



# SUSTAINABLE CHELTENHAM NEWSLETTER

April 2015

---

---

The Cheltenham Township Environmental Advisory Council

## In This Issue

Upcoming Events  
EAC Committees



### Upcoming Events

*Mark your calendar*

### Environmental Advisory Council Meeting

**Monday @ 7:30PM**

**May 18th**

[Richard Wall Carriage House \(click for map\)](#)

This is the monthly meeting where the volunteers of the EAC and interested residents of Cheltenham Township discuss new and ongoing environmental concerns, draft recommendations for the Township Commissioners, and work on strategies to promote widespread action toward the goals of our Township's [Sustainability Plan](#). **Township residents are encouraged to attend and get involved in Sustainable Cheltenham!**

At this month's meeting:

- **Morgan Berman, founder of [My Milkcrate](#) ("The Innovative App for Sustainable Local Living") will tell us about how her company is using technology to connect people with the sustainable businesses they want to know about.**
- **Discussion of the Sustainability Festival. However, weekly planning meetings for the Sustainability Festival occur on Mondays at Creekside Co-op, at 6 PM (except the 2nd Monday of each month). Hands-on volunteers needed! Take a look at the Award Winners from last year's festival, view the event video, and make a nomination for this year's Sustainability Awards! [Click here](#) .**

# Cheltenham's Earth Day

Saturday, April 25th

All across Cheltenham Township ordinary (and extraordinary) people will be taking action in honor of Earth Day:

- Check out the projects that need volunteers like you; view the [complete list on the Township website](#) or find out more on the Township's Facebook page. 
- Afterward, enjoy the art and festivities of the [Downtown Glenside Arts Festival](#) and find out how you could become the new owner of a custom-decorated Rain Barrel.



[Tookany/Tacony-Frankford Watershed Partnership, Inc. Calendar of Events](#)

Click the Calendar link above to see what is happening in the largest watershed in the

Township. Just one example is the [Watershed Heroes presentation](#) at Creekside Co-op, Thursday, April 30th, from 6 to 7 PM.

## Cheltenham Township Recycling Info

### In your mailbox this month

Look for the Cheltenham Update Newsletter, mailed to every household in the Township, for a comprehensive guide to the Township's recycling program. Not sure why some things are recyclable and others are not? Confused about the changing rules for what can be recycled? Read the Township Update for the answers you need!

### In case you missed it...

## Becoming Greener: A Panel Discussion on Green Schools

Arcadia University

This Arcadia University-sponsored panel discussion was aimed at Educators, Education Leaders, and anyone interested in bringing Sustainability into the infrastructure and operations of our schools.

### Some important Take-aways from the Going Green Panel Discussion at Arcadia:

"Green" schools in aggregate are saving **2 Billion dollars each year**. Each "green" school results in operational **savings of about 25%**.

There are **3 "Pillars"** of the sustainable school movement:

- 1** Reduce environmental impacts and costs
- 2** Improve health and "wellness"
- 3** Provide environmental and sustainability education in multiple pathways, including STEM, civics, and career planning

One way to leverage the investment in a "green" school is to **use its unique features as a learning lab**. Engaging students is the surest way to improve their learning outcomes, and if the very building they inhabit for much of the school day is an interactive laboratory, they are going to notice.

A highly effective ("**Green Ribbon Award Winning**") school district--Lower Merion--cited the following features as really important aspects of their implementation of Sustainability:

**Community Connections** (i.e., know and use your resources...)

**Strategic Plan** (must be transformative and interdisciplinary)

**Student Focused** (most of the people in the schools are students; they need to be involved)

-Every two weeks the seventh graders walk 2 blocks and sample the water in the creek

-Student Government and the Environmental Club collected all the plastic bottles in

school for 1 week and made a display showing the magnitude of that waste stream.

-Student projects

**District-wide Green Council** facilitating and coordinating effective action

**School Board Policy on Sustainability** encompassing:

-energy conservation

-transportation

-solid waste and recycling

-air quality

-"green" cleaning program

-food (considering preparation, disposal, student health, environmental impact)

**Comprehensive Sustainability Audit** to identify low-cost and no-cost changes; use the cost savings for capital improvements.

If you didn't participate, you are in luck: Arcadia intends to repeat this event annually.

---

---

## Environmental Advisory Council Committees: Your Opportunity to get Involved!

*The EAC is organized into four committees, which partner with many like-minded individuals and groups. These committees enable EAC volunteers to focus their efforts on topics of particular interest. The current committee structure includes:*

- *Energy and Emissions Committee*
- *Water and Ecology Committee*
- *School Liaison Committee*
- *Communication and Engagement*

In the EAC Newsletter, you can expect to see information about the activities of these committees, and don't forget that you are always welcome to attend the monthly EAC meeting to ask questions, provide your insights, and get involved.

Each committee meets on its own to work on new initiatives, so get involved with the issues that are most important to YOU!

**Water and Ecology:** This committee is exploring the possibility of turning Cheltenham Township into an Audubon "Bird Town." Intrigued? Would you like to find out how you can get involved? Join us at the EAC!

**Energy and Emissions:** This committee hosted the founder of an innovative company (Premiere Energy Auctions) that facilitates competitive auctions of energy for large energy-consumers, **such as townships and school districts**. This approach may enable cost savings by really making the energy market more competitive.

**School Liaison:** Do the students, teachers, staff, and administration of your school work together on Sustainability? By design, this approach offers long-term solutions for everyday issues. Shouldn't we be teaching tomorrow's leaders how to

think Sustainably? Let us know at the EAC what your school is doing for sustainability.

**Communication and Engagement:** You know you want to get involved. Go ahead, write an article for the newsletter, nominate someone for a [Sustainability Award](#), or simply join us at the [next EAC meeting](#) and let us know what you think.



## [JOIN OUR MAILING LIST](#)

[Forward to a friend](#)



This email was sent to ngibson@cheltenham-township.org by [eacnewsletter@cheltenham-township.org](mailto:eacnewsletter@cheltenham-township.org) | [Update Profile/Email Address](#) | Rapid removal with [SafeUnsubscribe™](#) | [Privacy Policy](#).



Cheltenham Township EAC | 8230 Old York Road | Township Administration Building | Elkins Park | PA | 19027