

The regular meeting of the Environmental Advisory Council (EAC) was held tonight. Members present were Dottie Baumgarten, Deb Forman, David McVeigh-Schultz, and Lorna Rosenberg. Township liaison present was Nancy K. Gibson, Public Information Officer. (See attached attendance sheet.)

1. **Call to Order** – Chairman Schultz called the meeting to order at 7:38 p.m.
2. **Acceptance of Meeting Minutes** – Mr. Schultz asked for a motion to approve the September 24, 2012 minutes. Ms. Forman requested a correction to the attachment, “Board Chair Comments on EAC Old Business” referred to in the meeting minutes, as follows: Under EAC Sustainability Committee Formation, add Item No. 6, “Recognition that additional resources could be tapped from the sustainable committee,” and under EAC Committee Membership, add Item No. 5, “There were multiple committee structures currently under discussion.” Ms. Forman made a motion to accept the minutes as amended; seconded by Ms. Rosenberg. The motion was unanimously approved.

### 3. **Committee Reports:**

A. Energy Committee Report – Mr. McHugh was not present to give a report.

B. Watershed Committee – Mr. Schultz presented the Watershed Committee report (see attached) and circulated a document regarding herbicides to the members.

C. Transportation Committee – Ms. Chadwick was not present to give a report.

D. Building Committee Report – Ms. Rosenberg had no written report but did note the following:

- Mr. Schultz attended a Delaware Valley Green Building Council event for School Districts as a volunteer representative from the community to discuss best practices for greening schools. Mr. Schultz stated that representatives from 20 different school districts from Delaware, Philadelphia and Lehigh Counties met with volunteers and professionals, with approximately 40 people total in attendance. Unfortunately, no one from Cheltenham School District attended. Mr. Schultz met with Mr. Paul Spiegel of Practical Energy Solutions. Ms. Rosenberg would like Mr. Spiegel to work with Cheltenham School District. Ms. Rosenberg is waiting for Delaware Valley Regional Planning Commission (DVRPC) to get back to her regarding School District energy efficiency initiatives.
- A Green Apple Day of service event was held on September 29, 2012, at Cedarbrook Middle School. Approximately 16 students planted and cleaned-out the existing rain garden under the guidance of Nancy Minich of NAM Planning & Design, LLC.
- Energy Works will host a free energy workshop on October 22, 2012, at the Cedarbrook Middle School, hosted by the Cheltenham United Parents Group. Energy Works has agreed to act as a mentor to shadow students conducting energy audits.
- Mr. Schultz noted that the Township was selected to receive technical assistance under DVRPC's Circuit Rider for Energy Efficiency in Municipal Operations to develop and implement cost-effective strategies to reduce energy costs.

*E. Communications Committee and Website Design* – Ms. Baumgarten presented a written report, which was distributed and reviewed at the meeting. (See attached.) A meeting of the Communications Sub-Committee meeting (Ms. Baumgarten, Mr. Carey, Ms. Forman, Ms. Rosenberg) was held on October 8, 2012.

Ms. Forman noted that directly creating EAC webpages the way the Sustainable Cheltenham website was developed would allow the subcommittee to share in the design process more easily than the current approach. Ms. Gibson will seek permission to give the Communications Sub-Committee access to create and share among themselves – but not publish – webpages on the Township's website. Pages would require Township approval before being published. Ms. Forman made a motion to seek EAC authorization to create Township webpages and list the EAC website proposal for approval on the next agenda; seconded by Ms. Baumgarten and unanimously accepted by those in attendance.

**4. Old Business:**

*A. EAC Sustainability Committee Formation and EAC Committee Membership* – The proposal for EAC Committee Restructuring, submitted by the EAC Communications Sub-Committee, was reviewed and discussed. (See attached.) The primary goals and activities and examples of sustainability for citizens were discussed. It was recommended the current EAC committee structure be reorganized from 5 to 4 committees to conform to the new Sustainability Plan interpretation. The Communications Committee would determine how to manage the website and how to market and advertise EAC goals to recruit and retain resources by inviting more citizens to participate, in particular members of the Sustainability Steering and General Committees. It was agreed that each committee (Water Management, Energy, EAC School Board, and Communications) should have a minimum of one quarterly meeting and report back to the EAC.

