

SOLEBURY TOWNSHIP ENVIRONMENTAL ADVISORY COUNCIL  
**VIRTUAL MEETING**  
MINUTES OF MAY 12<sup>TH</sup>, 2020

**PRESENT:** Eric Allen (Chair), Christy Cheever (Vice Chair), Hope Blaythorne, Barry Fetterolf, Doug Shaw, Jim Mansfield, Christine Terranova (Administrator) and John Francis (Liaison).

**ABSENT:** William Birnes

**I. OPENING OF MEETING**

Chair Allen called the meeting to order at 7:05 p.m.

**II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES – MARCH 10<sup>th</sup>, 2020**

**Upon a Motion by Barry Fetterolf, seconded by Eric Allen, the meeting minutes for March 10<sup>th</sup>, 2020 were unanimously approved with a minor correction.**

**III. Announcements**

None

**IV. New Business**

Chair Allen suggested that EAC members send a note to Representative Wendy Thomas in support of her “no vote” in withdrawing financing for alternate kinds of environmental measures.

**V. Discussion Items**

Ready for 100 (James Mansfield)

Mr. Mansfield reviewed his 12-page presentation (See Attached) to explain what the Ready for 100 Program is about and how it relates to the Sierra Club initiative. The plan is for 100% renewable energy. He briefly reviewed global climate change, average regional temperatures from 1895 through 2017, goals of the Sierra Club initiative, operating principles for the initiative, economics of clean energy, who is already committed throughout the country, who is committed in southeast Pennsylvania, where Solebury Township is in the process and what the next steps will be for the Township.

Supervisor and EAC Liaison John Francis have drafted a Resolution for Solebury Township (See Attached) that will need approval from the Board of Supervisors. The Resolution has been reviewed and OK'd by the following Sierra Club members:

- Jim Wylie, RF100 SEPA Area Coordinator
- Drew O'Bryan, RF100 National Campaign Representative

The EAC needs to review the draft Resolution and forward it to the Board of Supervisors with its recommendations. The Board of Supervisors will then adopt the Resolution, which declares that Solebury Township commits to the goals and principles of Ready for 100. The Township and committee members will begin to work with local residents and businesses to gather stakeholder input and perspectives and continue to work with local municipalities and the County to educate and building support for regional cooperation. Final step will be to develop an energy transition plan and timeline in order to implement the plan.

**Upon a Motion by Eric Allen, seconded by Doug Shaw, the Environmental Advisory Council unanimously agreed to recommend the Board of Supervisors to adopt the draft, "Resolution in Support of 'Ready for 100' Renewable Energy Movement".**

#### Rules & Regulations (Doug Shaw)

Mr. Shaw reviewed his 5-page presentation (See Attached) to show if any Township rules or regulations are inconsistent with our sustainability objectives then a review would be needed to update or correct them. Mr. Shaw has reviewed numerous Township documents and has discovered a lot of sustainability. Mr. Shaw will continue to review Township documents and with input from the EAC, Board of Supervisors, other relevant committee members and the Township Administration work for significant efforts towards improving sustainability. After reviewing the following, it was concluded that there are more rules and regulations that support sustainability rather than impede it. Mr. Shaw has reviewed the Municipal Code's Subdivision and Land Development, the Code's Zoning Article and the HARB Design Guidelines as a few examples.

#### Wild Area Stewardship (Hope Blaythorne)

Chair Allen turned the meeting over to Ms. Blaythorne for her comments.

Ms. Blaythorne has sent everyone a link to the drone footage that has taken place over the New Hope Quarry (Primrose Creek Watershed), which is on-going.

Ms. Blaythorne gave a brief discussion on "Tree City" for Arbor Day in Solebury Township. Chair Allen suggested putting that item on next month's agenda for further discussion.

#### Invasives

No discussion

#### Plastic Regulation (Christy Cheever)

Ms. Cheever stated she did not have any updated information at this time.

#### Recycling (Christy Cheever)

Ms. Cheever did draft an info graphic to prepare for Earth Day on what not to recycle and would share with the committee at a later date.

#### Environmental Restoration

No discussion

#### Deer Management (Eric Allen)

Chair Allen stated the progress with the program has been slow and not much to report. 124 of 150 tags distributed only 37 deer have been harvested.

#### Adopt A Highway (Christy Cheever)

It has been noted to remove this topic from the agenda at this time.

#### Lighting Ordinance (Hope Blaythorne)

It has been noted to keep this topic on the agenda but to table the topic at this time.

### **VI. Public Comment**

Mr. Fetterolf questioned if there was anything that the committee can do to help the community to devote our energy through this current situation.

### **VII. Adjournment**

**Chair Allen adjourned the meeting at 7:50 p.m.**

Respectfully submitted,

Christine Terranova  
EAC Administrator

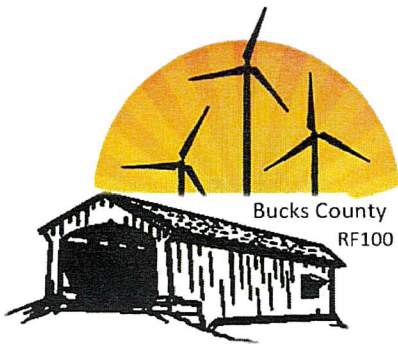
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# Ready for 100

