

**Lower Frederick Township (LFT)
Environmental Advisory Council (EAC) Meeting Minutes**

MEETING DATE: July 22, 2019 – 7 pm

1.) MEMBERS PRESENT:

Denise Finney
Ruth Heil
Rachel Hendricks
Warren Jacobs
Jackie O'Neil
Monica Strawbridge

PUBLIC PRESENT: Marla Hexter, Noel Halter, Bob Burns

2.) REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF MINUTES

- June minutes approved unanimously (moved by Ruth, seconded by Rachel)
- Denise will submit a PDF copy of June minutes to Bonnie for publishing

3.) UPDATES FROM OTHER MEETINGS

- Ruth - Board of Supervisors (BOS) Meeting: BOS tabled EAC ordinance update approval since Rachel was unable to attend Planning Commission—will be placed on next BOS agenda
- Monica – Ready for 100% Renewable Energy, sponsored by Sierra Club meeting in Ambler:
Monica provided highlights in Appendix A
 - Members discussed its importance and determined our next step is to have Monica request that Jon Leshner (an environmental planner from Montco PC) conduct a presentation to the EAC, PC and BOS
 - Ruth recommended the EAC also review the following :
 - Institute for Local Self Reliance (ILSR.org) about community solar, etc.
 - Voices of 100 Podcast of communities that sign onto Ready for 100
 - Marla Hexter will try to find out whether Collegeville and Pottstown have sustainability plans
- Ruth and Jackie will be attending a MS4 Funding seminar at Ursinus College August 7

4.) EAC FOUNDING ORDINANCE

- Gary shared (in an email prior to this EAC meeting) that:
 - The PA statute says supervisors should appoint EAC chair—Marla mentioned that does not stop the EAC from then electing another chair moving forward.
 - Our ordinance should more closely follow article 3 in our drafted EAC bylaws, and not limit our activities to only what the BOS requests of us.
- Marla Hexter shared New Hanover's ordinance with the group and mentioned that our solicitor feels it is legal.
- EAC members concurred that New Hanover's ordinance is in line with what we want for our EAC.
- Motion to request that our solicitor model our EAC ordinance after New Hanover's was unanimously approved. (Moved by Warren, seconded by Jackie)
- Rachel will forward our request and a copy of New Hanover's EAC ordinance.

5.) EAC BYLAWS

- Gary shared (in an email prior to this EAC meeting) that our drafted bylaws are modeled after PA EAC Network bylaws and felt we should submit them as is to the BOS with that explanation.
- Motion to approve drafted bylaws unanimously approved (moved by Ruth, seconded by Rachel)
- Next steps: get a signature from the BOS

6.) EAC RESIDENTS SURVEY

- At our last meeting, we had planned to draft a survey of our residents to garner residents' interests for education and volunteer opportunities, preferred means of communication, other environmental concerns. Rachel recommended we put the survey on hold for now.

7.) EDUCATIONAL OUTREACH

- A top priority is to schedule 1 pertinent educational outreach event later this year and invite surrounding towns as well as LFT. The top potential topics: stormwater management (SWM) or climate change in PA
- We agreed that our engineer's presentation on SWM in development would be beneficial, it would cost \$
- It would be very beneficial to ensure that the topic presented ensures that we get an MS4 educational credit
- The Conservation District and other groups have prepared presentations that are free
- Rachel will contact Eric or Brian at the Conservation District to see if they can set something up in Sept/Oct
 - At this event, we can collect contact information and interest in other environmental education topics

8.) ORDINANCE REVIEWS & ENHANCEMENTS

- Our top ordinance(s) to review/enhance have to do with SWM and whether we can hold U&O permits until SWM and other environmental components (landscaping...) are installed according to our ordinances. Lower Merion has such a U & O ordinance.
- Rachel will ask whether this is legal or not at the next BOS meeting.
- We will collaborate with the PC on these kinds of ordinance enhancements.

9.) LFT ENVIRONMENTAL INVENTORY

- Our 1st priority is to develop a map and pictures of what we have (public and private open space, LFT and county parks (along with their uses), all stormwater basins (in our open space plan and MS4).
- The regional PC is currently updating these maps—the maps on our LFT website are not current.

10.) WEBSITE

- Ruth contacted Bonnie about web administration and is waiting to hear back—on hold for now.

