



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

January 13, 2022

Rachel Hogan Carr
Executive Director
Nurture Nature Center
518 Northampton Street
Easton, PA 18042

Dear Ms. Carr,

This letter confirms the Bethlehem Environmental Advisory Council's commitment to Nurture Nature Center's proposed project, "CREATE Connections: Linking a Vision of Resilience to Action," which will continue and expand NNC's CREATE Resilience project (2018-2022), centering the next phase of effort around climate action plans recently adopted in local communities. Specifically, NNC will focus this next phase, CREATE Connections, in two Lehigh Valley communities - Easton, PA and Bethlehem, PA. Both cities recently adopted ambitious Climate Action Plans (CAP). In the proposed CREATE Connections, NNC will include and build on the community assets in each city in order to increase environmental literacy around climate action and resiliency and help move the plans to action using NNC's unique and successful combination of science, art, and community dialogue. This project will also expand the partners, to include municipal leaders, colleges and universities, public libraries and community organizations that work with underserved audiences, as well as subject matter experts from NOAA, FEMA and regional emergency management agencies.

For the project, NNC will develop a program model that 1) educates about climate change and resilience using the local climate action plans as foundations and 2) seeks to spur CAP mitigation strategy implementation. This work complements Bethlehem EAC's strategic priorities by assisting with the implementation of the CAP. NCC plans to engage local universities, environmental organizations and citizen groups across all economic levels. They will distill the almost 300-page CAP into a readable document so that residents can understand and take part in climate action. In order to be successful, climate action cannot be undertaken by the municipality alone. City residents must take part and support the CAP's implementation, which requires an understanding of its importance, strategies and their role. The EAC is a small group of volunteers and to have NNC lead an engagement process will be invaluable.

Bethlehem EAC will be engaged on the advisory team and as a partner for identifying learning objectives related to the plan and its implementation in the City. We worked with NNC during the development of Bethlehem's Climate Action Plan, and will help the CREATE staff develop priorities for programming content and help with dissemination of the project activities, as well as promotion of events and programming as appropriate. This project will engage youth and community members in actively learning about their local climate and municipal operations, as well as the mitigation strategies available to help address climate change and its impacts. We are excited for this opportunity to work with NNC.

Sincerely,

Lynn Rothman

Lynn Rothman, Chair

On behalf of the Bethlehem EAC:

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

cc: Bethlehem City Council
Mayor J. William Reynolds