## Planning for 100% Renewable Energy

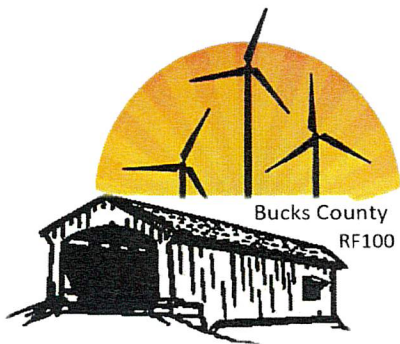
Solebury Township EAC

May 12, 2020



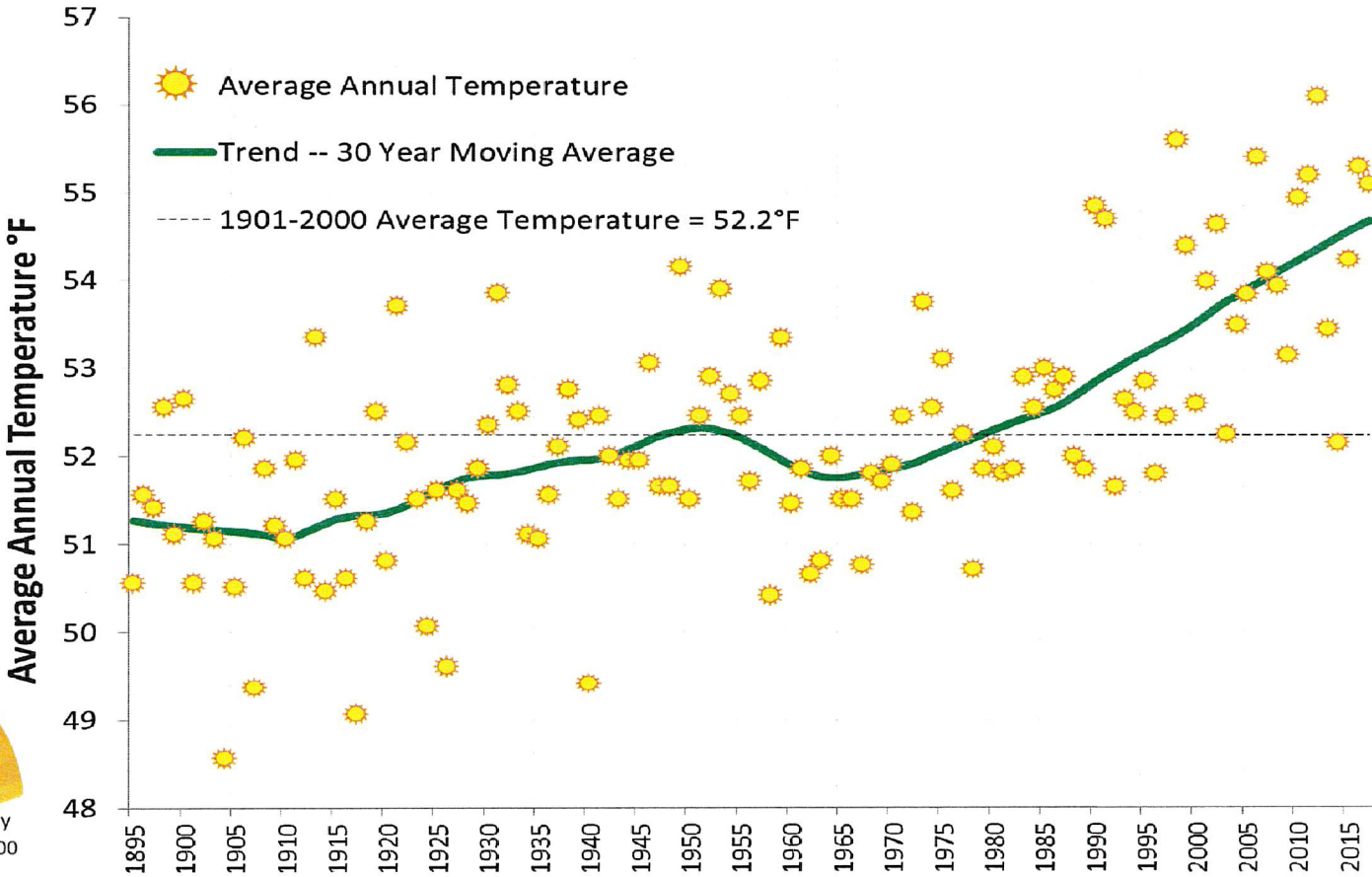
# Global Climate Change

- Global climate change is happening fast
  - Globally
    - Wildfires
    - Drought
    - Sea level rise
  - Locally
    - Shorter, wetter winters
    - Heavier precipitation and flooding
      - Degraded infrastructure and economic losses
    - Hotter summers and more “mosquito days”
      - Impacts on human health/healthcare costs

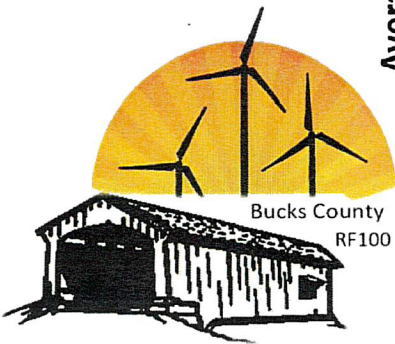


<https://nca2018.globalchange.gov/chapter/18/>

# Average Regional Temperature: 1895-2017



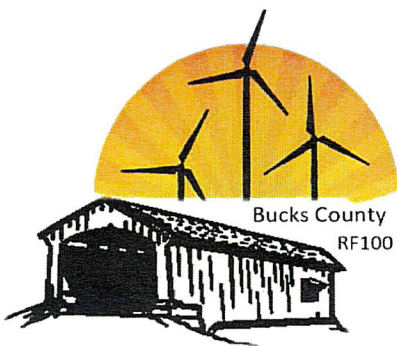
Source: DVRPC chart using data accessed 24 May 2018 from [www.ncdc.noaa.gov/cag/](http://www.ncdc.noaa.gov/cag/). Data reflects the average of two regions: Southeastern PA (Climate Div.3) and Southern NJ (Climate Div.2).