11.) JOINT MEETING WITH PC (Planning Commission)

- Jackie will contact Chuck Yeiser regarding:
 - Setting up a joint meeting to determine what we work together on and how
 - Getting updated LFT & regional maps that include all environmental assets (current and future parks, open space, SW basins, trails...)
 - Status of a LFT resident/business contact database, as it was mentioned in a PC meeting that Tarek had volunteered to create one for the regional plan
 - Ensure we get the feedback from the public regional planning event (due to be on website Aug 6?)

ADJOURNED AT 8:50 PM

Transitioning to 100% Clean and Renewable Energy Sources in Montgomery County

Support for a transition to 100% renewable energy is building in southeastern Pennsylvania and throughout the country. Many communities in southeastern Pennsylvania have recently expressed their support by adopting the “Ready for 100” program, including 10 municipalities in Montgomery County as of June 26, 2019. In addition, in May 2019 the Montgomery County Board of Commissioners announced a wind energy purchase that will power all of the county’s electrical accounts with wind power for the next 3 years. The County also adopted a commitment to transition to renewable energy for heating all county-owned buildings and powering all county-owned vehicles by 2050.

As the number of municipal commitments to renewable energy grows, so does the need to understand the process of transitioning to 100% renewable energy. Municipal officials are being asked to take the following actions to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and prepare for the effects of climate change that will be experienced by their constituents in the months and years to come.

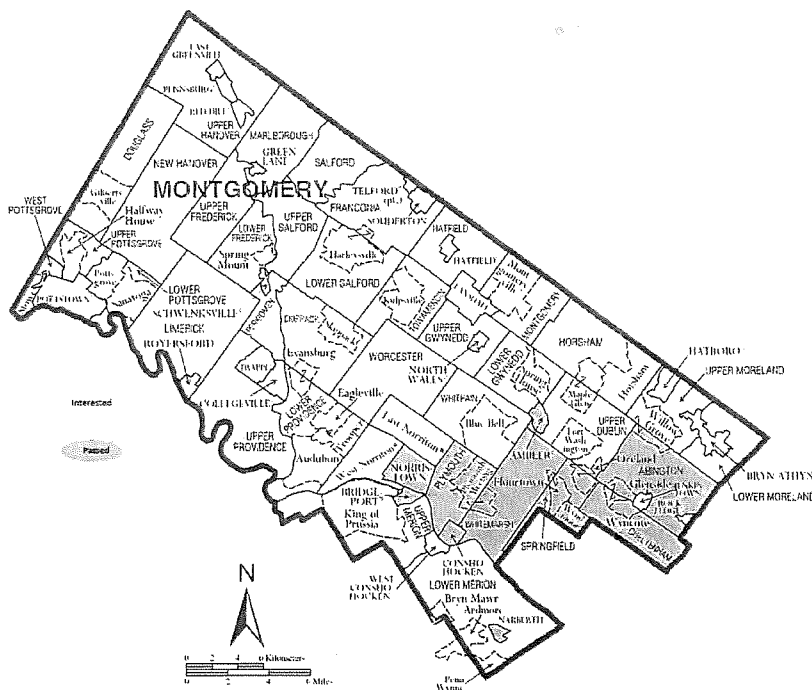
1. Adopt a resolution with the goal of transitioning municipal operations and the community at large to 100% clean and renewable electricity by 2035, and to 100% clean and renewable heating and transportation by 2050.
2. In coalition with other townships and boroughs in Montgomery County, commission the development of a Climate Action Plan and/or an Energy Transition Plan to achieve the goal of 100% renewable energy in the agreed-upon timeframe using an open and inclusive process.
3. Integrate the Climate Action Plan and/or Energy Transition Plan into the municipality’s Comprehensive Plan.
4. Review the Township’s processes, procedures, and programs for compatibility and compliance with the Climate Action and/or Energy Transition Plan, and change as needed to ensure compliance.
5. Assist in the education of the community regarding steps that residents and business partners can take to reduce their carbon footprints.

Below is further detail on the Ready for 100 program, on the climate change reality that necessitates the above actions, on activities and discussions currently underway in Montgomery County and southeastern Pennsylvania to enable a transition to 100% renewable energy, and on additional considerations.

What is “Ready for 100”?

Ready for 100 (RF100) is a campaign launched nationally by the Sierra Club that encourages volunteers to advocate at the municipal level, and municipalities to adopt, an equitable and socially inclusive transition to 100% clean, renewable (i.e., at this time largely wind- and solar-based) energy. To date, over 120 municipalities nationwide have adopted renewable energy resolutions, as well as 5 states plus Washington, DC, and Puerto Rico. Nineteen of these municipalities are in Southeast Pennsylvania, and 10 are in Montgomery County.

