



SOLEBURY TOWNSHIP | 2024 Sustainability Forum



TONIGHT'S AGENDA:

Arrival + Registration	
Solebury Township	John Francis, Township Supervisor EAC Liason
Environmental Advisory Council	EAC Members
- Deer Program	Eric Allen, EAC Chair
- Single Use Plastic Bag Ordinance	Christy Cheever, Township Supervisor
- Sustainability SubCommittee	SSC Members
Penn State University	Brandi Robinson, Energy and Sustainability Policy
Bucks County Planning Commission	Neale Dougherty, BC Sustainability Coordinator
NHS High School Environmental Initiatives	Environmental Club Students + Teachers
Why is Sustainability Important to You?	Shannon Pendleton, CPHC
Tables + Mingling + Questions	
Thank You + Stay Connected!	



SUSTAINABLE SOLEBURY

Clean Energy
Climate & Energy Forum 2022
Electric Vehicle Incentives
Energy Transition Plan Infographic
Energy Transition Plan Roadmap
Environmental Advisory Council

Environmentally-Responsible Roadside Management (Messenger article)
Erosion Sedimentation Control
Land Preservation
Native Plants
Recycling

Sealcoat
Sewage Management
Stormwater Management
Sustainability Subcommittee
Vegetation Management Permit Application
Water Issues & Information

Connect with US!



SOLEBURY TOWNSHIP | What has Solebury Township been up to?



Solebury Township National Leader in Land Preservation



40%
of Township
Land Preserved

Individuals and groups with a vision for preserving natural features and benefits to the public have protected public properties like:



Audubon Society at Honey Hollow Delaware Canal State Park Bowman's Hill Wildflower Preserve

 How Can I Preserve My Property? 

SOLEBURY PRESENTS

KATE ROBESON-GRUBB



SUSTAINABILITY SPECIALIST

After receiving a Bachelor of Science in Energy & Sustainability Policy from Penn State's College of Earth and Mineral Sciences, Kate joined Solebury Township's administrative body in January 2023 as the Township's first-ever Sustainability & Administrative Specialist. This position was created in 2022 following the adoption of the Energy Transition Plan (ETP), and Kate is tasked with facilitating the execution of ETP initiatives, as well as providing administrative support to the Environmental Advisory Council (EAC), the Sustainability Subcommittee (SSC), and assisting in the Township's day-to-day operations.

Solebury's Administrative Fleet Goes Electric!

Introducing our new 2023 Nissan Leaf! Back in June of this year, Solebury Township was selected to receive an award of \$2,000 through the PA DEP Alternative Fuels Incentives Grant Program (AFIG) to put towards the purchase of an EV. By replacing our old gasoline-powered Admin vehicle, this EV will assist the Township in becoming more fuel-efficient by contributing zero tailpipe emissions and saving around 300 gallons of fuel each year!





Environmental Advisory Council (EAC)

Established in 2003, the Solebury EAC taps into the skills and volunteer energy of its residents. Consisting of seven members appointed by the local government, the EAC undertakes a variety of environmental projects and researches issues to advise officials to help inform decision-making regarding the environment.

Our MISSION

To advise our local governmental agencies, including the Planning Commission, Parks & Recreation Board and elected officials, on matters dealing with protection, conservation, management, promotion and use of natural resources, including air, land and water resources, located within the Township.

Members

Eric Allen	Chair
Tim Marsh	Vice Chair
Scott Blank	Member
Hope Blaythorne	Member
Philip Getty	Member
Jeanne Litwin	Member
Shannon Pendleton	Member
Barry Fetteroff	Associate Member

Key Contacts

John S. Francis	Supervisor Liaison
Kate Robeson-Grubb	EAC Administrator



Solebury Township's EAC serves at the approval of the Township Board of Supervisors.



