accomplished more easily than others.

Community Engagement

1. Expand the presence of sustainability on the municipal website

It is crucial for the public to be aware of Cheltenham's Sustainability Plan and become knowledgeable about sustainability in general. To that end, the Township website could include more information concerning sustainability and the Cheltenham Sustainability Plan to make residents more aware of these issues when browsing or researching on the site. A separate website can also be created, devoted solely to the Sustainability Plan, and linked with the Township's website.

Phasing

Can be immediate

Cost and Possible Funding Issues

There will be some web design, implementation and maintenance costs. But, having a future Cheltenham Sustainability Implementation Organization manage the website would drastically reduce the Township's costs.

Possible Partners

The Environmental Action Committee (EAC), Township organizations and institutions, Arcadia University, and any future Cheltenham Sustainability Implementation Organization.

2. Explore ways to promote the sustainable practices needed to achieve the goals and objectives of the Cheltenham Township Sustainability Plan.

It is crucial for the public to engage in sustainable practices in order to achieve the goals and objectives of the plan, and be prepared for the mounting climate, economic and resource challenges. The Township government can encourage public action, and should determine the best methods within its abilities to do so. The Township could explore tax incentives, other possible financial mechanisms and non-financial incentives that may motivate the public to embrace sustainable practices.

Phasing

Can be immediate

Cost and Possible Funding Issues

A more extensive study should be conducted when necessary to research the best possible financial and non-financial practices within the Township's abilities that could encourage sustainable practices in a fiscally responsible manner.

Possible Partners

The EAC, Township organizations and institutions, and any future Cheltenham Sustainability Implementation Organization.

3. Use community events and displays at Township facilities to inform residents about sustainability

Township events are perfect, low-cost opportunities to reach out to the citizens. The Township can:

A. Host tables or booths at events.

B. The Township could consider acquiring an electronic dashboard for the Township Administration Building to show information about Township facilitates, energy use, amount of material recycled, trash collected, other information about sustainable Township activities (green

cleaning, purchasing etc). The dashboard information could be shared via Sustainable Cheltenham website and with the public at events.

C. Allow sustainability-related organizations to have an opportunity to be present at events.

D. Educate the public about sustainable decisions the Township is implementing (such as recycling containers, recycled content, environmentally friendly materials being used, etc.).

E. Provide sustainability information for public consumption in spaces like libraries, municipal buildings, park facilities and partnering organizations' buildings.

Phasing

Can be immediate

Cost and Possible Funding Issues

Production of materials to distribute, including handouts, posters, banners, etc. There will also be a cost in compensation for staff time if staff attends an event.

Possible Partners

The EAC, Township organizations and institutions, and any future Cheltenham Sustainability Implementation Organization.

4. Create a community calendar that lists all programs, events, meetings, etc. in one place to promote citizen participation

It is crucial for citizens to be aware of government activities and take advantage of opportunities to communicate and interact. The Township currently has a community calendar on the website that highlights meeting dates and times. A centralized calendar that includes more events, meetings, etc. will be a good way to bring people together and support the activities of Cheltenham Township and community organizations.

Phasing

Can be immediate

Cost and Possible Funding Issues

There will be some web design and implementation costs to upgrade the calendar. It will also take staff time to update and maintain the calendar if it is on the Township website.

Possible Partners

Input would be needed from organizations in the Township to provide the events they want listed.

5. Create an annual awards program for individual and group sustainability efforts

Creating an awards program can recognize the sustainability work being done by residents, commercial and retail properties and institutions. The complexity of the program could range from recognition in the Township newsletter to a fully developed award program with formal submissions and awards. Criteria for the awards and necessary rules can be created following models and examples, including: The *Chris Bedford Arts Festival & Sustainability Awards Program, Grassroots Awards, and Sustainable Morristown Triple Bottom Line Awards*

Phasing

Intermediate. It may take up to a year to set up such a program.

Cost and Possible Funding Issues

Staff time to design the program and then time every year to choose winners. If a prize is awarded, such as a plaque, that cost must be figured in.

Possible Partners

Residents and community organizations would be needed to add input for nomination. The EAC or any future Cheltenham Sustainability Implementation Organization can manage the program.

6. Sponsor and encourage community involvement in improving parks and open spaces

Community volunteering in Township parks and open spaces encourages citizen ownership and helps offset the need for staff time. If citizens feel invested in the Township, then they are more likely to use the spaces, maintain them, and support the funding necessary for the parks and open space programs. Community involvement can be encouraged by the Township during the following projects

A. Riparian planting

B. Park clean-ups

C. Tree plantings

D. Participation with Friends groups.

E. Construction of a new foot bridge at Grove Park.

F. Maintenance of High School Park, Ralph Morgan Park and Tookany Creek Parkway.

G. Citizen participation through a Master Plan Committee is a required part of the planning process. Citizen Committees could be formed for each park that does not yet have a Master Plan.

Phasing

Immediate

Cost and Possible Funding Issues

Volunteer help should save the Township money but the process is not free. Staff time must be devoted to acquiring the volunteers and then managing them. Liability and insurance issues should be understood before volunteer work begins. Many grants exist that require or encourage citizen participation in the proposed project. In each case, the effort involved in engaging the public must be weighed against the time and effort required to do so.

Possible Partners

The Township can elicit help from any organization within the Township, possibly focusing on environmental and student groups. Arcadia University has already indicated its intention to continue providing volunteers to help with these initiatives.

7. Increase communication, information, and transparency about municipal projects and actions

It is important that the community is aware of the decisions and subsequent actions the Township is undertaking. A more informed public makes for a better government process and a citizenry that feels more invested in its Township. The Township can:

A. Continue to broadcast Township meetings and publicize Township activities in paper and on web.

B. Expand the reach of electronic dissemination of information to reduce communication expenses.

C. Consider the use of social media communication tools (Pinterest, Facebook, Twitter, etc.) to reach more citizens.

Phasing

Work can be done immediately to update email list serves, while it may take longer to develop a social media strategy.

Cost and Possible Funding Issues

Staff time to develop and update the social media outreach along with production costs associated with the relevant technologies.

Possible Partners

The Township could work with academic institutions, or open data organizations, to help design, implement and maintain social media outreach.