A key element of these resolutions is a commitment to 100% use of renewable energy for electricity by 2035, and for all energy sectors by 2050. The Sierra Club has created a website for Montgomery County’s RF100 communities, which can be found at <https://www.sierraclub.org/pennsylvania/southeastern/ready-for-100-montgomery-county>. This website contains a wealth of information about the RF100 program, a list of communities that have adopted or are considering RF100 resolutions, and links to valuable resources such as guidelines for achieving an equitable and just transition to 100% renewable energy.



PASSED RENEWABLE ENERGY

Abington Township
Ambler Borough
Bridgeport Borough
Cheltenham Township
Conshohocken Borough
Narberth Borough
Norristown Borough
Plymouth Township
Springfield Township
Whitmarsh Township

What happens after passing a renewable energy resolution?

The adoption of an RF100 resolution is just the first step in the process. Once a commitment has been made, an energy transition planning process is undertaken to determine the steps needed for a particular municipality to reach its clean energy goals. For example, in Chester County, several municipalities adopted resolutions in 2017. In 2018, after considerable discussions with a variety of stakeholders, the West Chester Area Council of Governments issued a Request for Proposals to commission an energy plan for six contiguous municipalities. The Cadmus Group, a strategic and technical consultancy, was selected, from the nine proposals that were received, to draft an energy transition plan for the Chester County communities. This work is currently underway and serves as a potential model for Montgomery County communities. A roadmap developed for Cadmus by the Meister Consultants Group as part of this process outlines a stepwise path for communities transitioning to 100% renewable energy.

The Cadmus/Meister roadmap identifies specific action items for municipalities. For example, the roadmap segments a municipality's efforts into strategies oriented toward the municipality itself, toward consumers, and toward utilities. Under the 'consumers' section, the roadmap lists these concrete efforts that can be undertaken:

1. Engage the community in setting energy goals.
2. Establish local incentives for on-site renewable energy (e.g., solar rebates).
3. Establish city mandates for on-site renewable energy (e.g., solar mandate).
4. Host a renewable energy bulk purchasing program (e.g., Solarize).
5. Reduce permitting, zoning, inspection time and costs for renewable energy.
6. Lease public land for renewable energy.
7. Establish rates or tariffs that compensate energy generated on-site (e.g., net-metering).
8. Establish a community-shared renewable energy program (e.g., community solar).
9. Establish a community choice aggregation program (municipal aggregation).

These actions must be considered within the context of the entire roadmap report to be fully understood. However, one can appreciate this listing of specific steps, actions beyond a general aspiration for renewable energy, that can be undertaken to help ensure success, and minimize the risk of failure, in the effort to convert a municipality to renewable energy.

Another model to consider is that of the Phoenixville Regional Planning Commission, which is facilitating collaboration on multi-municipality comprehensive plan, putting energy planning in context with land planning, water resource protection, traffic studies, expected population growth, etc.

With at least 15 municipalities in Montgomery County having expressed interest in adopting RF100 resolutions, at least 10 of which have adopted resolutions already, RF100 communities in Montgomery County are coordinating to develop a mechanism for the municipalities to share resources for energy transition planning. Several local resolutions have committed to complete their energy transition plan by Earth Day 2020. This local nucleus of interested, energized, and adopting municipalities provides a ready network of partners for energy transition planning.

What will a transition to 100% renewable energy look like in Montgomery County?

The energy transition planning process will help to define the policy needs, programs, technologies, financial supports, and other elements that are needed to achieve the goal. Below are listed some of the anticipated elements of a transition to 100% renewable energy.

- Formal energy audits of municipal buildings and operations to identify and prioritize opportunities for further efficiency improvements.
- Analysis of municipal and community-wide energy use to identify and prioritize opportunities for efficiency improvements.
- New and/or enhanced municipal policies/ordinances requiring efficiency and renewable energy in new buildings and major renovations.
- New and/or enhanced municipal policies/ordinances limiting emissions from mobile sources and off-road equipment.
- Cooperation/coordination with neighboring municipalities to facilitate aggregated purchasing of renewable energy.
- Programs to educate residents and businesses about energy efficiency and renewable energy.
- Grant-writing to help fund renewable energy installations.

contacts -

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readyfor100.org/montcopa - for complete document