



10 East Church Street
Bethlehem, Pa. 18018
www.bethlehemeac.org

Mr. Steven Fernstrom
Bethlehem Parking Authority
85 W. North Street
Bethlehem, PA 18018

August 12, 2021

Dear Mr. Fernstrom,

In our June letter we congratulated the Bethlehem Parking Authority on the addition of an electric vehicle to BPA's fleet (with plans for more in 2022), as well as the addition of new electric vehicle charging stations and the Sustainable Design Standard passed by the BPA for all new parking structures.

In line with those actions, the EAC recommends that the Parking Authority seriously consider the feasibility of solar panels on garage rooftops. Since a garage does not use a large amount of energy, BPA may be able to utilize net metering, which means the owner of a solar system is paid the price to compare (the rate listed by the utility that does not include distribution) for any excess generation.

The BPA could explore leasing a system, since the lessor will be able to use the tax benefits. We suggest consulting with your accountant, as there are some detailed rules about system ownership and operating leases. It may also be possible to link multiple garages.

As shown in the photo below, solar systems can be installed without losing parking space.

These actions support the goals and strategies in the Climate Action Plan and demonstrate the Parking Authority's commitment to reduce our carbon footprint and increase our sustainability.

Sincerely,

Lynn Rothman

Lynn Rothman, Chair

On behalf of the Bethlehem EAC:

Elizabeth Behrend	Ben Guthrie
Elisabeth Cichonski	Brian Nicas
Ben Felzer	Mike Topping

cc: Bethlehem City Council
Mayor Donchez

Photo by Godfreyhoffman.com



Photo by Powerparasol.com