Ms. Rosenberg stated that she is working with Dr. Davis at the School District to create a green committee with representatives from the School District, parents and students. Ms. Rosenberg suggested the EAC to offer to host a Green Team to serve as a catalyst. Nationally, School Districts and governments are working together. Ms. Forman stated it was a good idea if approved by the Township.

*B. DEP Educational Grant* - Ms. Baumgarten reported that educational programs have been planned for November 28, 2012, from 8:30 - 9:30 a.m. at Curtis Hall and March 5, 2013, from 8:30 - 9:30 a.m. at Glenside Hall for business owners regarding stormwater best management practices. The educational brochure is scheduled for printing. A Power Point presentation is being developed. The programs will be advertised via postcard mailings, e-mail lists and website announcements. Sign-in sheets will be available. Attendees will receive a decal for their store windows indicating active participation. In addition, it was suggested that awards

for business partners who initiated best management practices might be added to the Tookany-Tacony/Frankford Watershed Partnership (TTFWP) annual awards. Ms. Baumgarten asked EAC members for assistance with planning the educational events as well as attendance at the two events. Discussion ensued and it was decided that Ms. Baumgarten will research the cost of creating poster foam board displays for mounting each of the items addressed in the Clean Water Partners brochure. She would like the meeting room set up like the Sustainability General Committee Meeting. Ms. Baumgarten will also prepare a request for reimbursement from EAC funds for supplies and materials and refreshments.

*C. Sustainability Municipal Action Plan (MAP) – A new draft of Municipal Action Items that incorporated Staff's recommendations was submitted at the October Sustainability Steering Committee meeting. A basic change was 2025 timeframe. The plan is written as a menu within the framework of all ten sustainable goals and includes monitoring, which means tracking the Township's progress. Discussion ensued on ways to capture progress reports from all Township departments in a centralized way. Developing a MAP matrix listing each action item, in which Township Staff could identify projected completion dates, related budget allocations and actual completion dates was suggested.*

## **5. New Business:**

*A. Discussion on FY 2013 Capital Budget Ideas – Mr. Schultz shared the FY 2013 Building Utility Costs Changes as projected by the Township Administration. (See attached.) Discussion ensued regarding the possible conversion from oil to natural gas for the EMS, District Court and Glenside Free Library. Mr. Schultz made a motion to recommend that the above buildings be considered for placement on the FY 2013 Capital Budget for conversion from oil to*

gas; seconded by Ms. Forman, and unanimously approved. Mr. Schultz noted that Mr. Havar is researching the conversion of the EMS building from oil to gas.

Mr. Schultz referred to a previous energy audit conducted at La Mott Community Center (LCC) and Rowland Community Center (RCC). One of the recommendations was to install an energy efficient boiler, which was completed, and another recommendation was to install heating and lighting controls in each room on the first floor of RCC. Mr. Schultz made a motion to propose that, at a minimum, heat controls and motion detectors for lighting for RCC be placed on FY 2013 Capital Budget or a future budget; seconded by Ms. Forman, and unanimously approved.

*B. Mural Arts Project (Easton Road SEPTA Underpass).* Ms. Gibson announced that the Township received a grant to have a mural painted at the Easton Road SEPTA Underpass near Mt. Carmel Avenue. Community meetings will begin in early January, and the project should be completed by June 2013.

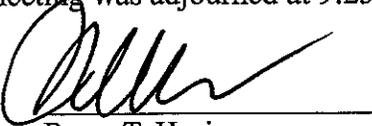
*C. Green Region PECO Open Space Grant Opportunity* - Ms. Gibson announced that the grant application is due December 14, 2012. If the EAC has a suggestion for funding a project other than Curtis Arboretum Conservation and Landscape Management Plan, Mr. Havar has advised that he would not have sufficient time to complete the application for another project. Ms. Baumgarten made a motion to file a grant application for Curtis Arboretum Conservation and Landscape Management Plan; seconded by Ms. Forman, and unanimously approved.