# Ready for 100: A Sierra Club Initiative

Ready For 100 is a national movement of people working to inspire our leaders to embrace a vision of healthier communities powered with **100% clean, renewable energy.**

We are asking mayors, CEOs, religious leaders, principals, civic and community leaders, parents and students to commit to solutions that help us achieve 100% clean, renewable, and just energy across the United States by the year 2050.



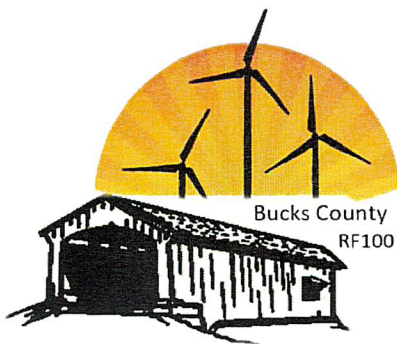
<https://www.sierraclub.org/ready-for-100/campaign>



# Ready for 100: A Sierra Club Initiative

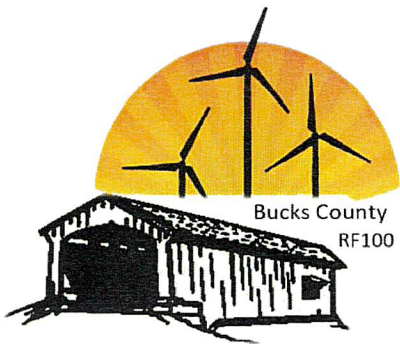
- **Goals**

- **100% clean renewable electricity by 2035**
  - Full transition of the electricity sector to wind, solar, geothermal, ...
- **100% clean renewable energy for all uses by 2050**
  - Transition all other energy sectors to renewable
    - Heat (heat pumps replacing “natural” gas)
    - Cooling
    - Transportation (Electric vehicles)



# Ready for 100: A Sierra Club Initiative

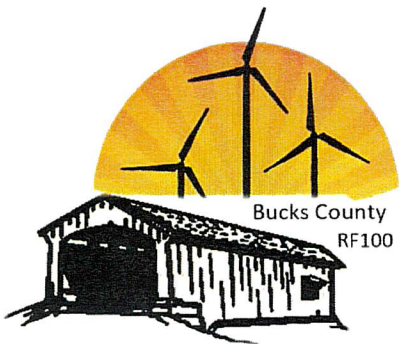
- Operating Principles
  - Efficiency First
  - Equitable and Just
  - Inclusive and Transparent Planning and Implementation
  - Local Generation and Job Creation
  - Collaborate with Neighboring Communities
  - Advocate with Residents and Local Business/Industry
  - Demonstrate Immediate Progress



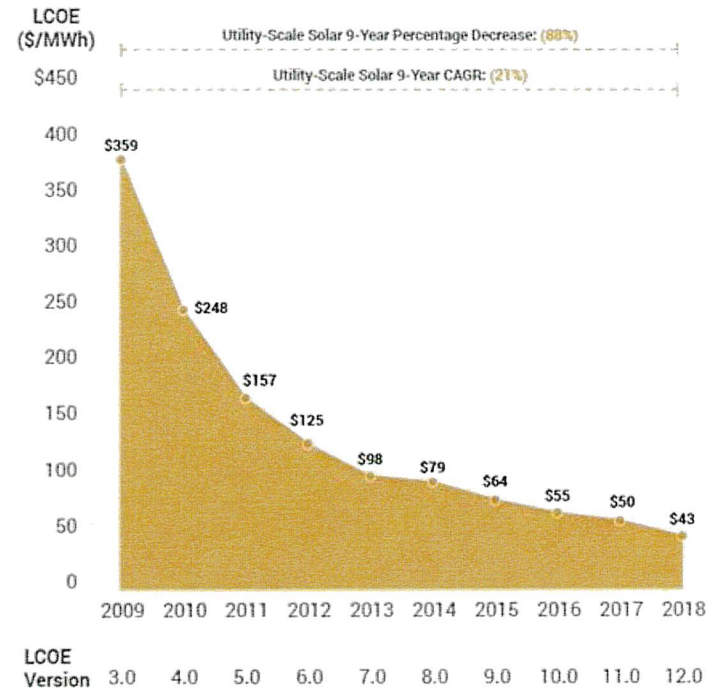
# Economics of Clean Energy

Is this feasible?

