



# THE COUNTY OF CHESTER



COMMISSIONERS  
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Josh Maxwell  
Michelle Kichline

Brian N. O’Leary, AICP  
Executive Director

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Chester County Environmental and  
Energy Advisory Board

Zoom Video/Audio Meeting  
April 28, 2021

## AGENDA

- 2:30 p.m. 1. CALL TO ORDER
- A. Welcome *Jess Cadorette, Chair*
- 2:35 p.m. 2. ACTION ITEM
- B. Adoption of January 27, 2021 Minutes *Jess Cadorette, Chair*
- 2:40 p.m. 3. DISCUSSION ITEMS
- C. Climate Action Plan *Carol Stauffer/Board Members*
- 1) Public Input Results
- 2) Proposed Revisions to Draft Plan
- 3) Next Steps
- 3:30 p.m. 4. ACTION ITEMS
- D. Approval of Climate Action Plan with revisions *Jess Cadorette, Chair*
- E. Recommendation to forward Revised Plan to Commissioners for Adoption
- 3:35 p.m. 5. UPDATES AND COMMENTS
- F. Planning Commission Director’s Report *Brian O’Leary*
- 1) Landscapes3 Metrics & Success Stories
- 2) Regional Power Purchase Agreement (PPA) update *Carol Stauffer*
- G. Other Updates *Board Members*
- 1) C-PACE *Steve Krug*
- H. Next quarterly meeting – July 28, 2021 *Jess Cadorette*
- I. Public Comment
- 4:00 p.m. 5. ADJOURNMENT

### Attachments:

January 27, 2021 Minutes  
Climate Action Plan – Public Input/Proposed Plan Edits



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MINUTES:  
Environmental and Energy Advisory Board

Zoom Video/Audio  
January 27, 2021

MEMBERS PRESENT: Jess Cadorette, Chair; Paul Spiegel, Vice-Chair; Brian O'Leary, Secretary; Jon Altshul; Jan Bowers; Seung Ah Byun; David Busch; Ann Hutchinson; Steve Krug; Meredith Mayer Braine; David Mazzocco; Mike Murphy; Scott Neumann; Rachel Roberts; David Stauffer; Chris Strohmaier; Kevin Warren; Will Williams; Jim Wylie.

OTHER COUNTY STAFF PRESENT: Carol Stauffer, CCPC; Jeanne Casner, Health; Carolyn Conwell, CCPC; Beth Cunliffe, CCPC; Steve Sinclair, Facilities; Suzanne Wozniak, CCPC.

VISITORS: Henry Alexander; William Haaf; Kathy McDevitt; Jonathan Meyers; Dennis Ray; Dennis Rowan; Nathaniel Smith, "Don't Spray Me!" organization; Paloma Vila.

## CALL TO ORDER:

The Environmental and Energy Advisory Board meeting held via Zoom video/audio on Wednesday, January 27, 2021 was called to order at 2:32 P.M. by Chair Jess Cadorette.

Ms. Cadorette introduced new board member Ann Hutchinson, Senior Director of Municipal Planning with Natural Lands.

## ACTION ITEMS:

### Adoption of October 28, 2020 Minutes:

A MOTION TO ADOPT THE MINUTES FROM THE OCTOBER 28, 2020 MEETING WAS MADE BY MR. KRUG, SECONDED BY MR. BUSCH, AND PASSED BY UNANIMOUS VOTE OF THE BOARD.

## DISCUSSION ITEMS:

### Review of the Climate Action Plan, Final Draft:

Ms. Stauffer and the board members discussed the ongoing process of edits to the current draft Climate Action Plan.

Staff coordinated in early January with the Commissioners' for input on the draft Climate Action Plan. The formatted plan was provided to the board for review and would now move to the public

outreach process, public meeting, and Commissioner approval or adoption. A potential schedule was presented as follows.

- a. Climate Action Plan draft posted on website (January/February)
- b. Social media push for plan (February)
- c. Public Meeting (early March)
- d. Public comment period for 60 days (February/March)
- e. Commissioner action (May)

Mosquito Spraying Program:

Mr. Smith presented information to the board regarding the mosquito spraying program on behalf of the “Don’t Spray Me” organization and the “Beyond Pesticides” group.

Mr. Smith discussed portions of the Public Health Mosquito Management Strategy document related to public awareness campaigns, and, the management strategy of the Chester County mosquito spraying program.

Mr. O’Leary reviewed the proposed Environmental and Energy Board recommendations for the *Public Health Mosquito Management Strategy* and proposed creating an addendum to the recommendations to address the additional concerns of the “Don’t Spray Me” organization.

