



10 East Church Street  
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July 1, 2020

Dear Honorable Members of Council, Mayor Donchez, Mr. Sobrinski and Mr. Irvine,

We are appreciative that WSP is keeping the EAC apprised as the Climate Action Plan (CAP) develops, genuinely including us in the process, and soliciting input from the entire community.

Regarding the latter, the EAC strongly recommends the creation of an Office of Sustainability to oversee and implement the programs, policies and ordinances that will result from the CAP. Having this be a separate department would allow the Sustainability Office to connect and build relationships among the City's Departments, allowing for coordinated climate action. This department would also be able to work with the Lehigh Valley Planning Commission, bringing their initiatives to the City.

Specific duties of a Sustainability Department could include:

- Implement and manage the programs, ordinances and commitments resulting from the CAP;
- Monitor and measure the progress of programs, ordinances and commitments resulting from the CAP;
- Facilitate collaboration between departments within the City, as well as neighboring cities, counties and the Planning Commission to achieve greenhouse gas reduction and sustainability;
- Advise and respond to the public and elected officials regarding sustainability goals and progress, serve as media contact and coordinator;
- Engage and partner with the community to educate and promote sustainability projects;
- Serve as an outreach coordinator to partner with organizations to develop education materials/training for contractors and homeowners;
- Identify effective methods and policies to increase the number and success of businesses involved in green enterprises, including LEED project certifications;
- Assist in integrating green building design principles into project plans;
- Research and develop grant applications.

A dedicated office will be necessary to ensure that the Climate Action *Plan* is implemented and is successful. Once the initial plan is written, there must be oversight to determine whether goals are being met and what changes are needed. Climate action is an ongoing and dynamic process which we must continually update, improve and strategize for the next steps. This allows incorporation of the latest climate science, technological developments, and financial circumstances.

It is a pleasure working with Mr. Sobrinski and Mr. Irvine and we will continue to assist WSP and the Nurture Nature Center in any way possible.

Respectfully yours,

*Lynn Rothman*

Lynn Rothman, Chair

On behalf of the Bethlehem EAC:

Beth Behrend

Ben Guthrie

Elisabeth Cichonski

Brian Nicas

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