**6. Announcements** – Ms. Rosenberg noted that the Abington EAC had suggested a joint application for EPA Building Blocks Program for training; however, the application is due by the end of October.

October 15, 2012 7:30 p.m.  
Township Administration Building

**7. Other** – Mr. Schultz noted his enthusiastic support for the Township’s continued robust fund-raising, which might entail hiring a consultant for Township grant writing in the future.

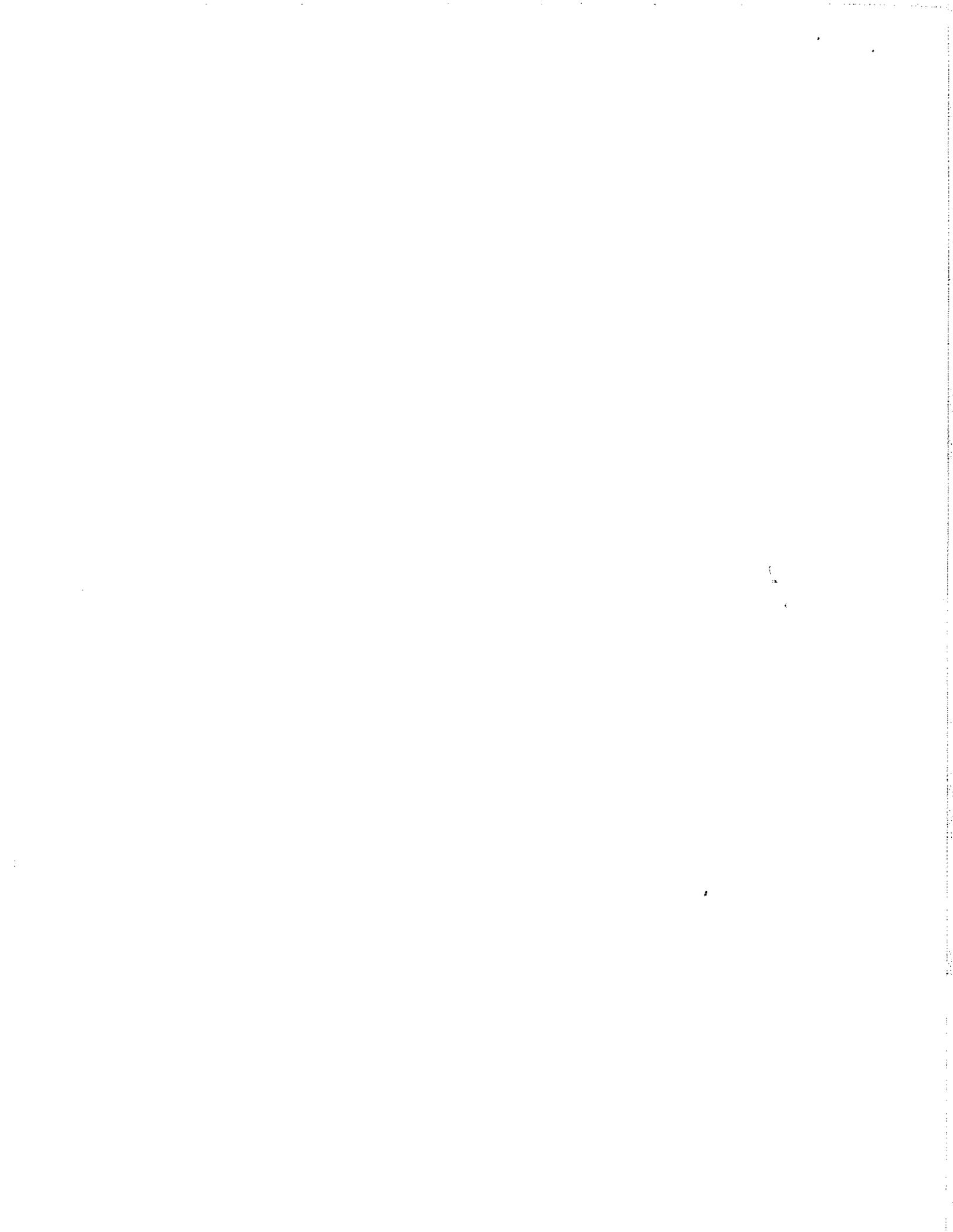
**8. Adjournment** – Ms. Rosenberg made a motion to adjourn the meeting; seconded by Ms. Baumgarten and approved by Committee. The meeting was adjourned at 9:25 p.m.



