



environmental advisory council

10 East Church Street
Bethlehem, Pa. 18018
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July 29, 2019

Kevin Livingston, Executive Director
Bethlehem Parking Authority
10 East Church Street
Bethlehem, Pa. 18018

Dear Mr. Livingston,

The Bethlehem Environmental Advisory Council (EAC) has recommendations concerning proposed and existing parking garages in the City of Bethlehem, in order that they minimize harm to the environment.

The EAC advocates that both new and existing structures incorporate ample electric vehicle charging stations (with the ability to expand as demand increases) and solar panels. As Bethlehem City works to increase sustainability and reduce greenhouse gas emissions, both of these actions are of great significance. The attached photographs are examples of parking facilities that make use of solar panels. The panels do not appear to inhibit the available parking area.

Furthermore, we recommend that new structures use a sustainable design, including the design of stormwater management systems, since runoff from parking facilities contains contaminants that pollute our waterways. In addition, as land is cleared for new construction, we advise that trees that are removed be replaced either onsite or at another location to be determined with the assistance of the City Forester, on a 2 to 1 basis. Note that existing trees have a higher carbon sequestration capacity than new plantings. As always, best management practices for runoff and sediment control during construction are important.

We understand that garage entrances/exits are designed to minimize traffic congestion. Aside from frustrating motorists, congestion causes idling, which adds to greenhouse gas emissions. Thus, in addition to a project plan that alleviates any potential congestion, we suggest impact studies after the completion of any project in order to study resulting traffic patterns and implement any necessary adjustments.

Thank you for your consideration. Should you have any questions or would like to discuss these recommendations further, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Respectfully yours,

Lynn Rothman

Lynn Rothman, Chair

On behalf of the Bethlehem EAC:

Elizabeth Behrend	Brian Hillard
Elisabeth Cichonski	Brian Nicas
Kathy Fox	Mike Topping

cc: Bethlehem City Council
Mayor Donchez

ATTACHED PHOTOGRAPHS



Parking Deck coverage that still allows vehicle parking underneath the solar panels at Long Beach City College (Photo from greenbuildingelements.com)



Photo by Powerparasol.com



Photo by Godfreyhoffman.com