



November 17, 2021

Darlene L. Heller, Director of Planning and Zoning
Tracy Samuelson, Assistant Director of Planning and Zoning
City of Bethlehem
10 E. Church Street
Bethlehem, PA 18017

Dear Ms. Heller and Ms. Samuelson,

In regard to the proposal for a solar field at Lehigh University's Goodman Campus, the Bethlehem Environmental Advisory Council recommends the incorporation of a pollinator friendly design. Planting native flowers and grasses under and around solar facilities creates an attractive habitat to pollinators like bees and butterflies without shading the solar panels. These plants provide other benefits as well, including reduced erosion, stormwater control, improved soil health, carbon sequestration and cooler microclimates under the panels, aiding in solar efficiency. They also reduce maintenance in terms of mowing.

The following links may provide helpful information.

<https://securefutures.solar/pollinator-friendly-solar-farms/>

<https://www.power-technology.com/features/pollinator-friendly-solar-generation-power-environment-what-is/>

Thank you for your consideration.

Respectfully yours,

Lynn Rothman

Lynn Rothman, Chair

On behalf of the Bethlehem EAC:

Mike Topping, Vice Chair Elisabeth Cichonski

Ben Guthrie, Secretary Ben Felzer

Beth Behrend Brian Nicas

cc: Mayor Donchez
Bethlehem City Council