Ongoing Township Environmental Activities



- ✓ Established Environmental Advisory Council in 2004
- ✓ Established 40% of the Township as preserved open space
- ✓ USDA Deer Management Project — sustainable reduction in Solebury's deer population throughout 2023. Roughly 30k lbs of harvested deer meat is donated annually to charity
- ✓ Expanding trail networks and park system
- ✓ Achieved Bird Town and Tree City designations based on conservation efforts
- ✓ Awarded Platinum-level Sustainable PA Community Certification
- ✓ Board of Supervisors passed a resolution to join the Sierra Club's Ready for 100 (RF100) campaign
- ✓ Adopted ordinance prohibiting single-use plastic bags by commercial establishments



Sustainability & ETP Accomplishments



- ✓ Held a Climate & Energy Forum and adopted the Energy Transition Plan (ETP)
- ✓ Hired a Sustainability Specialist on staff
- ✓ Established Sustainability Subcommittee (SSC) under the EAC
- ✓ Partnering with PSU to forward sustainability initiatives: DEP LCAP and capstone projects
- ✓ Purchasing renewable electricity and installed high efficiency lighting for municipal operations
- ✓ Public Works Department migrated to electric hand tools "CLEAN AIR LAWN CARE"
- ✓ Conducted an energy audit of Township municipal complex to promote energy conservation
- ✓ Police patrol fleet contains 8 hybrid vehicles
- ✓ Purchased an electric vehicle for Township use and received AFIG program award (\$2000)



**SUPPORT YOUR LOCAL FOOD PANTRIES
CONTRIBUTE TO ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY**

1 DEER  = 200 MEALS

WE NEED YOUR HELP

**Over 30,000 lbs of
venison donated since
January 2021!!!**

Contact Your USDA Wildlife Services
Representative For More Information

Email: nathan.e.spence@usda.gov
Phone: 215.589.0991



Connect with US!



SOLEBURY TOWNSHIP | EAC: What's the Single Use Plastic Ordinance 2022 ?



RATIONALE:

- Single-use plastic-bag waste can linger on land and in waterways for centuries, creating a serious long-term environmental problem that affects both land and water quality
- Due to the environmental hazards caused by single-use plastic, there is strong public support for the elimination of such products
- Opportunity to eliminate 100% of one category of single-use plastic waste

HISTORY/BACKGROUND:

- Planning for the ordinance began prior to the pandemic
- 2019 state moratorium on plastic bag bans (Phila, Narberth, West Chester, Lower Merion filed lawsuits)
- 2021 – letters sent to Solebury Twp businesses and restaurants requesting voluntary compliance
- June 21, 2022- Solebury Township enacted Ordinance 2022-003, which bans the point-of-sale distribution of single-use plastic bags

DETAILS OF Ordinance 2022-003

- As of the effective date, commercial establishments within the Township prohibited from providing single-use plastic bags to customers at point-of-sale.
- Commercial establishments may make recyclable paper bags available to customers for a uniform charge of \$0.10 per recyclable paper bag.
- All monies collected for the sale of recyclable paper bags shall be retained by commercial establishments.
- Commercial establishments are required to post signage informing customers of the plastic bag prohibition and fee for recyclable paper bags.
- Commercial establishments are prohibited from providing single-use plastic straws and polystyrene containers to customers.

AMENDMENTS

- April 18, 2023- ordinance amended to include banning the use of single-use splash sticks (i.e.; Starbucks plastic drink stoppers)
- Proposed amendment (in-progress) -- single-use plastic utensils only to be provided to patrons upon request

FUN FACTS! Why Are Single-Use Bags Bad For The Environment? 🌍

Plastic Bags

- Are used, on average, for a whopping 12 minutes
- Have a life expectancy of 1,000 years.
- Never *really* decompose. They only break down into smaller pieces of micro plastics.
- Kill about 100,000 marine animals every year. 🐠 🐡 🐙 🐙 🐢

Paper Bags

- Create more waste in the production process compared to plastic bags.
- Take centuries to biodegrade in a landfill.

