

The regular meeting of the Environmental Advisory Council (EAC) was held tonight. Members present were Kurt Ahrens, Barbara Duffy, Thomas McHugh and Lorna Rosenberg. Ex-officio members present were William Mettler and Beth Yount. Guests present were Leigh Altadonna, Eva Finney, Nyajnai Brown and Bridget Chadwick. Township liaison present was Nancy K. Gibson, Public Information Officer. See attached attendance sheet.

1. **Call to Order:** Mr. Ahrens called the meeting to order at 7:40 p.m.
2. **Acceptance of Meeting Minutes:** Ms. Duffy made a motion to accept the minutes of the September 21, 2015 meeting; seconded by Ms. Rosenberg. The motion was unanimously approved.
3. **Presentation of a Carbon Fee and Dividend Proposal:** Mr. Mettler reported that after six years of lobbying by the Citizens' Climate Lobby, this year a number of Congressional Republicans have recognized the danger of climate change and the need to counteract it. The lobby supports implementing a Carbon Fee and Dividend that would charge \$15/ton at the extraction site for oil, gas and coal. Imported carbon products would be taxed at the border. The charge would increase each year. The extra cost would make low-carbon, reusable products/services more cost competitive. Every American adult would receive an equal payment from the money collected – totaling approximately \$55 billion the first year – which would especially benefit low income people. The funds would not be used to grow government. The Citizen's Climate Lobby is seeking endorsements (see attached) from local communities, schools, universities, and faith-based institutions. Mr. Mettler reported that the Township Public Works Committee agreed to endorse the Carbon Fee and Dividend proposal, contingent upon the support of the Environmental Advisory Council. Ms. Rosenberg suggested a more formal endorsement, such as a resolution, but Mr. Mettler preferred the attached form for its ease and

speed. Mr. McHugh made a motion to endorse the Carbon Fee and Dividend proposal; seconded by Ms. Rosenberg. The motion was unanimously approved. Mr. Mettler will contact the Township Manager's Office directly to secure the endorsement. The EAC will also submit an endorsement form with Mr. McHugh as the contact.

#### **4. Committee Reports:**

*A. Communications and Engagement Committee:* Mr. Ahrens reported recruiting Earth Day participants and EAC E-newsletter subscribers at the Community Harvest Festival. He also distributed an October E-newsletter, which had a 40% open rate, to about 1100 subscribers. He noted that School District emails all block the newsletter. Finally, he mentioned the upcoming Tookany/Tacony-Frankford Watershed (TTF) fund-raising event tomorrow in Jenkintown.

*B. Water and Ecology Committee:* Ms. Duffy reported the last meeting focused on becoming a Bird Town, but the \$500 annual fee is still a stumbling block. Mr. Altadonna was hopeful to find solutions. Ms. Rosenberg suggested the EAC fund part of it. Ms. Duffy also announced the November 7 planting at the Elkins Park Train Station and TreeVitalize riparian buffer planting at Curtis Arboretum on November 14 from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. Ms. Finney announced her girl scout troop was considering a garden planting project, possible next Earth Day, at the site of the homes torn down on Bickley Road, if permission could be obtained to replace the grass with plants better able to moderate stormwater. Concerns were raised about the need to first test the soil for lead paint or asbestos. [PEMA approval will be needed before any alternative plantings can be installed.]

*C. School Liaison Committee:* Ms. Rosenberg submitted a report (see attached). Ms. Rosenberg met with new School Superintendent Dr. Marseille who "gets" sustainability, giving her great hopes for top-down green initiatives at the District. She also noted bottom-up "green"

projects were in bloom throughout the District. However, she noted her wish for a better connection between the architects on the District's new green buildings and the educators who will use them so the green features could serve as educational tools for students and the community.

*D. Energy and Emissions Committee:* Mr. McHugh reported he would like to revisit the issues of a reverse energy auction and divesting Township funds of fossil fuel investments, particularly because those investments are so low right now. Ms. Gibson noted that the Township was in the midst of a three-year energy contract, but the Township Manager was open to the reverse energy audit for the next contract.

**5. Old Business:**

*A. Draft Zoning Ordinance:* The discussion was tabled.

*B. Educating Citizen Committees about Sustainability:* The discussion was tabled.

*C. Annual Sustainability Report:* Ms. Rosenberg expects to present a draft report for the EAC's consideration at the next meeting.

*D. Green Purchasing:* Ms. Gibson reported that the Township Manager is seeking a simple green purchasing policy that respects budgetary limitations. Ms. Rosenberg responded that all green purchasing policies are complex. Ms. Gibson will seek more guidance from the Township Manager.

**6. New Business:** Members reviewed and supported the proposed projects submitted by the Assistant Township Manager (see attached) for several grant opportunities.

**7. Adjournment:** Ms. Rosenberg made a motion to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Mr. McHugh. The motion was unanimously approved. The meeting was adjourned at 9:25 p.m.

October 19, 2015  
Township Administration Building



Bryan T. Havir  
Township Manager

Submitted by: Nancy K. Gibson  
Public Information Officer





# Citizens' Climate Lobby

## I/We Endorse Carbon Fee & Dividend

The costs of climate change—including destabilized weather patterns, rising sea levels, extreme weather events, and other serious impacts—now pose a substantial threat to the health, prosperity and security of Americans. The costs are real, they are growing, and they are already burdening businesses, taxpayers, municipal budgets and families. Our economy, infrastructure, public safety and health are directly at risk.