Bryan T. Havir  
Acting Township Manager

Submitted by:  
Kathryn McDevitt





## **Watershed Activities Report**

### **1. October 27<sup>th</sup> Parkview Park Riparian Planting**

Participant recruitment has included contacts with Boy Scout troops, community service, Cedarbrook Middle School, and the Environmental Club at Arcadia University. Individuals may attend but no groups will attend as a whole. The TTF Watershed Partnership has requested to participate as their contribution to International Coastal Clean-Up Day.

### **2. Herbicide Application in Township Parks**

Citizen concerns have been expressed regarding the safety of herbicide application in the township's parks. A watershed committee meeting will be scheduled this month to draft a response, and initial recommendations on safety precautions have been drafted.

### **3. Education Projects for Stormwater Management**

Presentation for the Wyncote Civic Association has been scheduled with an EAC and TTF Watershed Partnership Association representative for November 5.

The EAC has been asked to assist with an information display at upcoming stormwater management education workshops. Dottie prepared a report on this request for the EAC.

Communications Committee October Report:

Communications Committee:

There were 2 EAC newsletters emailed this month:

**September 27, 2012:**

Automated Recycling Program: Cheltenham Township will begin Automated Recycling on April 1, 2013. Participating households can choose their new container size.

National Drug Take Back Day: Find a local location for disposing of unwanted prescription drugs this Saturday, September 29.

Friends of Highschool Park: High School Park Becomes a Butterfly Migration "Waystation"

Tookany/Tacony-Frankford Watershed Partnership, Inc.: Free Tree Tenders program!

Cheltenham Township Clean Water Tip: Practice Environmentally Friendly Lawn Care.

**October 5, 2012:**

Energy Efficiency 101: Cheltenham United Parents Group Presents a Free EnergyWorks Workshop on Energy Efficiency on Monday, Oct. 22, 2012.

Tookany-Tacony/Frankford Watershed Association Riparian Planting: Oct. 13 from 10AM to 4PM, help improve the natural area along the Baeder Creek in Abington (Abington Junior High School).

Parkview Park Riparian Buffer Planting: Oct. 27 from 9AM to 3PM, planting along Tookany Creek in Parkview Park on Parkview Road, Cheltenham.

Cheltenham Township Wins Sustainability Award: For the third year in a row, Cheltenham Township wins a Greater Valley Forge Transportation Award. This year the Township achieves Gold!

Cheltenham Harvest Festival: Saturday, Oct. 13, noon to dark, join your community at Curtis Arboretum for this family fun-filled day.

Clean Water Tip: Downspouts help to manage stormwater run off from roofs and should empty in ways that promote rainwater soaking into natural areas.

The Communications Committee met to discuss the website, please accept Deb Forman's notes as part of this report.

Sincerely, Dottie Baumgarten

**Proposal for EAC Committee Restructuring**  
**Submitted by the EAC Communications Committee**

The communication committee met on October 8 to review the current EAC Committee structure and evaluate options for communicating the EAC goals and actions via the web and other means of communication. The EAC Communications Committee reaffirmed the goals of the EAC as primarily

- to advise township officials on environmental issues and
- to provide examples of sustainability for the citizens of Cheltenham Township.

To this end, the committee will continue to provide support and advice for the following activities

Advise township officials

- at Public Works meetings
- during ordinance development
- land development plans
- and implementation of the Sustainability Plan.

Provide examples of sustainability for the citizens of Cheltenham Township

- Education and Outreach
- Liaison with the Cheltenham District School Board
- Acting as a Hub to communicate environmental activities in other organizations.