Ms. Casner commented on the “hypersensitivity” registry program from the state, PA Department of Environmental Protection (PA-DEP), and current outreach. The program “Mosquito-Borne Disease Control” has been an agreement with the Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) and the county since 2009. The program is funded with a grant provided by PA-DEP.

A MOTION TO APPROVE THE PROPOSED COMMENTS ON THE *PUBLIC HEALTH MOSQUITO MANAGEMENT STRATEGY* PLUS AN ADDENDUM REFLECTING FOUR ADDITIONAL RECOMMENDATIONS, TO ALLOW TIME FOR THE ENVIRONMENTAL AND ENERGY BOARD MEMBERS TO REVIEW, AND TO FORWARD THE RECOMMENDATIONS TO THE COMMISSIONERS AFTER THIS REVIEW WAS MADE BY MR. WYLIE, SECONDED BY MS. MAYER AND PASSED BY UNANIMOUS VOTE OF THE BOARD.

UPDATES AND COMMENTS:

Planning Commission Director’s Report:

Mr. O’Leary shared how the work of the Environmental and Energy Advisory Board fits into the 2021 Planning Commission work program and the Climate Action Plan falls under the “protect goal” category of the County Comprehensive Plan Landscapes3.

Other Updates:

Mr. Krug and Mr. Spiegel, representatives with the Smart Energy Initiative inquired into the status of the Pennsylvania Commercial Property Assessed Clean Energy Program (C-PACE) at the County. Ms. Stauffer indicated that the Planning Commission would look into the program’s current status and report back.

Mr. Wylie commented that he would still like to see an energy focus sub-committee formed to track and assist in the advancement of energy related programs and actions such as streamlining solar permitting, following adoption of the Climate Action Plan.

Ms. Mayer commented about the municipal outreach related to the Climate Action Plan and discussed what municipalities could do to help assist in advancing the plan.

Ms. Cadorette mentioned that the Chester County Environmental Alliance met in January and are planning virtual Earth Day activities.

The next quarterly meeting will be on April 28, 2021. A public meeting to present the Climate Action Plan (CAP) is being planned for either March 2 or March 4, 2021. Several EEAB members indicated via the Chat feature that either date would work. The CAP will be posted on the Chester County Planning Commission website within the next week.

Public Comment:

Mr. Haaf, Chair of Pocopson Energy Committee, commented he is looking forward to reviewing the Climate Action Plan and providing feedback, and mentioned specifically the power purchase agreement is a high priority item.

ADJOURNMENT

THERE BEING NO FURTHER BUSINESS, A MOTION TO ADJOURN AT 3:57 PM. WAS MADE BY MR. KRUG, SECONDED BY MS. MAYER AND PASSED BY UNANIMOUS VOTE OF THE BOARD.

Respectfully submitted,



Brian N. O'Leary, AICP  
Secretary

BNO/slw

# Climate Action Plan - Proposed Revisions Based on Public Input

April 28, 2021

The following edits to the January 27, 2021 draft of the Climate Action Plan are based on input received during the two month comment period, which ran from February through March, and at the March 4, 2021 public meeting. We received approximately 130 public comments through the online portal and through the ccplanning email.

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## Overview of Comments

The following summary notes the overall public view of the plan and a few common themes from the input.

- **Positive vs. Negative** – About 90% of the submitted comments were supportive of the plan with many asking us to do more and more quickly. The negative comments focused on the potential cost of the plan to residents and businesses, potential tax increases, concern that we are mandating changes to private homes and businesses, government overreach, disbelief in climate change, or that it is not settled science and that other points of view should be included.
- **Climate Action Office** – Approximately 25% of the comments received (35), specifically requested that the county create a Climate Action Office or a sustainability position dedicated to implementation of the plan and meeting its goals and targets. It was felt that Ad hoc committees will not do the job. This request has been conveyed to the Commissioners.
- **2015 Emissions Data** - Some questioned the use of the 2015 emissions data as they considered it outdated – a response was provided that 2015 is the most current data available through DVRPC (released in November 2018) and the next update will use 2020 data. Links were provided to their inventory webpage. We did find more current graphics depicting changes in temperature and rainfall and will replace the figures on p. 8 of the plan.
- **“Explore” and “Investigate” Actions** – A few commenters wanted more definitive language, saying we would implement the action, rather than explore it. Our response noted that there were some recommendations that we cannot positively say we will or can implement until more research is done on their feasibility and cost.
- **Resiliency** – Several asked about resiliency and wanted to add more to the plan actions to address the issue. The plan should more clearly indicate that these issues are being addressed in a separate plan. This request has been addressed in the proposed edits below.
- **Social Equity** - A few comments requested that more be done to address social equity in the plan. Additional actions that address social equity as well as the identification of already proposed actions will be incorporated into the plan.