Energy

1. Reduce the usage of GHG-producing land maintenance equipment

Powered land maintenance equipment such as mowers, tractors, weed whackers, etc. consume fuel and produce GHG emissions. The Township can continue to explore the possibility of finding more efficient and cost effective land maintenance equipment. The Township could also pursue opportunities to reduce the use of this equipment in Township-owned parks and open spaces. For example, altered mowing regimes can be used to allow for meadow growth. Along with the reduction of fuel usage and GHG emissions, the creation of meadows has value as a native habitat, improving water quality and decreasing soil erosion and stormwater run-off.

Phasing

An examination of parks and open spaces can begin immediately. If any areas are designated "low mow," the process of cultivating a meadow will take two to three mowing seasons to fully become a meadow.

Cost and Possible Funding Issues

Trying to define an exact cost savings from this Action Item is difficult because fuel costs vary and the amount of land allowed to turn to meadow is not yet determined. But, the savings will be apparent. For example, as of May 2012 the Berks County Parks Department has implemented a test run of their "new multi-year low mowing program." Only 1 percent, about 9 acres, of county park lands will experience a change in mowing schedules. This will yield an 87% fuel cost savings and an 85% manpower savings for the 2012 year. The expected total savings for 2012 amount to $41,475.58; though that does not include the cost for signage and resident education.

Possible Partners

The most important partner in this effort will be citizens who use the parks and open spaces. It is important to educate them about the value of meadows to reduce possible complaints. It is also an opportunity to educate the population about the species that may live in the meadow and their effect on the community, both positive and possibly negative (such as the risks of Lyme Disease and West Nile Virus). Signage at the meadow areas may help educate the residents during their recreational experience.

2. Reduce the energy demands of Township buildings

Explore energy conservation strategies through the continued use of the DVRPC Energy Analysis Tool and through professional-level energy audits. The Township has been awarded a place in the DVRPC Circuit Rider Program Direct Technical Assistance Program. The benefits of this program will include:

A. One-on-one assistance from DVRPC and Practical Energy Solutions that will:
   1. Evaluate energy use in municipal operations,
   2. Identify and prioritize cost-effective projects to reduce energy costs,
   3. Train staff on energy management best practices, and
   4. Provide assistance with implementing recommended projects, including purchasing and identifying sources of funding.

B. Participation in workshops with other Direct Assistance Communities.

C. Recognition as an energy efficiency leader.

The Township can take the experiences gained from the DVRPC Circuit Rider Program Direct Technical Assistance Program and apply these lessons to other municipal buildings to replicate the success.

The Township can also consider participating in demand response programs from PECO or with a private company.

See Cheltenham Township Building Energy Data on Pages 34 - 35.

Phasing

This work can begin immediately but will take years to accomplish and could be ongoing. Looking at energy conservation is not a project with a definitive timeline; it is more of a fundamental change in how the Township will do business.

Cost and Possible Funding Issues

The goal of energy conservation is to save money and resources while reducing the Township's impact on the environment. The Circuit Rider program will help the Township develop cost estimates and pay-back periods for each recommendation. Some recommendations will include larger capital expenditures with long term payback, while other savings will include behavioral shifts and retrofits that have a payback within a year. Savings realized through the low-cost or no-cost measures can be used towards future, more capital-intensive, conservation measures.

Possible Partners

The Township will be partnering with DVRPC and Practical Energy Solutions. The Township may also want to consider coordinating with other municipalities in the Circuit Rider Program. Additionally, partnerships could be formed with state and regional agencies that work in energy conservation and with private citizens that have expertise in this area.

3. Develop a strategy to help promote and produce renewable energy

The Township can develop a strategy to make sustainable choices when purchasing energy, work towards renewable energy production, and promote the use of renewable energy in the Township. The strategy may include:

A. Tracking energy usage. The Township could install Smart Meter technology, wireless metering and/or computer-controlled energy management to understand real time energy demands and to minimize electrical uses in municipal buildings and encourage the use in residential properties.

B. Exploring new energy providers if current supplier is not the most competitive.

C. Exploring purchasing green energy for a portion, or all, of the Township's energy needs. Explore the possibility of a consortium of Montgomery County municipalities buying renewable energy to reduce costs.

D. Publicizing renewable energy purchases and the environmental benefits in an easily digestible

way so that residents understand the benefits of renewable energy.

E. Providing renewable energy and energy conservation incentives. The incentives may be provided through the Zoning Ordinance, removal of existing regulatory challenges and exploring possible financial incentives.

F. Establishing a clearinghouse of renewable energy and energy conservation information for residents based on state, regional and federal websites. The information can highlight example payback times, location assessment, installation and other related building permit and zoning rules.

G. Maintaining a list of people and organizations within the Township with renewable energy expertise. Use as a resource guide for fellow citizens.

Phasing

This work can begin immediately but will take years to accomplish and could be an ongoing effort. Looking at energy purchasing and renewable energy production is not a project with a definitive timeline; it is more of a change in how the Township will do business.

Cost and Possible Funding Issues

A competitive energy purchasing strategy can produce cost savings for the Township, though energy from a renewable source may be more expensive than energy from traditional sources. Staff, and possibly consultant time, will be required to make these decisions.

Possible Partners

The EAC, Township organizations and institutions, local residents and any future Cheltenham Sustainability Implementation Organization. Additionally, the Township can work with established non-profits dedicated to promoting renewable energy.

Mobility

1. Continue to shift from conventional vehicles to electric, hybrid or renewable fuel vehicles

The use of conventional gas and diesel vehicles leads to greenhouse gas emissions and air pollution. The Township can work to reduce these pollution levels by replacing its fleet with electric, hybrid or alternative fuel vehicles. The external consequences of using alternative fuels, such as emissions and land consumption, should be taken into account when determining vehicle replacement strategies. A vehicle purchasing and use model can be established using the DVRPC Energy Analysis Tool.

Phasing

This work has already begun and could continue through each year's budgeting process. As older vehicles need replacing, hybrid or alternative fuel vehicles could be considered.

Cost and Possible Funding Issues

It is important to consider the type of vehicle needed and the average vehicle miles traveled when considering buying a hybrid or alternative fuel vehicle. It is also crucial to consider the cost of new fueling infrastructure and its regional availability. These factors will greatly influence the payback period for the increased cost of a hybrid or alternative fuel vehicle. The DVRPC Energy Analysis Tool can help Cheltenham consider these issues.

Possible Partners

The Township can look to state, regional and federal partners for decision-making tools and purchasing guidance.