In order to communicate these goals, the committee reflected on the new Sustainability Plan and recommends that the current committee structure be expressed within the new Sustainability Plan. This will enable the EAC flexibility and long-term guidance to achieve its goals. Specifically, the committee structure will be as follows and the existing committee actions will be developed under the new Sustainability guidelines:

Old	New	Sustainability Goals
Watersheds	Water Management	Water Management, Ecological Stewardship
Energy	Energy	Energy, Mobility, Waste, Reduction
Transportation	(merged with Energy)	
Building	EAC School Board Liaison	All, as indicated by specific projects
Communications	Communications	Community Engagement, Healthy Living for All, Monitor Progress

Furthermore, the communications committee also recommended that the EAC market and advertise its goals to be able to build its own resource capacity by inviting more citizens to attend

meetings and soliciting members who have volunteered for other environmental activities, such as the Sustainability Plan.

In order to reframe this new committee structure and marketing plan, the communications committee recommends that the EAC website be principally managed through a google app, similar to the <http://www.sustainablecheltenham.com/> which will be connected to the Township via the current EAC links on the Cheltenham Township's website. This will enable the EAC to become more flexible and nimble in its efforts to communicate its activities. The information on this new site will be closely coordinated with the Township's communication coordinator to ensure that the messages are consistent and aligned with the Township.

# CHELTENHAM TOWNSHIP SUSTAINABILITY PLAN

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## Municipal Action Items DRAFT- Just Action Items with Descriptions

### 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 to from the Township's website.

#### **2. Use community events and displays at Township facilities to inform residents about sustainability**

Township events are a perfect opportunity to reach out to the citizens and inform them without too many additional costs. The Township could:

- A. Host tables or booths at events
- B. Have sustainability takeaways available at events
- C. Ensure sustainability-related organizations 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.

#### **3. 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. A centralized calendar will be a good way to bring people together and support the activities of Cheltenham Township and community organizations.

#### **4. 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 must be created following models and examples, including: The Chris Bedford Arts Festival & Sustainability Awards Program, Grassroots Awards, and Sustainable Morristown Triple Bottom Line Awards

## **5. 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 could be encouraged by the Township during the following projects

- A. The Wall Park playground project
- B. Riparian planting
- C. Park clean-ups
- D. Tree plantings
- E. Participation with Friends group
- F. Construction of a new foot bridge at Grove Park
- G. Maintenance of High School Park, Ralph Morgan Park and Tookany Park
- H. 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.

## **6. Increase communication, information, and transparency about municipal projects and actions**

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

- A. Continue to broadcast township meetings and publicize township activities in paper and on web
- B. Expand the reach of electronic newsletter to reduce communication expenses
- C. Use social media as communication tools (Pinterest, Facebook, Twitter, etc.) to reach more citizens

## 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 should continue to explore the possibility of finding more efficient and cost effective land maintenance equipment. The Township should also pursue opportunities to reduce the use of this equipment in Township-owned parks and open spaces. For example, altered mowing regiments could 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.)

### **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 Assistance will include:

- A. One-on-one assistance from DVRPC and Practical Energy Solutions that will accomplish:
  - 1. Evaluate energy use in your municipal operations
  - 2. Identify and prioritize cost-effective projects to reduce energy costs
  - 3. Train staff on energy management best practices
  - 4. Provide assistance with implementing recommended projects, including purchasing and identifying sources of funding
- B. Participation in workshops with other Direct Assistance Communities
- C. Receive recognition as an energy efficiency leader

The Township could take the experiences gained from the Direct Assistance Program and apply these lessons to other municipal buildings to replicate the success.

### **3. 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 Township could 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 could include:

- A. Track 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 both in municipal buildings and residential properties
- B. Determine if energy supplier is the most complete price possible and determine if a new supplier should be chosen.
- C. Explore purchasing green energy for a portion, or all, of the Township energy needs.

- D. Publicize the environmental benefits in an easily digestible way so that residents understand the benefits of renewable energy
- E. Work to provide renewable energy and energy conservation incentives through the Zoning Ordinance and remove existing regulatory challenges
- F. Establish a clearinghouse of renewable energy and energy conservation information for residents based on state, regional and federal websites. The information should highlight example payback times, location assessment, installation and other related building permit and zoning rules
- G. Maintain a list of people and organizations within the Township with an expertise in renewable energy. Use as a resource guide for fellow citizens.