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## General Plan Edits/Revisions

The following general edits, which apply to the full document, are proposed.

- **Minor Typos** - Typos or minor edits in the text, whether identified in online comments or by the staff, will be corrected in the next draft. Some have already been corrected in the online draft.
- **Plan Graphics** - We are looking for more positive photos and graphics to better illustrate what we are striving to achieve with the Climate Action Plan rather than what we are trying to move away from. For example, the rather than showing a line of diesel trucks, we could show electric vehicles and EV charging stations.
- **Reordering of Actions by Timeframe** – The actions will be reordered based on timeframe (Immediate at the top, followed by Priority). This change will allow us to identify where we want to focus our attention initially.
- **Stakeholder Action Summaries** – After the final document is approved, a booklet with a summary of the “Community-wide Engagement” actions will be created for each major group of stakeholders. These can serve as the focus for future community outreach efforts. The intro to these documents can serve as mini-executive summaries.

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## Specific Edits

The following specific edits are proposed based on public input. Some comments requested additions that were already included in the plan so did not need to be specifically addressed in the edits. To more easily navigate through these comments and the page references, it's recommended to have the draft copy of the [Climate Action Plan](#) open.

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## Progress to Date

- p. 15 Progress to Date – Add reference to the 2010 Greenhouse Gas Reduction Report and note that many of the activities undertaken by the County to date were supported by or recommended in that report.

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## Co-Benefits of Climate Action

- p. 20 Co-Benefits – Revise to make it clear that mitigation strategies to address the impacts of climate change (including for drought, flooding, extreme heat events, fires, utility interruptions, and invasive species) are addressed in the Chester County Hazard Mitigation Plan to be adopted in early 2021. A hyperlink to the final plan can be added when available. (See also revision proposed to the Mitigation section on p. 68 described below.)

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## Taking Action

- p. 30 Add introduction above the “Objectives & Actions” heading explaining that the objectives and actions are addressed under the four categories of (Buildings & Energy, Transportation & Land Use, Waste Management, Agriculture, Food, & Forestry) to provide better context.
- p. 32 Change the term “Lead Entities” to “Implementers” to clarify the purpose of the term and make it more action oriented. Revise intro text and action table headings accordingly. Clarify that County will serve as overall coordinator for moving implementation forward in conjunction with other partners.
- p. 32 Add Federal and State Partners to list of implementers to cover groups such as National Park Service and PaDEP. Review actions to see where this group might be added as an implementing partner.
- p. 32 Include Technical & Post-Secondary Schools and Students under the “Education” category.
- p. 33 Add a concluding paragraph under the “Taking Action” section on this page to address next steps for implementation following plan adoption. For example, a next step will be to organize actions by implementers, timeframe, and priority and undertake outreach to implementers. Add consideration of how interested volunteers can be involved in implementation.

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## Buildings & Energy Actions

### *County Facilities*

- p. 38 Action B6 – Add the concept of “waste heat recovery” to list of examples for increasing energy efficiency of heating and domestic hot water systems.
- p. 39 Objective C – Add a new action for the creation of a County webpage that tracks energy efficiency initiatives taken in County facilities including past initiatives (described on pp. 15 and 16) and new activities as they are implemented.

### *Community-wide Engagement*

- p. 40 Objective E – Add new action to provide information on financial assistance resources for weatherization and energy efficiency improvements for homeowners, including seniors and low-income residents with older homes. (Note this as a social equity co-benefit.)
- p. 40 Action E1 – Add community solar to the list of policy support items. Add “develop effective outreach and communication to implementers and stakeholders” to end of this action.