2. Develop and implement a plan to connect greenways, safe roadways, sidewalks, and other paths to create a seamless car-free transportation system

Working to improve the ability of residents to travel throughout the Township without the use of their cars will create a healthier environment, healthier residents and a more vibrant community. Some project possibilities include:

A. Assess and prioritize the 36 specific intersections within the Township that would make its Bike Route network safer, more convenient and desirable to pedestrians and cyclists. A map of the "Cheltenham Proposed Bike Routes Map" is found in the Sustainability Resource Section.

B. Connect current bike routes to the regional trail system with installation of the proposed Cresheim Trail to the Pennypack Trail and other regional trails.

C. Work to create safer intersections leading to rail stations.

Phasing

This can begin immediately and continue for the long term. Planning for these connections and future bike route additions can begin immediately. Initial bike route development can be achieved by painting lines on certain roads to designate a bike lane and by adding "Share the Road" signage and safety features. When construction is required, these types of projects are most feasibly implemented concurrent with road work or development. Plans could be established immediately, but the actual building might not happen for years to come.

Cost and Possible Funding Issues

The cost of these projects can vary greatly depending on the project. Grant funding exists to help communities plan and implement pedestrian projects.

Possible Partners

The EAC is currently working on this issue as are other citizen groups and individual citizens in the Township. The Township can also partner with non-profits such as the Bicycle Coalition of Greater Philadelphia, Pennsylvania Environmental Council and the national Rails to Trails Conservancy.

3. Encourage residents to walk and bike to Township meetings, to school and throughout the Township

The Township can encourage walking and biking by creating promotional programs and by creating an environment that is conducive to pedestrian traffic. Some project possibilities include:

A. Installing bike parking in downtown areas, at train stations, at schools and at municipal facilities. Where economically feasible, the Township could consider adding commuter facilities (i.e. showers and lockers) at these sites as well.

B. Encouraging collaboration with the National Center for Safe Routes to School

C. Partnering with the school district on "Safe Route to School Days" and "Walking School Bus" programs.

D. Continuing to work with SEPTA to increase bike parking at train stations

E. Implementing a bike-sharing program

Phasing

This could begin immediately and continue for the long term.

Cost and Possible Funding Issues

Some of these projects can be done with just staff time (such as promotion of programs and providing incentives). Others may require capital investments such as for commuter facilities. Grant funding exists and can be used to help communities plan and implement pedestrian projects.

Possible Partners

SEPTA and DVRPC are possible regional partners. The EAC is currently working on these issues as are other citizen groups in the Township.

4. Maintain and improve upon the Greater Valley Forge Transportation Management Association (GVFTMA) Gold Sustainability Award

The Township currently is a GVFTMA Gold Sustainability Award recipient for its outstanding achievement in implementing programs that provide and promote commuting alternatives for its employees and the community as a whole. The Township can maintain this status and work to achieve Platinum level. Details about the Sustainability Award program, and a video about Cheltenham Township, can be found on the GVFTMA website: *http://www.gvftma.com/sustainability/awards.php.*

Phasing

Achieving these award levels is attainable but could require a considerable amount of time to execute. The community would need sufficient time to design and plan how to execute the initiatives in addition to obtaining any necessary funding.

Cost and Possible Funding Issues

The cost to advance Sustainable Award levels varies depending on the activity and/or practices that are chosen.

Possible Partners

The GVFTMA.

5. Train Township personnel on proper fleet use to help conserve fuel and reduce GHG emissions

Education about proper fleet use is recommended to train municipal employees and fleet managers about how to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and complete necessary tasks more fuel-efficiently. Educational tools available to the Township include webinars, educational materials and trainings from

regional and national organizations. A survey can also be undertaken to determine whether municipal vehicle use can be limited or replaced with bikes or walking. Vehicle telematics can also help to conserve fuel by tracking unauthorized personal uses of municipal vehicles. At a base level, this can include installing GPS navigation systems on fleet vehicles. To achieve greater efficiency, the Township can also install wireless data communication, routing optimization and vehicle tracking software.

Phasing

Both training and installing software can be accomplished within weeks if needed.

Cost and Possible Funding Issues

Proper driving techniques and vehicle maintenance can reduce fleet fuel consumption by up to 30% on the highway and 5% around town. For Cheltenham, that could mean a savings up to $24,000 just for employing proper driving techniques. Many of these techniques can be taught and reinforced in house without the need to pay for trainings.

If not already installed, GPS and wireless software would be relatively inexpensive to purchase—$350 to $800 — and can be implemented quickly compared with the option of purchasing new vehicles. The durability of the electronic equipment and associated maintenance issues should be considered as well.

Possible Partners

Partners could include PennDot, DVRPC, non-profit organizations, and private business that offer trainings, services and products.

6. Work with SEPTA, DVRPC, and the community to promote better use of train and bus service in the Township

The Township can pursue opportunities to work with SEPTA, DVRPC, private companies and the community to promote public transportation. The opportunities can include:

A. Lobbying for more electric or hybrid transit vehicles and more efficient use of the transit service to reduce fuel consumption.

B. Improving train/bus/trolley service – more comprehensive, increased frequency of service. Improved efficiency and reliability, improved safety throughout the region.

C. Working with private and public partners to install more bus shelters and maintain rail stations (ex: work with Melrose Park Neighbors Association to beautify the Melrose Park station stop).

D. Working with institutional and private partners to create an incentives program for public transit use. Encourage local companies to join already established incentive programs like the GVFTMA's Bike To Work Challenge.

E. Providing comprehensive transit maps both in hard copy and/or online.

See Commuting Pattering Data on Pages 46 - 51

Phasing

This can begin immediately and continue for the long term.

Cost and Possible Funding Issues

The Township could work with the possible partners in a support role. Supporting these partners will probably involve the use of staff time and resources. Lobbying, creating incentives programs, putting maps online can all be done by the Township. Most costs would be borne by the SEPTA and other public/private partners, but staff time and limited resources would be needed to promote greater use of public transit.

Possible Partners

SEPTA, DVRPC, private companies, the EAC and community.

7. Pass ordinances and install signage to reduce vehicle idling

Truck, bus, and car idling can be large sources of wasted fuel and GHG emissions. Every 30 minutes of idling consumes between 20-70% of a gallon of gas for an 8-cylinder engine. Every gallon of gas used produces about 19 pounds of carbon dioxide. The Township can work to reduce idling by:

A. Participating in the national *Clean School Bus's National Idle Reduction Campaign*.

B. Establishing no-idle zones at schools and other locations.

C. Encouraging residents to avoid using a remote vehicle starter and to obey no-idle zones through education campaigns.

D. Adopting auxiliary power systems in fleet

vehicles, which provide heating, cooling, and electronic device power without running the vehicle's primary engine.

