



environmental advisory council

10 East Church Street
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November 9, 2018

Dear Members of City Council,

In accordance with the Bethlehem Environmental Advisory Council Bylaws, we submit the following report for the year 2018.

Accomplishments for 2018 include:

- Reviewed and summarized the obligations of the City's five climate commitments signed by Mayor Donchez;
- Met and coordinated with Councilman Reynolds, Assistant City Clerk Robert Vidoni, Director of Public Works Michael Alkhal and Deputy Director of Public Works Matt Dorner regarding the City's obligations under the Compact of Mayors climate agreement and in preparation for a public meeting on the proposed Climate Action Plan (CAP);
- Developed an information sheet on the City's progress regarding climate action (attached);
- Developed a survey for distribution at the CAP public meeting;
- April 5th EAC meeting: Public CAP meeting at Town Hall. City presented an update on the greenhouse gas inventory;
- May: Began attending meetings of other EACs in the Lehigh Valley and surrounding area to create the ability to work cooperatively and share information. Compiled a contact list of all EACs;
- July 5th EAC meeting: Stephen Repasch, Executive Director of the Bethlehem Authority, gave an update on the Authority's projects and workings;
- July: Sent letter recommending the City increase use of renewable energy to 100%;
- July: Sent letter in support of new fire ordinances supporting use of solar panels;

- August 2nd EAC meeting: Kate Ebel, Senior Environmental Scientist from Wildlands Conservancy, gave a presentation on the Monocacy Creek Watershed Plan;
- October: Created a Community Energy Efficiency Initiative Task Force focused on residential, commercial, and non-profits, including low-income households;
- October: Created a Waste Reduction Task Force to study and make recommendations to the EAC regarding ordinances that limit or control the use of “single-use” plastic, such as bags and straws, and styrofoam containers for subsequent recommendation to City Council;
- October: Sent letter to new Recycling Director Mike Halbfoerster as an introduction and welcome, and to follow-up our 2017 letter requesting recycling containers;
- November: Sent letter commending the City for its decision to purchase 100% of its electricity from renewable energy sources beginning in 2019 and giving recommendations for next steps;
- Established a new Bethlehem EAC facebook page;
- Participated in meetings of the Monocacy Creek Watershed Coalition;
- Ongoing efforts of the Bethlehem Backyards for Wildlife (BBFW), a most successful and hardworking subcommittee of the EAC. Its mission is to work with the City of Bethlehem to support biodiversity and minimize negative environmental impacts by encouraging city residents, schools, businesses, and other organizations to implement wildlife friendly and sustainable garden practices;
- EAC member representation or participation in organizations related to the environment, such as Wildlands Conservancy, Saucon Creek Watershed Assoc., Monocacy Creek Watershed Coalition, Lehigh Valley Birdtown Coalition, Northampton County Federation of Sportsmen’s Clubs, Pedestrian/Bike Bridge initiative, Sierra Club;
- Updates to the City website.

In April John Brunner resigned as a member of the EAC due to relocation outside the City limits. We thank him for his service. On May 1, 2018 we welcomed Elisabeth Cichonski as a member of the Council. We look forward a full complement of seven members in 2019.

Our great appreciation goes to Louise Kelchner, City Clerk, and Robert Vidoni, Assistant City Clerk, for their assistance to the Bethlehem EAC. Ms. Kelchner responds immediately to all of our requests and questions, places meeting notices in the newspaper and facilitates communication between the EAC, City Council and the Mayor’s office. Mr. Vidoni’s assistance was invaluable in coordinating the ongoing development of the CAP, the April Public meeting and all associated queries.

We recognize and thank our City Council liaison, J. William Reynolds, for his assistance, attendance at our meetings, initiative and continued efforts to bring a CAP to fruition. We also thank Michael Alkhal and Matt Dorner for their work on the City's greenhouse gas inventory. Our appreciation also goes to City Council and the Administration for their support.

Respectfully submitted,

Lynn Rothman

Lynn Rothman, Chair
Bethlehem, EAC
On behalf of the Bethlehem EAC

EAC Members:

Elisabeth Cichonski	Brian Hillard
Kathy Fox	Lynn Rothman
Jack Gambino	Mike Topping

City Council Liaison:
J. William Reynolds

cc: Mayor Donchez

City of Bethlehem – Climate Action Plan

The City of Bethlehem will develop a Climate Action Plan (CAP) to generate policies, recommendations, and public outreach on issues related to climate change and sustainability.

What is a Climate Action Plan?