- p. 40 Action E3 – Revise Power Purchase Agreement wording to say “for the County and other large energy users such as...” and add “sewer and water utilities” to the list of potential users. Also add as an option, the creation of and participation in a Regional Energy Consortium.
- p. 40 Action E4 – Revise the timeframe for developing model ordinances and related resources from “Short-term” to “Immediate.”
- p. 40 Action E5 – Add the “incorporation of renewable energy infrastructure” into the building code action. Recommend requiring new commercial developments, new multifamily developments, new single family construction, and major renovations to be EV-ready to ensure that new buildings are properly equipped to handle the installation and operation of EV charging infrastructure. Provide municipal guidance on installation of public charging stations such as founds on [this website](#).
- p. 40 Action E6 – Add concept of waste heat recovery to list of examples for increasing energy efficiency. (This concept was also proposed to be added to the County-facilities action B6 on p. 38.)
- p. 41 Action E12 – Add coordinate and support SolSmart designations for municipalities and/or clusters of municipalities using the existing regional planning areas currently in place.
- p. 41 Action E13 – Add exploration of cooperative purchases or grant applications for solar panels and EV charging stations for municipalities; convene and support outreach with local lenders to provide home energy loans that are affordable for all income groups.
- p. 41 Action E16 – Add a cross-reference to Action E3 (regional energy initiatives) to this action.
- p. 42 Action E17 – Add consideration of partnering with DOE’s [Better Building Challenge](#) program to identify relevant businesses, and facilitate training, participation and recognition.
- p. 42 Action E18 – Add “Education (Technical & Post-Secondary Schools)” to list of implementers for workforce development for renewable energy technology.
- p. 42 Objective E – Add a new action requesting that the County, municipalities, and other stakeholders consider the commitment of their suppliers to sustainability as part of the procurement process.
- p. 42 Action E21 – Add “commitment to 2050 emissions reduction goals and sustainability” as criteria to consider in the proposed Green Business Recognition Program.
- p.43 Action F6 – Revise the bold portion of the heading to say “Explore the creation of a County Climate Action Office or Sustainable Energy Advocate Office...” and change the Timeframe for exploration from “Short-term” to “Immediate” – this would also move the action to the top of the Objective F list. Add that the focus would be on both county operations and assistance to municipalities and other stakeholders. Add the use of consultants to assist with specific actions or technical aspects of the work.

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## **Transportation and Land Use Actions**

### ***County Facilities***

- p. 47 Action A1 – Cross-reference this action to Action C2 for installation of EV charging stations.

### ***Community-wide Engagement***

- p. 51 Objective E – Add action similar to County Facilities Action A1 asking large employers to encourage energy efficient commuting, including potential employee shuttles, and Action C2 for installing EV charging stations.
- p. 51 Objective E – Add recommendation for no-idling policies to Community-wide Actions similar to Facilities Action B4.
- p. 51 Action E2 – Add concept of express bus service (“Bus Rapid Transit”) to transit projects.

- p. 51 Action E5 – Add consider incentives for installation of listed facilities, e.g., solar parking canopies, EV charging facilities, etc.
- p. 52 Objective F – Add action to “Explore the use of alternatives to asphalt for use in some low-traffic back roads, bike trails, and walking paths to reduce heat absorption and lower surface temperatures.”
- p. 52 Objective F – Add municipal action to “Consider implementing bike share programs in boroughs and other high density growth areas.”
- p. 52 Action F2 – Add the concept of creating “first and last mile connectivity” to public transit from the local and regional trail system to better connect neighborhoods and work centers to the bike/ped system. Indicate that expansion of the local and regional trail system is for both recreational and commuting purposes.
- p. 53 Action F11 – Add these concepts to promote use of EVs: Explore opportunities to collaboratively purchase electric vehicles such as the [Climate Mayors EV Purchasing Collaborative](#); Promote apps that allow drivers to find charging stations wherever they are located such as [Plug in America](#) and [Plug Share](#); and Provide links to DVRPC’s [Alternative Fuel Vehicles webpage](#). Consider adding a county EV resource webpage.

## **Waste Management Actions**

### ***County Facilities***

- p. 57 Action A1 – Change the timeframe for a Waste Diversion Plan for County Operations from “Long-term” to “Short-term.”