Phasing

The process of writing and adopting ordinance language can be done in a matter of months.

Cost and Possible Funding Issues

Reducing vehicle idling will save the Township in fuel costs. It will require staff time to draft an ordinance and there will be a cost to buy and install signage. Capital costs will also be required to adopt auxiliary power systems, but may be offset by reduced fuel consumption. The auto industry is introducing a feature that shuts down an engine at stops and automatically restarts it when the driver hits the gas pedal; the Township could consider this and other technological advancements in the future.

Possible Partners

The Township could work with the GFVTMA and the EPA's Clean School Bus Program to create and implement strategies to reduce vehicle idling.

Waste Management

1. Examine ways to improve the efficiency and life span of trash trucks through the type of service provided.

The DVRPC Energy Analysis Tool suggests that refuse vehicles are the number two fuel consumers and GHG emitters in the Township fleet. A *Township analysis* of different waste pickup methods concluded that automated trucks will save the Township money and reduce GHG emissions while calling for no layoff of personnel.

Phasing

The budgeting process for the new vehicles can begin as soon as possible.

Cost and Possible Funding Issues

The finances for this change were determined by the Township and are as follows:

a. 1st year Operating Budget Savings: $209,889
(520 additional recycling tons projected in increased revenues)

b. 1st year Capital Budget Costs: $1,072,000

c. 1st year Net Costs: $862,111

d. Program pays for itself in 5.4 years

Possible Partners

The EAC and other community groups are also working to reduce the Township's refuse production and GHG emissions while increasing the recycling rates. These groups, along with the private businesses that would be supplying the trash trucks, could be partners in this decision.

2. Adopt a "green purchasing" policy

Cheltenham Township can implement a "green purchasing" policy. There are many things to consider when purchasing products. Sample green purchasing policies can be found on these websites: *StopWaste.org, Green Purchasing Institute, University of Pennsylvania, California Product Stewardship Council.* These include, but are not limited to:

A Reducing waste sources: Examples include electronic communication instead of printed, double sided printing, reusable dishes, rechargeable batteries, on demand printing of reports, refurbished products, etc.

B. Purchasing post-consumer recycled goods, like paper, paper towels, toner, etc.

C. Purchasing Energy Efficient and Water Saving Products: *Guides* are available online to help people and organizations choose products

D. Buying Products with Third-Party Sustainability Certification

E. Creating a life cycle analysis that examines where and how the product was produced, how far it must be shipped, secondary uses or the ability to be recycled

Phasing

Immediate. Policy creation can take one to three months.

Cost and Possible Funding Issues

Sustainable products can be more expensive than traditional items while others can be purchased at no additional cost or even save money immediately. The Township can evaluate potential savings over time to determine whether the product will pay for itself. It can choose to set a specific cap for the

increased cost that the Township may spend for a green product over a standard product. This enables, but sets limits on, the purchase of slightly higher cost green items. A common tactic uses funds saved from a cheaper alternative to purchase more expensive, but greener products. For instance, the Township could use funds from energy savings to purchase nontoxic cleaners that protect the health of employees.

Possible Partners

The Township can seek guidance from the EAC when considering purchasing green products. DVRPC is also a resource for examining the possibilities of collaborative purchasing among municipalities of sustainable items.

3. Adopt and enforce no litterbug and dog waste laws

Citizens' neglect of proper garbage and animal waste disposal can pollute the Township's natural resources. The Township can institute an anti-littering signage campaign in high-priority locations. Waste cans and pickup can be provided at parks where owners frequently take their dogs. The Township can continue to enforce littering and dog waste laws to help curb this issue. Existing anti littering and water quality protection programs developed by environmental groups such as the *Pennsylvania Resources Council or PA Department of Environmental Protection* could be used to promote the Township's efforts.

Phasing

Immediate. Policy creation can take one to three months. Creating and installing signage and waste cans will cost money, but may not be very expensive. Trash routes may also have to be modified to allow for pickup at new sites.

Cost and Possible Funding Issues

It would take staff and the solicitor time to create the laws and identify areas with higher improper garbage disposal. Police would need to take the time to enforce the laws but there would be a generation of revenue from the fines.

Possible Partners

The EAC could be a valuable resource for public education about these laws.

4. Continue to explore best management practices for recycling and waste management

The comparison of recycled waste in November, 2010 versus November, 2011 showed a 3 percent increase to a 27 percent recycling rate. This rate is expected to rise when, in 2013, the Township institutes an automated recycling system. As the Township embraces sustainability, it can explore incorporating current best management practices for recycling and waste management. These practices include, but are not limited to:

A. Pay-As-You-Throw (unit pricing or variable rate pricing) – Residents are charged for the collection of municipal solid waste – ordinary household trash – based on the amount they throw away. This creates a direct economic incentive to recycle more and to generate less waste. Units of measurement could include pounds of trash or size and number of standardized cans or bags. For example, in *Longmont, CO,* residential customers have a two-tier weekly pricing system depending on the size of the container.

B. Recycling Rewards Programs – Residential recycling can be incentivized with a rewards program. Residents accrue points with each pound of waste they recycle. These points can then be redeemed for gift cards, gift certificates, discounts and more. *Philadelphia* has an established relationship with RecycleBank which has proven to increase recycling rates

C. Composting – Mandatory or volunteer based programs can divert food scraps from landfills by creating a pickup or drop-off system for residential compostable waste. The Township currently has an established *leaf and garden debris collection program* that composts leaves and makes the resulting compost publically available.

See Cheltenham Waste Generation and Recycling Data on Page 58.

Phasing

Immediate to long term. The Township can always explore new avenues to reduce waste generation, increase recycling, and save money.

Cost and Possible Funding Issues

Many alternative waste management systems can save the Township money. As an example, on aver-

age, communities that implement pay-as-you-throw programs report a 15-28% reduction in the amount of waste disposed. It is important to weigh these savings against any additional required investments that both the Township and residents would need to make (ex: changes in staff time, new trash trucks, new standardized trash cans).

Possible Partners

The EAC could be a valuable resource for their waste management knowledge and their ability to do public outreach about any possible changes.

Water Management

1. Restore streambanks through naturalization

The Township has completed several successful streambank stabilization projects in the Tookany Creek watershed. Using the experience gained from these projects, the Township can continue to identify degraded streambank areas to stabilize, and determine what sections of stream corridor are appropriate for naturalization. The Township can use the Riparian Buffer Assessment map found in the Sustainability Resources Section to help prioritize possible project areas.