Climate Action Plans attempt to address climate change by promoting resilience through both mitigation and adaptation strategies. The purpose of climate mitigation initiatives is to reduce or prevent greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions through methods such as increased energy efficiency and use of renewable energy (for example, solar energy). The purpose of climate adaptation initiatives is to prepare for the impacts of climate change (increase in temperature and precipitation), through methods such as green infrastructure. The initial phase of the CAP focuses on municipal operations within the City. The next stage of the CAP will address energy consumption for the entire city, not just municipal operations, and attempt to enlist the efforts of citizens, businesses, and institutional partners in developing and implementing sustainable practices.

Who is responsible for leading the development of the CAP?

Bethlehem City Council unanimously passed a Resolution endorsing the creation of a Climate Action Plan in February 2017. City Council and the Administration will ultimately decide which actions of the Plan can be supported and implemented.

What is the role of the Bethlehem Environmental Advisory Council (EAC)?

The EAC consists of Bethlehem citizens appointed by City Council to provide recommendations to City Council and the Administration on environmental issues relating to the City. EAC meetings are open to the public. Some of these monthly meetings will provide a dedicated time for public engagement as the CAP takes shape in order to:

- Document the CAP process for transparency
- Develop a communication structure between the public and the City

- Provide a venue to enable the public to voice opinions and give input
- Identify members of the public who have expertise
- Provide opportunity to share progress reports and information as the CAP develops
- Generate excitement and buy-in for the plan **What has the City of Bethlehem already done so far?** Mayor Callahan, along with the Mayors of Allentown and Easton, took up the mantle of conservation by signing a Three City Climate Protection Proclamation in August 2006. Under the leadership of Mayor Donchez and Bethlehem City Council, the City government has continued to make progress. The Proclamation established a goal of reducing the City's operational carbon footprint 20% by 2012. The City succeeded in surpassing this goal with a 23% reduction. In 2017, then City Council President J. William Reynolds proposed the creation of a climate action plan as part of his Bethlehem 2017 initiatives. The City of Bethlehem has also committed to five national and international climate agreements in recent years, some signed following City Councilman Reynold's presentation of his Bethlehem 2017 initiatives. These are the U.S. Mayors Climate Protection Agreement, Compact of Mayors/Global Covenant of Mayors, Sierra Club Ready for 100, Mayors National Climate Action Agenda and We Are Still In. The initial requirements of the

Compact of Mayors/Global Covenant of Mayors require the City to formally register its commitment, complete a community-wide greenhouse gas (ghg) inventory and identify climate hazards. The website for each of these initiatives is listed in the Resources section below.

What is the timeline for climate action milestones?

- 2006 – Mayor Callahan signs “Three City Proclamation”
- 2006-2013 – City reduces carbon footprint by 23 percent through a series of energy saving and reduction initiatives
- February 2017 – City Council unanimously passes a Resolution endorsing the creation of a Climate Action Plan

- 2017 – City Administration working toward establishing “baseline” energy data for governmental operations
- 2018 -2019 – Develop Climate Action Plan Phase 1 ● Develop baseline GHG inventory for both municipal operations and community-wide emissions ● Determine and analyze commitments made in previously executed Climate Action Agreements ● Develop Green Bethlehem Initiative - ways for private citizens, businesses and institutions to set goals and reduce and track GHG emissions ● Work to identify opportunities for external assistance in developing the CAP, including formation of institutional partnerships and engaging an outside consultant Phase 2 ● Develop a Request for Proposal for the management of the climate action planning process and/or generation of a final Climate Action Plan ● Generate content and policy recommendations in sectors such as transportation, green building, land use, and infrastructure through community meetings, planning, implementation strategies, etc. **Resources** Mayors Climate Action Agreement - <https://www.usmayors.org/mayors-climate-protection-center/> Compact of Mayors -- <http://www.c40.org/programmes/compact-of-mayors> Global Covenant of Mayors for Climate and Energy - <https://www.globalcovenantofmayors.org/> Sierra Club Ready for 100 – <https://www.sierraclub.org/ready-for-100> Mayors National Climate Agenda – <http://climatemayors.org/> We Are Still In – <https://www.wearestillin.com/us-action-climate-change-irreversible> **EAC Meetings are held the first Thursday of every month, 7:00 pm, at Illick’s Mill, 100 Illick’s Mill Road, unless otherwise indicated on the website* or in the Express Times.** Email: eacbethlehempa@gmail.com Facebook: Search for “Bethlehem Climate Action” Information regarding the EAC can be found on the City website* under Authorities and

Boards. * <http://www.bethlehem-pa.gov/about/authorities/eac/index.html>