Therefore, I/we urge Congress to support Carbon Fee & Dividend as a key element in reducing the risks of climate change. Carbon Fee & Dividend will significantly reduce carbon emissions, create jobs, grow the economy, save lives and protect households from higher energy prices.

Carbon Fee & Dividend will place a steadily increasing fee on fossil fuels at their source (the well, mine, or port of entry), beginning at \$15 per ton of CO<sub>2</sub> emitted, and increasing each year by \$10. All revenues will be returned in equal shares to American households as a monthly dividend.

Additionally:

- A predictably increasing price on carbon will send a clear market signal that will unleash entrepreneurs and investors in a new clean-energy economy.
- With all of the revenue returned to households on an equal basis, two-thirds of households will break even or receive more in dividends than they would pay in higher living expenses.
- A border adjustment will discourage domestic businesses from relocating where they can emit more CO<sub>2</sub> and encourage other nations to adopt an equivalent price on carbon.

## YES! I/We Support Carbon Fee & Dividend

I am endorsing on behalf of an  Organization (business, congregation, etc)  Individual (elected official, community leader)

Endorser name \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_  
*As you wish it to appear. If individual, please include title.*

Geographic scope  National  Multi-state  State  County/regional  City/local Congressional District(s) \_\_\_\_\_

Contact name \_\_\_\_\_ Title \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_ Country \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Twitter \_\_\_\_\_

Comments \_\_\_\_\_

*I agree I have permission to endorse and that the name of the endorser (without contact information) may be listed publicly.*

**CHELTENHAM TOWNSHIP ENVIRONMENTAL ADVISORY COUNCIL-**  
**October 2015**

**Committee:** Schools Committee

**Liaison to the Council:** Lorna Rosenberg

**Date of last meeting:** October 2015

**Date of next meeting:** November 2015

**Questions/issues for the board/larger group:**

**Action Items Completed:**

- Meeting held October 8, with Dr. Marseille the new superintendent about a comprehensive approach to sustainability in Cheltenham Schools focused on efficient facilities, health and wellness and sustainability education
- Cheltenham HS, Glenside and Myers all are receiving \$500, Wrigley grants focused on recycling as part of their joining Eco-Schools a National Wildlife Federation program
- Cheltenham Elementary is also an Eco-School and is participating in a special international exchange with Eco-Schools Taiwan.
- Food Truck Jamboree took place on October 3 and Cedarbrook students surveyed 95 attendees. 2/3rds of those surveyed said that they learned something new about recycling after talking to the students.
- October 6 meeting took place with Dr. Marc Brasof of Arcadia University about working on a sustainability project with Cheltenham Schools via undergrad and grad courses he will be teaching in the spring of 2017 on Sustainability Education. Could be an excellent partnership for Cheltenham Schools

**Cheltenham High School**

- The Environmental Club is underway and students will be focusing on:
  - Energy conservation- possibly home energy assessments
  - Water for Life
  - Food – organic garden in progress
  - Creating a film series or other public events on Climate Change, GMO or other issue

**Cheltenham/ Wyncote Elementary School**

- In the process of getting their dashboard activated with CM3
- Working with Wyncote to get more understanding of how the building works from the architect and site designers about the stormwater, plants

Action Items In-progress/Pending:

- Follow-up meeting with Dr. Marseille

# Township of Cheltenham

Montgomery County, Pennsylvania

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## Township Manager

Bryan T. Havir



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## MEMORANDUM

TO: Environmental Advisory Committee  
FROM: Alyson Elliott, Assistant Township Manager   
RE: Support for Grant Applications  
DATE: October 16, 2015

Township staff plans to submit several grant applications in November and December that we would like the Environmental Advisory Council to consider supporting. While details of the proposals are still being worked out, this memo will provide a synopsis of the projects. We appreciate any comments the EAC might have on the applications as well as its support. Once the scopes of these projects have been finalized, we would appreciate a letter of support for the grant application, as well.

### November 18 Grants

1. *EPA Urban Waters* – \$40-60,000. We are considering applying for funding to support a study to determine whether a Pollution & Flood Reduction Fee is appropriate for Cheltenham Township, and if so, what format would work best for the Township. With increasing pressure from the EPA to meet more stringent clean water measures and increasing pressure from residents to mitigate the impact of flooding, this may be a way for Cheltenham to meet these challenges. While it appears this project meets funding criteria of this grant, staff will be attending a workshop on October 22 to confirm before drafting the grant proposal.

2. *DEP Environmental Education* – \$3,000. We have spoken with Julie Slavet, Executive Director of TTF, and we are planning to submit an application to purchase and install storm drain markers. The markers would be installed by volunteers and would accompany a grass roots effort to canvass the neighborhoods where the markers are installed with flyers to educate residents about the markers and purpose of storm drains. This project will help us meet our MS4 reporting requirements

### December 29 Grant

1. *PECO Green Region* – \$10,000. This grant will be used to request additional funds for the construction of the Tookany Creek Trail Phase III through Gimbel Field. This project has received a grant for \$400,000 from the Delaware Valley Regional Planning Commission. Additionally, we expect to hear by the end of the year if we are successful in our bid for a \$125,000 grant from DCNR for additional funds. Next September, we anticipate applying for approximately \$10,000 in TreeVitalize funding to help re-establish the buffer. This project is expected to cost \$750,000.

cc: Bryan Havir, Township Manager  
Nancy Gibson, Public Information Officer