Phasing

Stream bank naturalization projects usually happen when one of the following occurs:

A. Grant funding is acquired for a specific project. Priority areas could be designated as soon as possible to make applying for these grants an easier process.

B. New trails, new developments, or road work are undertaken by the community. The Township can pursue these opportunities when they arise.

See 2012 Riparian Buffer Assessment on Page 62.

See Impervious Coverage Data on Pages 60 & 61.

Cost and Possible Funding Issues

Stream bank restoration projects can be quite expensive. Fortunately, funding sources do exist. Grants may become available through a number of sources that may help pay for these projects.

Possible Partners

The Township can work with the EAC, the Tookany/Tacony-Frankford Watershed Partnership, Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection (PADEP), the Philadelphia Water Department and partners from previous projects to plan and complete these projects.

2. Implement the Stormwater Management Program required for the PAG-13 Permit.

The Township was required by the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection (PADEP) to develop, implement and enforce a Stormwater Management Program under its existing PAG-13 permit. The Township should continue to implement their Stormwater Management Program in the most sustainable manner possible.

Phasing

The Stormwater Management Program must be implemented within the first five-year permit term.

Cost and Possible Funding Issues

The cost of this program falls on the Township. Grants may become available through a number of sources that may help pay for this program, though the Township cannot rely just on these opportunities. Partnering with other Townships or with non-profit organizations may reduce some of the financial burden when trying to implement the Stormwater Management Program.

Possible Partners

The Township could work closely with the EAC, Economic Development Task Force, the Tookany/Tacony-Frankford Watershed Partnership, the Philadelphia Water Department, other municipalities, and with the County to help accomplish its Stormwater Management Program.

3. Promote BMPs on private and public properties including:

Best Management Practices for rainwater and stormwater include a variety of green infrastructure tools. Extensive research has already been undertaken by the Township, and recommendations for water and land management can be found in the *2006 Open Space Plan, Tookany/Tacony-Creek Integrated Watershed Management Plan*, and in the *Flood Damage Reduction Study* done in conjunction with the Army

Corps of Engineers. These practices use natural systems to divert water and prevent it from becoming runoff via infiltration, evapotranspiration, and filtration. Some potential projects that the Township can use as green infrastructure models include, but are not limited to:

A. Creating a vegetated swale on municipal lands behind Greenwood Ave

B. Creating vegetated swales and infiltration basins at Caroll Brook Park

C. Removing berms and naturalizing basins during Phase III of the High School Park construction.

D. Restoration of the site adjacent to the bird sanctuary at Rices Mill Road and Glenside Avenue.

The Township could also explore options to convert impervious surfaces on public and private land into more natural pervious or semi-pervious landscapes. The Township could also look into "daylighting" creeks and restoring natural streambeds. Exploring a partnership with the Pennsylvania Horticultural Society to create a "Best of Cheltenham" residential stormwater management award would also promote BMPs throughout the Township.

Phasing

Immediate to long term. Establishing BMPs will help the community come into compliance with the Stormwater Management Program. The Township can more quickly identify the most appropriate sites for managing stormwater. However, these projects may take an extended period of time to complete.

Cost and Possible Funding Issues

The cost of implementing BMPs on municipal public property falls on the Township, while private landowners would have to independently fund projects. The Township may want to consider subsidizing projects on private land to encourage watershed restoration. Grants may become available through a number of sources, such as the PWD or the PADEP. Partnering with other Townships or with non-profit organizations may reduce some of the financial burden when trying to accomplish certain BMPs.

Possible Partners

The Township could work closely with the EAC, the Tookany/Tacony-Frankford Watershed Partnership, the Philadelphia Water Department, other municipalities, and with the County to help accomplish their Stormwater Management Program.

Ecological Stewardship

1. Strengthen the Township's tree preservation and landscape standards

The Township can work to strengthen the tree preservation and landscape standards found in the Township's Subdivision and Land Development Ordinance to make them more sustainable. The Township can also consider adopting an ordinance restricting the use of certain fertilizers, herbicides or pesticides that could pollute the Township's waterways if not applied correctly.

Phasing

This work can begin immediately.

Cost and Possible Funding Issues

Staff time for ordinance work.

Possible Partners

The Montgomery County Planning Commission can write and review tree preservation and landscape ordinances. The Pennsylvania Horticultural Society and Extension Agencies are also available for consultation.

2. Continue to work to naturalize municipal-owned lands

Extensive use of parks and open space, as well as grading and facilities development to provide for recreation, has degraded the natural features of parts of the Township's lands. The Township can focus on naturalizing some municipal owned land to increase native habitat, support a healthy watershed, protect soil quality and manage stormwater run-off. To do this the Township can undertake the following actions:

A. Changing mowing patterns to create meadows (as noted in Energy Action Item #1)

B. Replanting trees and underbrush with native species and protect the plantings from deer, geese and other damaging wildlife

C. Reintroducing native wetland plants, especially if and when state and federal sponsored projects create or restore wetlands

D. Controlling invasive species

E. Managing streambank restoration projects

F. Encouraging the use of trails to maintain more natural areas

G. Planting fruit and nut trees as part of a local harvested food initiative

The Township has worked towards many these tasks as it developed and implemented the master plan for High School Park. It will continue to do so in 2013 by developing the master plan for Curtis Arboretum. Naturalization of Township Parks can continue over time through development of master plans for our other parks, and fundraising through Pennsylvania's Department of Conservation and Natural Resources.

Phasing

An examination of parks and open spaces can begin immediately to identify degraded areas. Plans for park and open space management can be established to identify projects according to priority. Encouraging residents to change use patterns can also begin immediately. Changing mowing schedules, replanting and removing invasive species will need to be done annually. Larger stream bank restoration projects can be done when funding becomes available or during a larger infrastructure program.

Cost and Possible Funding Issues

Mowing less will save fuel and require less employee time. Plantings and invasive removal will be time consuming, but can be done with the help of volunteers. Capital costs will be minimal, and may be offset by grants or donations from planting programs. Restoration efforts will be costly, though some grants can be obtained. Naturalizing efforts can reduce stormwater compliance issues, thereby offsetting some potential capital or penalty costs.

Possible Partners

The most important partner in this effort will be citizens who use the parks and open spaces. It is important to educate them about the value of meadows, native versus invasive species, and streambank restoration. Education efforts could also focus on encouraging the proper use of these natural and open spaces either through a campaign online or through signage. The Township can partner with PADEP, PHS, PWD, and community groups for capital help and for volunteer labor.