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## **Mobility**

### **1. Continue to shift from standard vehicles to hybrid or alternative fuel vehicles**

The use of standard gas and diesel vehicles leads to greenhouse gas emissions and air pollution. The Township can work to reduce these pollution levels by replacing their fleet with hybrid or alternative fuel vehicles. A vehicle purchasing and use model should be established using the DVRPC Energy Analysis Tool

### **2. Maintain and improve upon the Greater Valley Forge Transportation Management Association (GVFTMA) Silver Sustainability Award**

The Township currently is a GVFTMA Gold Sustainability Award recipient for their outstanding achievement in implementing programs that provide and promote commuting alternatives for their employees and community. The Township should maintain this status and work to achieve Platinum level.

### **3. 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. Vehicle telematics can also be used 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.

### **4. 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 the 36 specific intersections within the Township that would make our Bike Route network. A map of the possible Bike Network is found in the Sustainability Resource Section.
- B. Connect current bike routes to the regional trail system with installation of the proposed Cresheim Trail, connections to Pennypack and other regional trails.

### **5. Work with SEPTA, DVRPC, and the community to promote better use of train and bus service in the township; provide incentives to use train for commuting**

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

- A. Lobbying for more electric or hybrid transit vehicles
- B. Improved train/bus/trolley service – more comprehensive, longer run times, improved efficiency and reliability, improved safety
- 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 the 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. Provide comprehensive transit maps both in hard copy and on line

## **6. 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 and commuter facilities (showers, lockers, etc) in downtown areas, at train stations, at schools and at municipal facilities.
- B. Encourage collaboration with the National Center for Safe Routes to School
- C. Continue to work with SEPTA to increase parking at train stations
- D. Implement a bike-sharing program
- E. Provide HOV incentives such as carpool lanes where possible

## **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 should 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 engine

## 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.

### **2. Adopt a “green purchasing” policy**

Cheltenham Township could implement a “green purchasing” policy. There are many things to consider when purchasing products:

- A. Source Reduction: Examples include electronic communication instead of printed, double sided printing, reusable dishes, rechargeable batteries, on demand printing of reports, refurbished products, etc.
- B. Recycled Content Products: Purchasing post-consumer recycled goods
- C. Purchasing Energy Efficient and Water Saving Products: Guides are available online to help people and organizations choose products (**GUIDES**)
- D. Buying Products with Third-Party Certification
- E. Life cycle analysis: Examining where and how the product was produced, how far it must be shipped, secondary uses or the ability to be recycled

Sample green purchasing policy can be found on these websites: [StopWaste.org](http://StopWaste.org), [Green Purchasing Institute](http://GreenPurchasingInstitute.org), [University of Pennsylvania](http://UniversityofPennsylvania.edu), [California Product Stewardship Council](http://CaliforniaProductStewardshipCouncil.org)

### **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 could also adopt and 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 DEP could be used to promote the township's efforts.

## Water Management

### **1. Restore streambanks through naturalization**

Vegetated streambanks are crucial to protect the integrity of streams. A riparian buffer helps control flooding and erosion, improves water quality, creates wildlife habitat and moderate the climate in the area. The Township can pursue opportunities to restore and naturalize the streambanks through naturalization. Naturalization is the process of planting native species along the stream corridor to promote a return to the stream's natural state. The Township can use the Riparian Buffer Assessment map found in the Sustainability Resources Section to help prioritize possible project areas.

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

The Township is required by the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection (PADEP) to develop, implement and enforce a Stormwater Management Program. The goals of the program are to reduce the discharge of pollutants from its regulated MS4s, to the maximum extent practicable, to meet water quality standards and requirements outlined in the Federal Clean Water Act and the Pennsylvania Clean Streams Law. The program must be approved by the PADEP and contain Best Management Practices and measurable goals for each of the following six Minimum Control Measures (MCMs):

- A. Public Education and Outreach
- B. Public Participation and Involvement
- C. Illicit Discharge Detection and Elimination
- D. Construction Site Runoff Control
- E. Post-Construction Stormwater Management in new Development and redevelopment
- F. Pollution Prevention and Good Housekeeping for Municipal Operations and Maintenance

In addition, the Township must enact and implement either one of the MS4 Stormwater Management Ordinances, a Model Ordinance from an applicable Act 167 Stormwater Management Plan approved by the PADEP, or an ordinance that satisfies an MS4 Stormwater Management Ordinance Checklist.