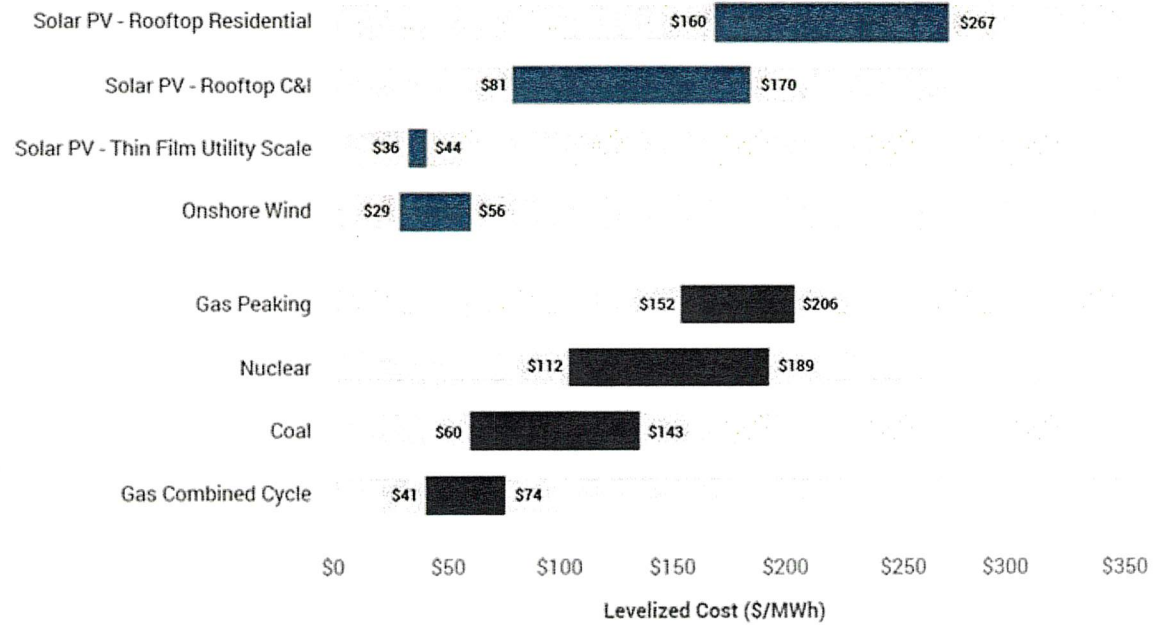
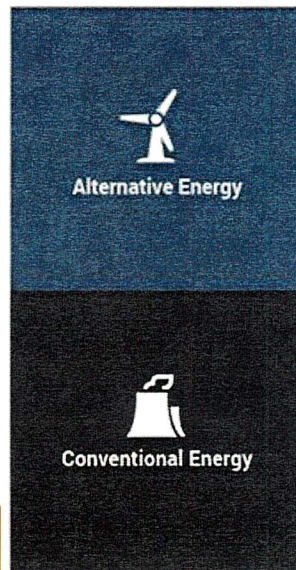
**YES!!!**