3. Explore ways to reduce invasive species

Invasive species dominate many green spaces in the community. The Township currently invests $15,000-$20,000 yearly in an invasive species removal program. Difficulties persist with these removal strategies. In some cases, the invasives are stabilizing the landscape or protecting wetlands, making removal a double edged sword. Also, without yearly treatment, or without replacement plants, the invasive species will inevitably return. Therefore management strategies are only effective if capital investments can be made in annual treatments, replacement species and in monitoring.

Phasing

This work is currently done on an annual basis and could continue.

Cost and Possible Funding Issues

The Township could explore grant opportunities to supplement the investments they currently make.

Possible Partners

The Township can partner with PADEP, PHS, PWD, and community groups for planning purposes, funding opportunities and possibly for volunteer labor.

4. Develop a comprehensive Sustainable Urban Forest Management Plan

To strengthen the community's commitment to tree preservation and landscape management, the Township can develop a comprehensive "Sustainable Urban Forest Management Plan" to help protect the community's tree canopy, including trees on public property (street, park, Township facilities) as well as private property (residential, commercial, institutional). The plan can address such topics as tree inventory, assessment, maintenance, removal, replacement, stewardship, preservation, and other elements of maintaining a healthy tree canopy.

See Tree Coverage Map on Page 67.

Phasing

The Township can begin immediately by working with the Shade Tree Commission to begin the planning process. Within the next year the Township can begin a tree inventory and the comprehensive forest management plan could be done within a two year timeframe.

Cost and Possible Funding Issues

The Shade Tree Commission is an existing volunteer organization, but there would be a cost for a consultant to organize the inventory and develop the plan.

Possible Partners

Possible partners include the Montgomery County Planning Commission, DVRPC, PHS, Penn State Extension and DCNR.

5. Continue monitoring and replacing trees on public land

The Township currently maintains a list of those trees removed from parkland, and has a waiting list of residents desiring street trees. Continued monitoring and recording will allow Cheltenham to maintain and enhance its urban tree canopy. This work can be done in conjunction with community organizations, such as Tree Tenders. Current collaborations with local nurseries, contractors, and the Pennsylvania Horticultural Society can also be maintained to further the sustainability goals

Phasing

A plan can be developed that prioritizes areas throughout the Township that would most benefit from tree plantings. The plantings with the most impact could occur when funding becomes available.

Cost and Possible Funding Issues

Most often, these types of projects occur when grant funding becomes available. This grant funding is available on a regular basis from state, local and regional sources. The Township has done a tremendous job in pursuing these opportunities and leveraging those with donations from private businesses. The Township can continue to pursue these funding opportunities and nurture the relationship it has with the private sector.

Possible Partners

The EAC, community organization, private businesses, PADEP, DCNR, PHS and DVRPC are possible partners.

6. Expand range of tree planting projects on municipal lands to provide models for similar development by the community on private lands.

The introduction of naturalized features along developed municipal lands such as streets, and parking lots, would not only improve their appearance, but also reduce stormwater run-off. The US Forest Service states that every mature tree crown intercepts 1,000 gallons of rainfall per year. Cheltenham Township has approved a watershed plan that references the TTF Consolidated Watershed Plan. This plan recommends that every municipality in the watershed achieve a 5% increase of tree canopy coverage.

To set an example for the whole community to accomplish this goal, the Township can:

A. Continue and fully fund a program to provide tree saplings for residential yard planting once a year and free of charge.

B. Develop a street tree planting program in collaboration with civic groups, such as Tree Tenders, and provide sidewalk removal services free of charge to create tree wells for township approved planting projects.

C. Seek funding to develop projects to install tree trenches and/or pocket rain gardens in municipal parking lots.

Phasing

Some of these actions are already taking place, while others will take time to develop or will require a funding opportunity to begin.

Cost and Possible Funding Issues

As with Action Item #5, most often these type of projects occur when grant funding become available. This grant funding is available on a regular basis from state, local and regional sources. The Township has done a tremendous job in pursuing these opportunities and leveraging those with donations from private businesses. The Township could continue to pursue these funding opportunities and nurture the relationship they have with the private sector.

Possible Partners

The EAC, community organization, private businesses, PADEP, DCNR, PHS and DVRPC are possible partners.

Healthy Living For All

1. Consider participating in the Let's Move! Cities and Towns" program

Childhood obesity rates in America have tripled in the past three decades to nearly thirty percent. Let's Move! is a comprehensive initiative, launched by Michelle Obama, the current First Lady, aimed at solving this challenging societal problem through participation by families, schools, health care professionals, private sector companies, and all levels of government. Local leaders can participate in the program through the Let's Move! Cities, Towns and Counties (LMCTC) Initiative, which provides tools, resources and a framework for battling childhood obesity in communities.

Phasing

Immediate to Long Term. The first step is for local officials to commit to the five goals outlined by *LMCTC*, which include: Start Early, Start Smart; My Plate, Your Place; Smart Servings for Students; Model Food Service; and Active Kids at Play. After completing a short survey, the National League of Cities will develop technical assistance opportunities specific to the Township. These will most likely be longer term projects.

Cost and Possible Funding Issues

Each goal requires a different level of funding commitment. None of the goals necessitate capital expenditures, however, they all require substantial time investments from private and public partners to incorporate new programs, gather data, examine purchasing systems, and create marketing campaigns among other commitments.

Possible Partners

A wide variety of partners will need to be involved. These will include: USDA regional offices, local Head Start chapters, child care resources, the pediatric medical community, the Cheltenham School District, vendors, Parks and Recreation Departments, teachers, community members, and local colleges and universities.

2. Promote local foods through community gardens and farmers markets

Local food production reduces the need for fossil fuels for transportation, encourages healthy eating habits, discourages the use of pesticides and fertilizers, and connects residents to where their food comes from. To encourage the purchase and consumption of local food, the Township can:

A. Explore creating incentives for local food production and consumption of regional public food sources within 100 miles of the Township

B. Create and promote dedicated areas for community gardens, most likely within already established public parks and open spaces.

C. Determine the most suitable locations for new gardens depending on local economy, resident interest, and access to fresh fruits and vegetable.

D. Work with local extension agencies, community organizations and schools, and local food experts to provide the knowledge needed to grow, store and preserve produce grown at home.

E. Continue to encourage farmers markets and co-ops.

F. Encourage local foods education in the school system by converting under-used school properties to small gardens.

See Food Accessibility Map on Page 70.