### **3. Promote BMPs on private and public properties including:**

Best Management Practices for rainwater and stormwater include a variety of green infrastructure tools. 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:

1. Creating a vegetated swale behind Greenwood Ave.
2. Creating vegetated swales and infiltration basins at Caroll Brook Park
3. Removing berms and naturalizing basins during Phase III of the High School Park construction.

## Ecological Stewardship

### 1. Strengthen the township's tree preservation and landscape standards

The Township could 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 could also consider adopting an ordinance restricting the use of certain fertilizers, herbicides or pesticides that pollute the Township's waterways.

### 2. Continue to work to naturalize municipal owned lands

Extensive use of parks and open space, as well as physical alteration to provide for recreation, has de-naturalized many of the community's natural features. The Township should 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:

- A. Change mowing patterns to create meadows (as noted in Energy Action Item #1)
- B. Replant trees and underbrush with native species
- C. Remove invasive species
- D. Manage streambank restoration projects
- E. Encourage the use of trails to maintain more overgrown areas

### 3. Explore ways to reduce invasive species

The township could implement the policies found in the Invasive Species Guide. This guide was created by **WHAT KNOW IT EXISTS BUT CAN'T FIND IT** and has been reviewed by multiple sources to ensure the policies are appropriate. By implementing the policies found in the guide the Township can create a healthier natural environment.

**WHAT ARE SOME OF THE POLICIES?** The Township can also expand upon these guides to help support a healthy watershed, clean water, improve stream buffers, protect soil quality and protect the native tree and plant life in the Township. **(DELETE SAID ABOVE)**

## Healthy Living For All

### **1. Promote local foods through community gardens and farmers markets)**

Local food production reduces the need for fossil fuels for transportation, encourages eating seasonally, 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 should:

- A. Create and promote dedicated areas for community gardens, most likely within already established public parks and open spaces.
- B. Determine the most suitable locations for new gardens depending on local economy, resident interest, and access to fresh fruits and vegetable.
- C. 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
- D. Continue to encourage farmers markets and co-ops
- E. Encourage local foods education in the school system by converting under-used school properties to small gardens.

### **2. Create neighborhood parks and open space within easy walking distance of every neighborhood**

The Township has already established an accessible network of parks and open space. However, the residents of Laverock do not have easy access to green space. The Township could determine parcels within the Laverock community that can be acquired and turned into a park or open space. Additionally, the Township should ensure that the existing parks are protected and maintained both through zoning changes or conservation easements, and through the establishment of management plans.

### **3. 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, usually younger and older, within each community 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 could create a comprehensive map showing the location of bike trails and easily bikeable streets. Another comprehensive map could identify the current location of key services and the populations that can access them via walking and biking. Finally, the Township could have 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 should be added, or whether new bike lanes or public transit routes should be established. The Township could also continue to encourage Senior Citizen Shared Ride Program.

**4. 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 authority and influence 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.

## Local Economy

1. The Township could work to achieve the Community-Wide Local Economy Goals and Objectives by implementing the items found in the **2002 Community Revitalization Plan**, the **2008 Update**, and other present or future Township authorized economic plans. The items selected from these plans for the purpose of the creating a sustainable local economy should be chosen if they can meet the criteria of the Natural Step method.

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## **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 sustainability can encompass many more issues. Sustainable buildings should be accessible by everyone, create a healthy, safe, and productive environment for occupants and visitors while minimizing their impact on the environment. The Township could 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.