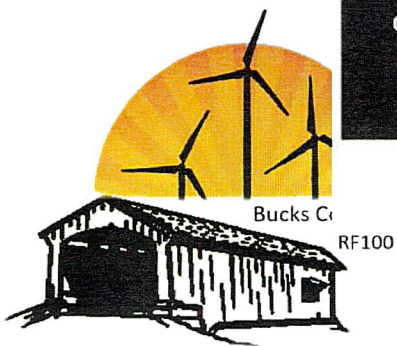
Unsubsidized Solar PV LCOE



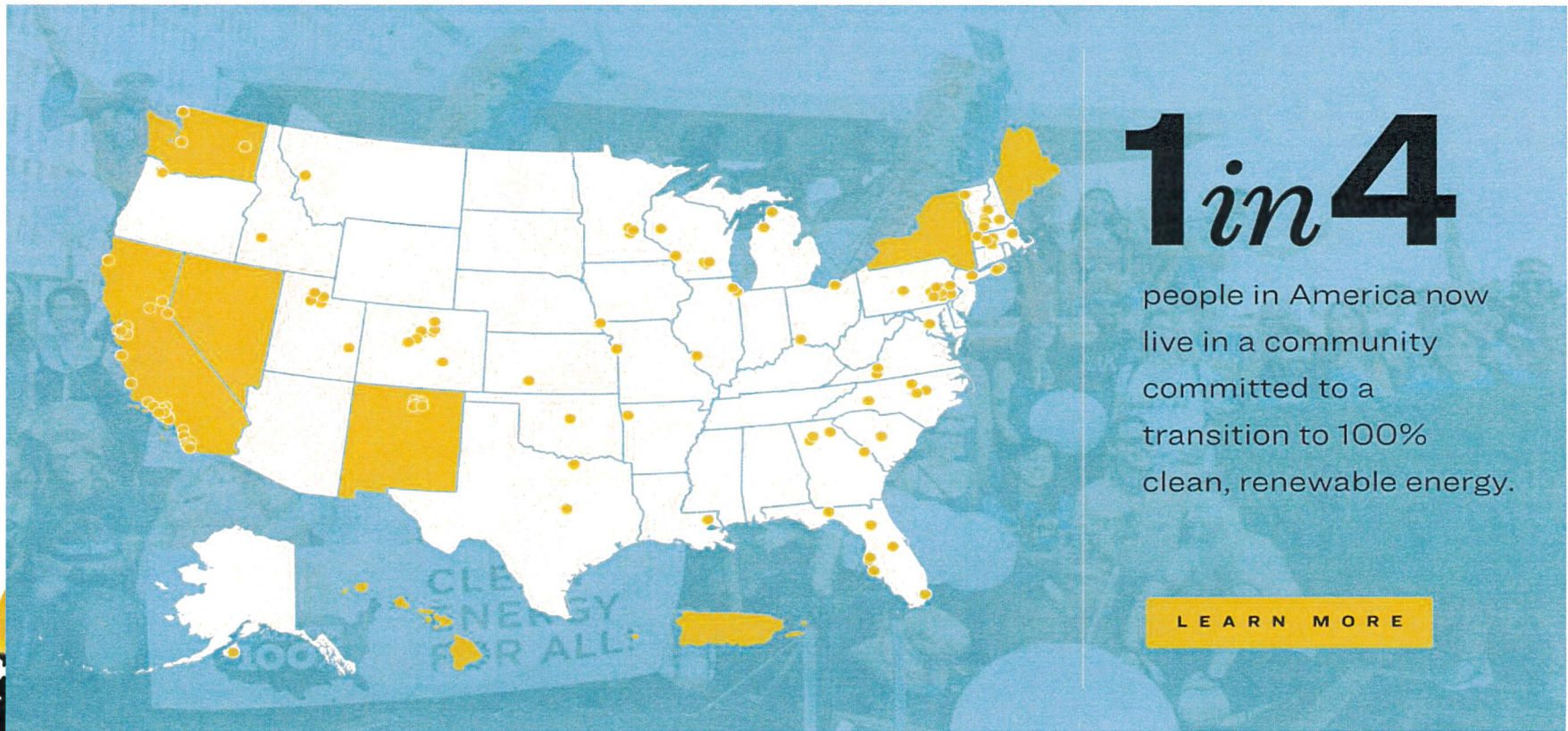
# Economics of Clean Energy



<https://www.lazard.com/perspective/levelized-cost-of-energy-and-levelized-cost-of-storage-2018/>



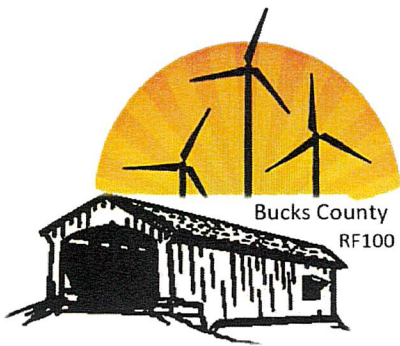
# Who has committed?



# Ready for 100: A Sierra Club Initiative

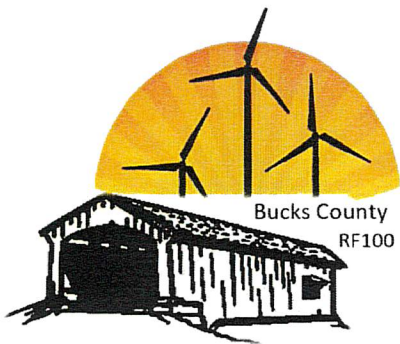
## Who has already committed?

- Over 150 US cities, 10 counties, and 7 states
  - California, Maine, New York, Virginia, Washington
  - Counties include: Salt Lake, Ventura (CA)
  - Key Cities
    - Atlanta
    - Chicago
    - Los Angeles
    - Philadelphia
    - San Francisco



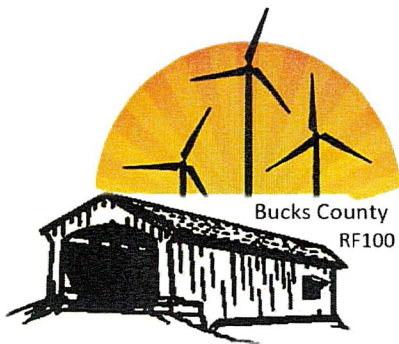
# Who has committed in SE Pennsylvania?

- Doylestown Township
- Philadelphia
- Ambler Borough
- Bethlehem
- Downingtown
- Haverford
- Kennett Township
- Narberth
- Norristown
- Plymouth Township
- Phoenixville
- Radnor
- Reading
- Springfield Township
- Upper Merion
- West Chester Borough (and WC CoG)
- Whitemarsh Township
- And many others!!



# Ready for 100: Where are we in the process?

- John Francis and I have been working with RF100 BC
- John has drafted a Resolution for Solebury Township
- The Resolution has been reviewed & OK'd by the Sierra Club
  - Jim Wylie, RF100 SEPA Area Coordinator
  - Drew O'Bryan, RF100 National Campaign Representative
- Attending RF100 on-line meetings, etc.

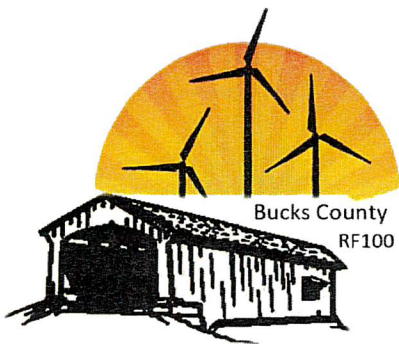






## Ready for 100: Next Steps

- The EAC review the draft Resolution and forward it to the BoS with our recommendations
- BoS adopt the Resolution, which declares that Solebury Township commits to the goals & principles of Ready for 100
- Begin work with local residents and businesses to gather stakeholder input and perspectives
- Continue work with local municipalities and the County to educate and build support for regional cooperation
- Develop an energy transition plan and timeline
- Implement the plan



## SOLEBURY TOWNSHIP BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

### RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF 'READY FOR 100' RENEWABLE ENERGY MOVEMENT

#### RESOLUTION 2020-\_\_\_\_

**WHEREAS**, Climate change is a global long-term threat to civilization and Earth's living ecosystems, and is occurring at a rate unprecedented in human history, threatening to overwhelm the abilities of society and nature to adapt;