Phasing

Immediate. The Township can map out established community gardens and identify where the need and the land exists for future ones. An education program with classes might take a few months to establish, but online information can be compiled and made readily accessible immediately.

Cost and Possible Funding Issues

Staff will be needed to map out community garden locations and to create and potentially staff classes. Support may be given to startup gardens and co-ops in the form of small grants or low interest loans. Grants and collaborations can help offset some of these costs. Payback will be seen mostly by the residents using the gardens, farmers markets, and co-ops.

Possible Partners

The Township can partner with existing neighborhood organizations and non-profits that currently work in the community.

3. Create neighborhood parks and open space within easy walking distance of every neighborhood

The Township has already established an extensive network of parks and open space. However, the residents of Laverock do not have easy access to green space. The Township can determine parcels within the Laverock community that can be acquired and turned into a park or open space. This may involve working in conjunction with Springfield to preserve parcels near the Township boundary. Opportunities may also arise as development or redevelopment is proposed. Of particular importance is the maintenance or creation of open spaces around creeks or restored wetlands. The Township can also continue promoting the Cresheim Trail, which would provide a greenway near the Laverock community. Additionally, the Township could ensure that the existing parks are protected and maintained both through zoning changes or conservation easements, and through the establishment of management plans.

Phasing

Immediate-to-Long Term – The Township needs to map out priority locations for future open space and natural areas near Laverock and throughout the community. Acquiring appropriate parcels and turning them into green spaces will be a long-term goal dependent on funding and availability.

Cost and Possible Funding Issues

Acquiring new parcels will be a large capital expense as open land is scare in the community. The Township can also identify under-used municipal properties that could be turned into a park or open space with some capital investment.

Possible Partners

The Township would need to work with residents and community groups to identify where the need is for more green space. It might also be prudent to work with developers to identify and acquire the appropriate lots.

4. Provide easy access from every neighborhood (preferably walkable and/or bikable) to key services such as post office, banks, shops, libraries, schools, etc

Specific populations within each neighborhood may not have easy access to cars or public transit. It is therefore critical for the Township to make key municipal services available via walking and/or biking. To do this, the Township can adopt a comprehensive map showing the location of bike trails, easily bikeable streets and municipal services. Another comprehensive map could identify the current location of key services and the populations that can access them via walking and biking. The Township can use these maps to identify safe streets and intersections to make walking to these facilities easier. Finally, the Township can develop a thorough understanding of where the highest density of non-drivers are in the community to determine whether key services can be relocated, whether new locations can be added, or whether new bike lanes or public transit routes can be established. The Township can also continue to encourage the Senior Citizen Shared Ride Program.

Phasing

Work on the planning aspects of this action item can begin immediately.

Cost and Possible Funding Issues

Staff time will be required to manage the planning process and any projects would require capital dollars. These types of projects are most feasibly implemented concurrent with road work or development. Plans could be established immediately, but the actual building might not happen for years to come.

Possible Partners

The EAC is currently working on this issue as are other citizen groups in the Township.

5. Develop partnerships with the School Districts, universities, hospitals and other organizations to promote healthy lifestyle choices

Public institutions and specialized private organizations frequently have the ability to reach a wide network of people. The Township could create official partnerships with these organizations to promote healthy lifestyles. This can include tabling at events, specific web content, joint events, wellness screenings, etc.

Phasing

Immediate

Cost and Possible Funding Issues

Production of materials to distribute, including handouts, posters, banners, etc. There will also be

a cost in compensation for staff time to coordinate collaborations, create online content and to attend events.

Possible Partners

The EAC, Township organizations and institutions, the Pennsylvania Department of Health and any future Cheltenham Sustainability Implementation Organization.

Local Economy

1. Promote sustainable action items outlined in the 2002 Community Revitalization Plan and the subsequent 2009 Update

Cheltenham Township has the opportunity to invest in nurturing its local economy while abiding by the sustainability criteria of the Natural Steps method. In fact, creating a vibrant local economy is a foundation of sustainability. **The Township has identified four goals in sustainable economic development: attracting and maintaining local businesses including cottage industries, using resources more efficiently, promoting sustainable living in Cheltenham, and creating downtown hubs that are pedestrian and bike friendly.** The Township can continue to work towards these goals by supporting and encouraging some of the projects proposed in the 2002 Community Revitalization Plan and the subsequent Plan Update in 2009. For example:

A. Gateway and streetscape improvements to intersection of Penrose and Cheltenham Avenues: Creating a gateway entrance into Cheltenham Township that takes into account pedestrian mobility, stormwater management BMPs, and community signage will encourage local economic growth while incorporating other sustainability principles.

B. Community Garden ownership: See Healthy Living for All Action Item #2.

C. Tyler Campus re-use, and more specifically, Beech Hall re-use: When Temple's Tyler School of Art relocated, the campus became available for occupancy by another institutional entity. The campus itself contains open space and an already established building infrastructure. Encouraging tenure by another organization would help boost the local economy and would provide a great model for reuse. The Township could also initially focus on filling Beech Hall dormitory with a new business.

D. Street Tree Management throughout LaMott: See Ecological Stewardship Action Item #1

See Commercial District Maps on Pages 77 & 78.

Phasing

The phasing for these action items can be found in their respective plans.

Cost and Possible Funding Issues

The cost and possible funding issues for these action items can be found in their respective plans.

Possible Partners

The Township could continue to support the work of the Cheltenham Township Economic Development Task Force and its associated partners.

2. Work towards establishing green economic initiatives

In order for the Township to attract and maintain local businesses, use resources more efficiently, promote sustainable living in Cheltenham, and create downtown hubs, it can examine established green economic initiatives. These initiatives are created to foster green business and development and to help the community become a hub of sustainable activity. Some examples instituted by communities include, but are not limited to:

A. Providing funding for technology to help entrepreneurs and startups.

B. Surveying businesses to understand what is needed to support and attract new businesses. Surveys can also be used to understand what green businesses are currently located in the community.

C. Encouraging actions to stop the outflow of local dollars, support existing businesses, encourage new local enterprises, and recruit new businesses.

Phasing

Planning for these initiatives can begin immediately. Future plans can build upon an already existing cottage industry. Other large economic projects may not be feasible until some point in the future.

Cost and Possible Funding Issues

For any of these initiatives it is hoped that the costs associated with planning, administration and any possible loss of tax revenue can be regained through the retention and growth of the business sector so that these initiatives lead to a net gain for the Township.