### **2. Ensure codes and land development ordinances are 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 sustainability, requiring sustainable practices whenever possible and incentivizing sustainable practices. The Montgomery County Planning Commission could review township's 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. From the planning process, a number of ordinance issues were highlighted that the sustainability review could address:

- Adopt, and modify as needed, the Montgomery County Floodplain Ordinance to ensure compliance with FEMA requirements and to protect the floodplain
- 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
- Explore non-car mobility standards to land development regulations
- Explore zoning for solar access and orientation
- Explore providing incentives for sustainable construction that maximizes energy efficiency and reduces environmental impacts (LEED, Energy Star, etc.)
- Explore adopting the most sustainable version of the International Construction Code
- Encourage large residential and mixed-use developments around train stations and transit lines

## **Monitoring**

### **1. Develop a process so that the EAC plays an advisory and oversight role in the M.A.P. (Municipal Action Plan) to Sustainability's Action Items**

An established role should be created for EAC in the Township's future meetings and planning processes. This role should include:

1. Representing the Plan at Township meetings to ensure the Goals and Action Items are being completed whenever possible
2. Encouraging coordination among the Township government and other organizations in the Township to help achieve the Goals and Action Items
3. Updating the plan when necessary (when action items are undertaken and completed) and also managing the content of the Sustainability Resources Section

### **2. Develop an implementation process for the community-wide goals**

The Township needs to develop a process whereby community-wide sustainability goals are taken into account for all meetings and future planning processes. The implementation process should include:

1. Incorporation of the Plan at community events to raise awareness of the Cheltenham Sustainability Plan
2. Encouraging coordination among the Township government and other organizations to help achieve the Community-Wide Goals
3. Tracking and updating the community's progress towards achieving the Community-Wide Goals
4. Create a "Sustainability Committee" or a similar group that will be responsible for these duties until a non-profit entity is formed.
5. Create a non-profit entity to manage the Sustainability Plan. Sustainable Cherry Hill can serve as local example for such a non-profit.
6. Work with the EAC to coordinate Township and community-wide efforts.

### **3. Prepare an annual report to demonstrate progress of the sustainability plan.**

Each year the organization(s) responsible for the Township sustainability efforts should produce a report that demonstrates the annual and cumulative progress of the sustainability plan to highlight successes and act as a guide for future actions. This can include Township and community-wide efforts. Hopefully this can be achieved in one annual report but, if necessary, separate reports cards could be published. The report can use the Sustainability Matrix (found at the end of this section) in the plan as a cornerstone for the reporting efforts and also use the plan's sustainability resources as a tool to demonstrate any changes (such as updated maps etc.).

### 2013 Building Utility Cost Changes As Projected by the Township Administration

Building / Group	Energy Type	2012	2013	Savings Projected	Loss Projected	% Change	Retrofit Work Completed 2011-12
Administration*	Fuel Oil	\$ 7,000	\$ 9,000		\$ 2,000	29%	
Administration*	Electric	\$ 114,000	\$ 100,000	\$ 14,000		12%	AC-adm, lighting-adm & police (2011)
Administration*	Natural Gas	\$ 27,000	\$ 27,500		\$ 500	2%	
LaMott Center	Gas/Electric	\$ 24,449	\$ 20,000	\$ 4,449		18%	AC (2011) Lighting (2012)
Art Center	Gas/Electric	\$ 26,264	\$ 20,000	\$ 6,264		24%	Windows, exterior (air sealing) (2010)
Curtis Hall	Gas/Electric	\$ 14,895	\$ 13,000	\$ 1,895		13%	AC system replaced (2011)
Glenside Hall	Gas/Electric	\$ 18,687	\$ 14,000	\$ 4,687		25%	Doors, windows, (air sealing) 2008
Rowland Center	Gas/Electric	\$ 32,000	\$ 30,000	\$ 2,000		6%	Boiler, lighting (2010) minor AC (2012)
Library System**	Gas/Electric						Glenside lighting replaced (2011)
		<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$ 33,295</b>	<b>\$ 2,500</b>		<b>14%</b>	
		<b>Average</b>					

**\*Note: Administration includes:**

- Administration Building
- Police & EMS Buildings
- Public Service Facility
- Parking Lots
- District Justice Building
- Azalea Hall
- Brookdale Pumping Station
- Leaf Collection Station

**\*\*Note:** The Township provided the privately administered library system with \$1,448,886 in 2012. The proposed Township allocation for the library system in 2013 is \$1,544,808. Expenses for this private system are not itemized in the budget.