**WHEREAS**, Extreme weather associated with climate change poses immediate risks as it becomes more commonplace; testing our infrastructure, emergency and social services; impacting our access to food, water and energy supplies; heightening disruption of services, commerce and quality of life; impacting negatively on the quality of life and human health, increasing cost for disaster relief, restoration, and prevention; and resulting in a commensurate increase in taxes and cost of services to pay for these effects;

**WHEREAS**, Carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>) is the primary greenhouse gas emitted by human activities, the rate at which climate change is occurring is largely the result of the increase in the concentration of carbon dioxide in the atmosphere, and combustion of fossil fuels for energy is the primary source of carbon dioxide emissions;;

**WHEREAS**, The 2015 United Nations Climate Change Conference in Paris resulted in a consensus among all 195 countries to limit the increase in global average temperatures to well below 2°C (3.6°F), ensure that greenhouse gas emissions will not exceed sinks (total carbon capture) by the second half of this century, and become carbon neutral between 2050 and 2100;

**WHEREAS**, The US government's November 2017 Climate Science Special Report states that "It is extremely likely that human activities, especially emissions of greenhouse gases (GHGs), are the dominant cause of the observed warming since the mid-20th century;;";

**WHEREAS**, In January 2019, Governor Tom Wolf issued an executive order stating, "the Commonwealth will work to achieve a 26 percent reduction of greenhouse gas emissions by 2025 and an 80 percent reduction by 2050";

**WHEREAS**, The municipalities of Abington, Cheltenham, Doylestown, Plymouth, Springfield, Upper Merion and Whitmarsh Townships, Ambler, Bridgeport, Conshohocken, Narberth and Norristown Boroughs in Montgomery County and Phoenixville, West Chester, Downingtown and others in Chester County and Delaware County have stepped up as regional leaders in setting goals for the transition to renewable energy in their communities;

**WHEREAS**, Solebury Township has demonstrated a commitment to reducing its energy usage by implementing energy efficiency improvements in multiple areas, including:

- Municipal building energy efficiency improvements, resulting in reduced energy usage and costs;
- Lighting and energy system improvements at the Township Building, resulting in reduced energy usage and costs;
- Has achieved nearly 40% of land in preservation;
- Vigorously supports sustainable agriculture;
- Is committed to maintaining and improving our natural watersheds;
- Continues to explore the use of solar power for the municipal facilities;
- As municipal vehicles age, replacing them with hybrids cars.

**WHEREAS**, Solebury Township is committed to be a community characterized by equality, health, safety, livability, prosperity and equity;

**WHEREAS**, Solebury Township recognizes that it has a responsibility to future generations to take an active stance to reduce the emission of greenhouse gases within the Township;

**WHEREAS**, The best strategy for achieving a cost effective, even cost saving, energy source transition is through collaboration with other regional energy leaders and participation in acquiring aggregated procurement contracts – Power Purchase Agreements (PPAs) for regional wind and solar energy; to this end, Solebury Township also recognizes the importance of developing a close working relationship with its electric energy supplier(s) to create the most advantageous and mutually beneficial plan for integrating locally generated and renewable power;

**AND WHEREAS**, A renewable energy initiative can produce energy cost savings for residents and local businesses while stimulating new economic activity and local jobs, all while simultaneously mitigating the risks from climate change for everyone;

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the Board of Supervisors of Solebury Township, Bucks County, Commonwealth of Pennsylvania:**

- Solebury Township will preserve the past and embrace the future by joining leading towns and cities in the national Ready for 100 movement, to transition to 100% clean, renewable energy for all, and complete this transition, community-wide, to - 100% clean renewable electricity by 2035;
  - 100% clean renewable energy when replacing heating system and transportation equipment by 2050;
  - As vehicles are replaced, priority will also be given to transitioning the Solebury Township vehicle fleet to 100% renewable energy sources by 2030 where feasible;
- The Solebury Township Environmental Advisory Council will provide guidance for commissioning a committee, task force, and/or consultant to draft an energy transition plan for achieving these goals by December, 2020 or sooner, to include interim milestones, financial impacts, equity metrics, potential financing mechanisms and the percentage of renewable energy that is locally produced;
- Renewable energy will be defined as carbon-free and pollution-free energy generated sustainably from renewable sources such as wind, solar, small hydro, tidal, fuel cells and geothermal;
- Locally produced and distributed energy is prioritized whenever feasible for the many advantages it provides to the community;
- Solebury Township will continue to strategically decrease energy usage by implementing energy efficiency improvements;
- Solebury Township will seek to work in collaboration with other regional townships wherever possible and feasible, in the creation of mechanisms and processes to achieve the goals of this resolution;
- All Solebury Township stakeholders will have the opportunity and will be encouraged to participate in the planning and implementation process;
- Solebury Township will call on the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania to set a goal to use 100% renewable energy for all purposes no later than 2050;

- Solebury Township will call on the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania to adopt codes and standards to increase the efficiency of buildings and appliances;
- Solebury Township will call on the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania to increase the Alternative Energy Portfolio Standards to levels that put us on track to meet 100% renewable energy goals;

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that a certified copy of this Resolution be forwarded to State Senator Steve Santarsiero, State Representative Wendi Thomas, Pennsylvania Governor Tom Wolf, U.S. Representative Brian Fitzpatrick, and U.S. Senators Bob Casey and Patrick Toomey.