### ***Community-wide Engagement***

- p. 58 Action B7 – Revise to state: “Affirm Chester County’s no-burn ordinance, Chester County Health Code [Section 502.7.1](#), with municipalities and encourage its enforcement. Develop an education program for municipalities and county residents on the detrimental effects of burning refuse and solid waste.” (We are verifying this wording with CCSWA.)
- p. 59 Action B11 – Expand recycling action to include education and exploring innovative ways to recycle plastics such as 3D printers (“recyclebot”) which can convert recyclable plastic into 3D objects. (Note: This comment was submitted from a library staff employee who wants to explore the idea for the library which currently has a 3D printer.) The Library would be added to the list of County Implementers on p. 32.
- p. 59 Action B15 –Ensure that the demolition waste action addresses the recycling of construction material and the reuse of still-usable home fixtures in vacant or underutilized buildings. Consider creating a staffed drop-off center for small-medium sized businesses for certain types of universal wastes such as fluorescent bulbs, batteries, aerosols, mercury thermostats, and/or certain electronics. (Cross reference to Action B18 on adaptive reuse and historic preservation and vice versa).
- p. 59 Action B16 – Revise timeframe for a waste characterization study to from “Long-term” to “Short-term.” was completed. (CCSWA notes that a study was completed at Lanchester Landfill in July 2020 and the results are expected later this year.)
- p. 59 Action B17 – Expand action to indicate that reducing food waste in conjunction with a food composting facility would divert more food waste from landfills. Promote composting initiatives including small, neighborhood composting sites, use of composting “pick-up” services where available, and composting workshops or online videos.

## **Agriculture, Food, and Forestry Actions**

### ***Community-wide Engagement***

- p. 64 Objective B – Add an action to support and promote tree planting in urban settings to address heat mitigation and the urban heat island effect.
- p. 64 Action B2 – Modify action to include exploration of incentives to landowners to not harvest trees such as those offered in the [Family Forest Carbon Program](#) and the [Working Woodlands Program](#). Explore ways



for such programs to work for smaller woodland owners, such as grouping interested landowners together to qualify for carbon credits. (Available in some areas of PA, but not in Chester County area yet. Minimum acreage requirement is quite high for this area at 1,500 acres).

- p. 64 Action B7 – Expand woodlands ordinance action to include planting of new trees as part of land development process to enhance sequestration and moderate heat island effects resulting from new development. (Action currently only refers to replacement of trees removed as part of clearing process for new development.)
- p. 65 Action B9 – Add promotion of a “net-gain” tree policy as an even better alternative to “no-net loss” of trees.
- p. 66 Objective C – Add a new action: “Encourage agricultural uses that are high users of power to consider the use of solar arrays for their electricity needs (e.g., mushroom growers, greenhouse operations, commercial poultry operations). Explore other ways to track and reduce energy usage such as digesting manure into renewable methane.”
- p. 66 Action C3 – Add the term “agroforestry” to the list of concepts under “regenerative agriculture.” Include a brief definition of both regenerative agriculture and agroforestry within the action or as a footnote.

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## Resiliency

- p. 68 Rename this section “Resiliency and Hazard Mitigation Planning.” Expand text to provide more information and links to the new Hazard Mitigation Plan and provide examples of actions proposed to address mitigation and resiliency in the areas of drought, flooding, extreme heat events, fires, and utility interruptions. Additional coordination will take place with the HMP project planner in DES to expand on this area. DES recently held their final public meeting, so the plan is much closer to its final form than when the CAP draft were first started. A hyperlink to the final HMP plan can be added when available.

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## Key Performance Measures

- p. 71 Indicate that performance measures will be posted on the Climate Action Plan webpage as they are tracked. Ideally this will be in the form of an online dashboard.

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## West Chester Area Council of Governments Comments

The West Chester Area COG requested that the following actions be assigned a “High” priority level and also requested a few text edits. They also stated that they support the plan, including the vision and goal for GHG reduction, and pledged their support in moving the residents of their region towards these goals. They noted that the municipal actions not currently on their own list of actions will be passed on to WCACOG Energy Advisory Team. All of the WCACOG proposed edits are listed below and seem appropriate. Some actions are already high priority and are so noted below:

### Buildings & Energy Actions –

- p. 40 E3 – High Priority, Power Purchase Agreements – also, add wastewater authorities, and fire companies (note – also add water authorities to list),
- p. 40 E7 – High Priority, Reduce solar soft costs – The following edit was also requested as they “suggest not specifying the best method of streamlining” within the action.  
**Reduce soft costs of local (aka distributed) solar** by streamlining the local application, permitting, and inspection processes ~~through the creation of a common solar siting application template for adoption by municipalities.~~
- p. 41 E13 – High Priority, C-PACE
- p. 42 E16 – High Priority, Renewable energy development for community service organizations
- p. 42 E18 – High Priority, Promote workforce development in clean energy. (Already High Priority)
- p. 43 F6 – High Priority, Climate Action Office (Already High Priority)

### Transportation & Land Use Actions

- p. 49 D7 – High Priority, Redevelopment of Brownfield Sites – COG would like to add doing this with an eye towards availability of using for “solar community gardens” where residents with homes and apartments “not appropriate for solar” could subscribe to regional clean energy generation. (Already High Priority)