Possible Partners

The Township could continue to support the work of the Cheltenham Township Economic Development Task Force and its associated partners.

Sustainable Development

1. Explore sustainable designs for all retrofits and new construction on municipal properties

While Energy Goal Action Item #2 focuses on energy conservation, building sustainably can encompass many more issues. Sustainable buildings should be accessible by everyone. They should also create a healthy, safe, and productive environment for occupants and visitors while minimizing their impact on the environment. The Township can develop sustainable building standards that will guide all retrofits and new construction projects on municipal properties. The Township could look to a number of sustainable building programs, such as LEED, Energy Star, Green Globes, etc., for guidance on construction standards.

Phasing

The preparation for building sustainably can begin immediately but opportunities to take action may not arise for years. The Township can begin to prepare a system that will ensure sustainable designs so that when a municipal construction opportunity occurs, the Township is ready to proceed in the most sustainable manner possible.

Cost and Possible Funding Issues

It is commonly accepted that building in a sustainable manner does add costs to the initial construction. These costs can be limited through smart planning and many of the initial costs can be recovered through energy savings, greater tenant productivity and healthier tenants.

Possible Partners

The EAC is currently working on this issue as are other county, state and regional organizations that could be a resource. The EAC and any other Township sustainability stakeholders can be brought on board at the inception of municipal retrofits and new construction.

2. Codes and land development ordinances can be aligned with sustainability goals.

The Township's regulatory control over development can play an important role in sustainable development. The codes and ordinances can spur sustainability in many ways, such as removing roadblocks to good design, requiring sustainable practices whenever possible and incentivizing sustainable practices. The Montgomery County Planning Commission is working with the Township to review its zoning ordinance, SALDO, and stormwater ordinance and make recommendations on changes/additions to existing ordinance language to increase environmental protection, energy efficiency, and/or resource management during the development process. The EPA's Local Government Green Building Toolkit *(http://epa.gov/region4/recycle/green-building-toolkit.pdf)* can be used to evaluate roadblocks to green and sustainable codes. From the planning process, a number of ordinance issues were highlighted that the sustainability review can address. These include, but are not limited to:

A. Adopt, and modify as needed, the Montgomery County Model Floodplain Ordinance to ensure compliance with FEMA requirements and to protect the floodplain

B. Attempt to reduce impervious pavement and stormwater runoff and attempt to increase use of permeable pavement by ensuring that impervious coverage limits are present in the draft zoning ordinance

C. Explore requiring the use of pervious concrete in the construction of sidewalks and pervious paving in parking stalls of all new residential developments

D. Explore zoning for solar access and orientation

E. Explore providing incentives for sustainable construction that maximizes energy efficiency and reduces environmental impacts (LEED, Energy Star, etc.)

F. Explore adopting the most sustainable and up-to-date version of the International Construction Code

G. Encourage residential and mixed-use developments around train stations and transit lines

H. Explore infrastructure for electric and liquid natural gas vehicles with assistance from DVRPC and other transportation organizations.

I. Attempt to identify private properties in the Township that are paved to provide parking but do not serve this function. Determine measures that the Township could take to incentivize the restoration of these lands to pervious earth covered by vegetation.

Phasing

The Montgomery County Planning Commission is currently working with the Township to review and edit the Zoning Ordinance. The Subdivision and Land Development Ordinance review and editing process will begin when that has finished.

Cost and Possible Funding Issues

The review and editing process are part of Cheltenham's Planning Assistance contract and will not have any additional cost to the Township.

Possible Partners

The Montgomery County Planning Commission works closely with the Township, the EAC and all over stakeholders during the process.

Monitoring

1. Develop a process so that the EAC plays an advisory, oversight and monitoring role in the Municipal Action Plan's Action Items

The EAC's sustainability monitoring roles would be carried out by the following EAC committees:

- Water Management and Ecological Stewardship
- Sustainable Development, Energy, Mobility, & Waste Reduction
- School Board Liaison
- Communications for Community Engagement, Healthy Living and Progress Monitoring

The EAC would assume the following roles and use the following methods of operation.

A. Monitoring and Reporting the Activities of Township Government

1. The Communications Committee would develop articles about government and community sustainability projects and progress to be posted on the Sustainable Cheltenham website. Assistance for this committee would include:

   a. Monthly updates of government sustainability activities provided at the EAC meeting by the Township.

   b. Technical assistance from the Montgomery County Planning Commission staff in posting articles on the Sustainable Cheltenham website and from Township by linking them to the Township website.

2. Each of the other EAC committees would assume their own part in annual narrative reporting of the township's prior year Sustainability MAP projects and accomplishments, and following year's MAP projects plans. However, the EAC would not be responsible for providing any portions of the report for which it did not receive performance data from the Township, including relevant statistics on their consumption and green practices. According to the township manager, these reports by department directors would be due in August as part of the submission of department budget proposals. To facilitate this process, the EAC Communications Committee could develop a MAP performance reporting matrix chart, identifying which departments are responsible for accomplishing and reporting on progress for each action step in the MAP each year.

B. Communication and Promotion of Community-Wide Sustainability Initiatives

EAC committees would interact with community groups and businesses to motivate the accomplishment and reporting of any projects that work towards the accomplishment of Sustainable Cheltenham goals using any of the methods approved in the plan. Each EAC committee could promote only one or two methods in any given year, to insure that substantial progress will be made that year.

Promotion of community projects could be done through:

1. Community Forums. In 2013 the EAC has planned community forums that focus on:
   a. Energy issues: These will be presented in collaboration with the Energyworks residential conservation program to provide client orientation, and will be hosted by school PTO groups.
   b. Watershed and stormwater management issues: These will be presented in collaboration with the TTF Watershed Partnership at Township civic group meetings.

   A variety of forums could be planned for the following years.
2. Publications. Monthly recognition and publicity about community sustainability initiatives could be provided in the EAC newsletter, currently distributed to over 1,000 Township residents.
3. Awards. An annual awards contest could be designed to motivate reporting by community organizations and businesses about their sustainability accomplishments. The EAC committees would serve as awardee selection groups and award event organizers and promoters.

Phasing

The EAC could begin its role immediately.

Cost and Possible Funding Issues

The EAC could incorporate these duties as part of their normal agenda. The EAC may want to organize their internal structure to accommodate this new role. Staff time would be necessary on a regular basis to provide the EAC with the information it requires. Funding for the annual report can come from the same sources that fund all other EAC activities.

Possible Partners

The EAC and Township government would work closely together.