**RESOLVED, ADOPTED and APPROVED**, on the \_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 2019, at a regular public meeting of the Board of Supervisors of Solebury Township.

**SOLEBURY TOWNSHIP  
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS**

\_\_\_\_\_  
Mark Baum Baicker, Chair

\_\_\_\_\_  
John Francis, Vice-Chair

\_\_\_\_\_  
Noel Barrett, Member

\_\_\_\_\_  
Robert A. McEwan, Member

\_\_\_\_\_  
Kevin Morrissey, Member

Attest:

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Catherine Cataldi, Township Secretary

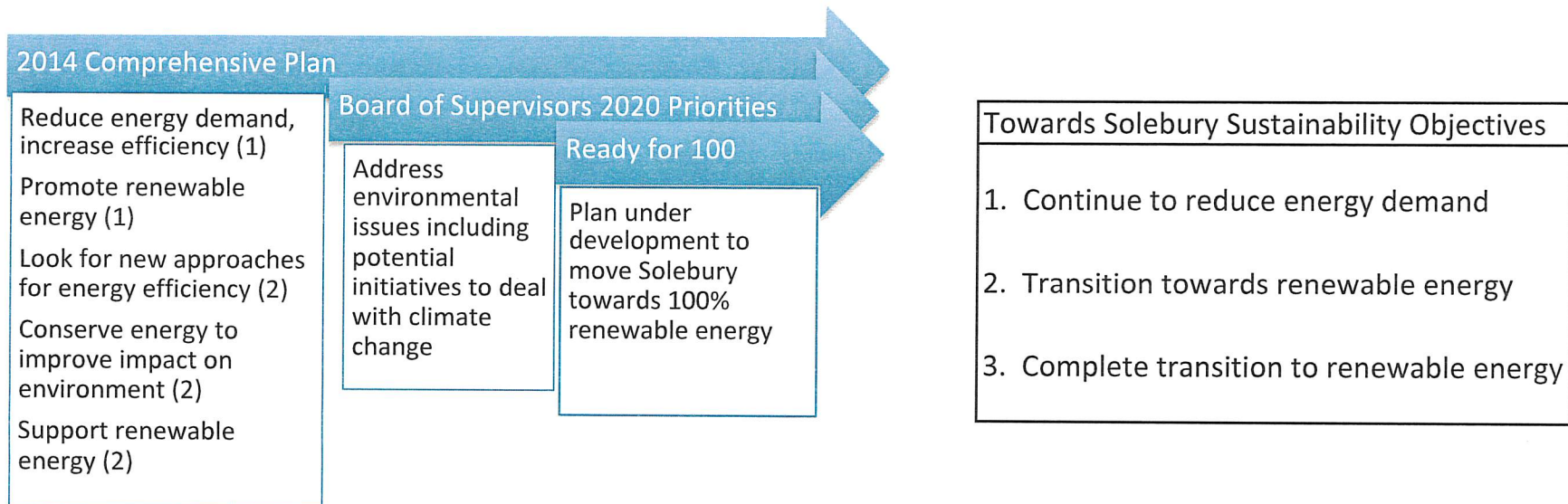
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Date

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## Sustainability objectives are well supported by Solebury Township's direction

- 2014 Comprehensive Plan
- Board of Supervisors' 2020 Priorities
- Ready for 100 initiative being developed consistent with Sierra Club



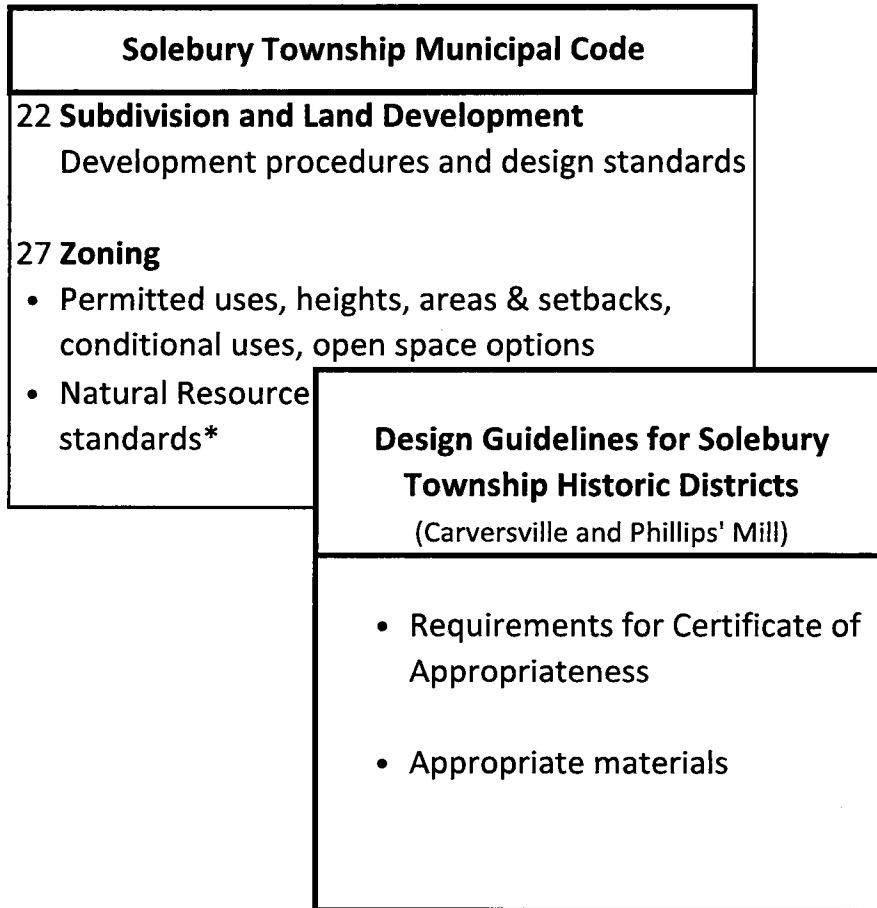
(1) See Comprehensive Plan sustainability objectives, pp. 19-20.

(2) See Comprehensive Plan Energy Conservation, pp. 137+.

## **Solebury Township has made significant efforts towards improving its sustainability**

1. Several initiatives identified in the Comprehensive Plan have been implemented, including (*need to add to list*):
  - As police vehicles age, they've been replaced with hybrid cars
  - Energy efficiencies in municipal buildings, resulting in reduce energy consumption and costs
  - Lighting in the Township building have been changed to LED, consistent with PECO efficiency standards
  - Other?
  
2. Various additional efforts in the community have contributed to greater sustainability, such as (*need to modify/add to list*):
  - Significant efforts at Aquetong Springs park, including tree replanting
  - Tree replanting
  - Improved recycling efforts
  - Modified Township Administration hours to reduce energy consumption
  
3. Additionally, the Board of Supervisors has considered various other initiatives, but have not yet pursued them, including (*add to list?*):
  - Looking into the feasibility of transitioning to solar energy for the Township building; at the time it entailed a 20-year payback period, though solar costs have since reduced
  - Considered using Sustainable Pennsylvania Community Certification to track and measure Solebury's progress
  - Considered a program such as Doylestown's Green Points to encourage greater conservation of fossil fuels, water, and other natural resources and reduction of solid waste

**Solebury Township's Rules & Regulations should be aligned with its Sustainability Objectives**



**Review Rules & Regulations to ensure consistency with Solebury Sustainability Objectives**

1. Identify any rules and regulations that may conflict with Sustainability Objectives
  - a. Initial review
  - b. Input from EAC, BoS, committee members, Administration, others
2. Determine whether identified rules regulations should be modified to better align with sustainability objectives
3. Draft revised rule and/or regulation
4. Seek approval for revised rules and regulations

***Does this seem like a reasonable approach?  
Too much?***

\* Various provisions for subdivisions and land developments, including: vegetation (woodlands, specimen trees), invasive plant species, streams, wetlands, and other riparian corridors.



## **After an initial review, there are more rules and regulations that support sustainability rather than impede it**

1. The Municipal Code's Subdivision and Land Development is generally supportive of sustainability objectives; e.g.:
  - Its stated purpose is "to establish and maintain a sustainable community"
  - There are provisions for conserving trees and/or replacing them with similar-sized trees
  - Provisions encourage the use of renewable energy systems.
2. The Code's Zoning chapter mostly contains provisions that don't address areas of sustainability, though when they do, they're supportive; e.g., it includes provisions for:
  - Conserving trees
  - Requiring an Environmental Impact Report
  - Upholding natural resource protection standards for vegetation, invasive plant species, streams, wetlands and other riparian "corridors."
3. The HARB Design Guidelines attempt to balance preservation with conservation; e.g.:
  - Provision 5.37 states: *"For buildings with double-hung-sash wood windows, aluminum three-track windows with a factory color-coat matching the window trim are appropriate."*
  - Provision 5.8 states: *"When a storm door is required to further protect the front door opening, the storm door design should be simple and should allow the historic door to be visible."*
4. However, there are some potential areas in the HARB Design Guidelines and approval process that could be interpreted as being inconsistent with sustainability objectives

## There are some potential sustainability improvements to HARB Design Guidelines and process that may merit further consideration

1. HARB just changed its process from requiring 17 copies per application to 5 copies, a significant impact on trees. Why not move towards all digital distribution only (i.e., PDFs) and keep the process greener?

- An average of 20-30 pages per application x 17 copies x annual average of 8 applications + RRIK applications required about 4,500 sheets a year, or 9 reams of paper a year
- According to Sierra Club\* that's the equivalent of about a 45 foot tree, 8 inches in diameter every 2 years; or from 2016–2019, the equivalent of 1.5 trees were used in the 17 copies of HARB applications
- If 5 copies of applications are made, it would mean using the equivalent sized tree every 7.5 years

2. Some design guidelines have provisions that may be obstacles to some renewable forms of energy

- Does 5.20 deter the use of solar panels?

*"Significant historic roofing materials and features that are visible from the street should be preserved."*

- Does 5.13 deter the use of domestic EV charging stations?

*"The mounting of... alarm devices, cable boxes, utility meters, security cameras, and other mechanical, electronic, and/or electrical devices should be avoided on primary facades."*

3. The guidelines have provisions that may be obstacles to greater energy efficiency; e.g., provision 5.35 states:

- *"Replacement windows are not justified in the Historic District as a method of improving the thermal performance of windows. Storm windows are the appropriate method of achieving that goal."*
- *"Replacement windows should be considered only as an option to replacing severely deteriorated or missing historic wood sashes."*

\* <https://www.sierraclub.org/sierra/2014-4-july-august/ask-mr-green/how-much-paper-does-one-tree-produce>

\* also  
Guidelines  
for  
TNC  
district