Guess how many plastic bags are used every year? **4,000,000,000,000**

The most sustainable thing you can do is remember to bring your own bags





Sustainability Subcommittee (SSC)

Our MISSION

To improve Solebury Township's energy efficiency today, on behalf of our community's tomorrow.

Our VISION

To oversee and facilitate the implementation of the Township's Energy Transition Plan.

Our GOALS

- Determine feasible solutions to transition community energy usage to 100% clean, renewable electricity by 2035, and 2050 for heat and transportation.
- Create a scope of work and services / requests for proposals, for community and township consideration.
- Propose Projects, Metrics, and Budgets related to ETP strategies and initiatives for internal review.
- Propose and facilitate Community Engagement and Educational activities to foster an inclusive decision-making process for all.

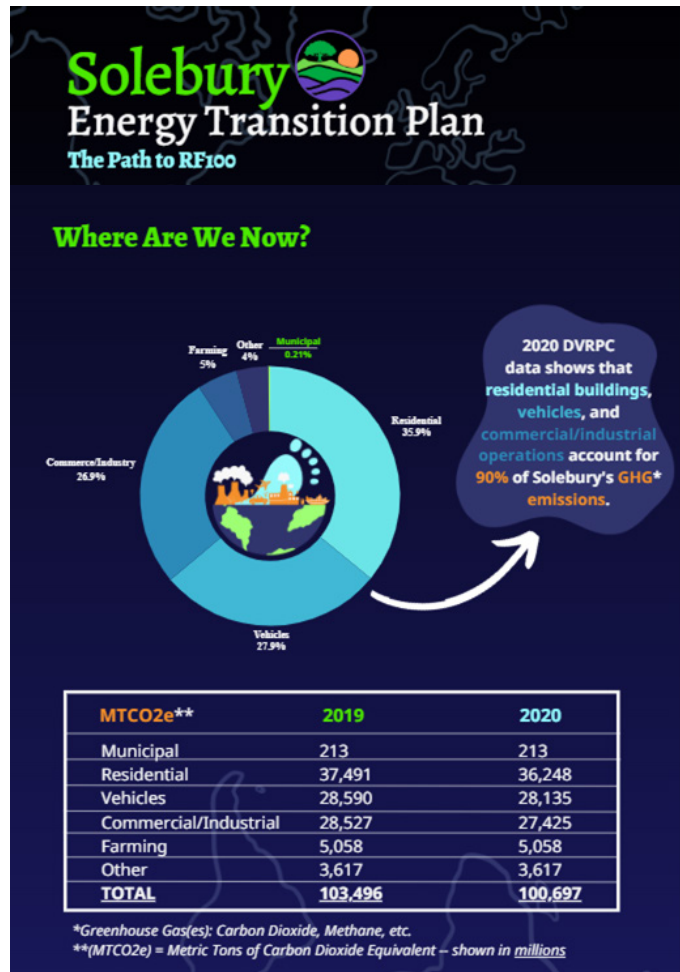
Members

Shannon Pendleton	Member
Jeanne Litwin	Member
Tim Marsh	Member
Kate Robeson-Grubb	Township Administrator
John Francis	Supervisory Board Liaison



Solebury Township's EAC serves at the approval of the Township Board of Supervisors.

SOLEBURY TOWNSHIP | SSC: Energy Transition Planning



Energy Efficiency & Conservation

Well-constructed energy efficiency policies *alone* could enable more than 40% of the emissions cuts needed to reach the Paris Accord climate goals while using existing technology. Additionally, energy waste costs American businesses and households billions of dollars every year.

Electrification

Convert to 100% electricity for all energy needs, including electrification of heating systems and transportation. By retiring technologies that directly combust fossil fuels (natural gas, oil, coal), we can move toward RF100 clean energy goals and improve energy security.

On-Site Solar Generation

Maximize our ability to generate renewable electricity on-site using solar (or other sustainable) technology. The cost of solar photovoltaics (SPVs) has declined more than 70% since 2010, making it competitive with conventional electricity and installing solar systems in residential/commercial buildings financially viable.

Utility-Scale Renewable Energy

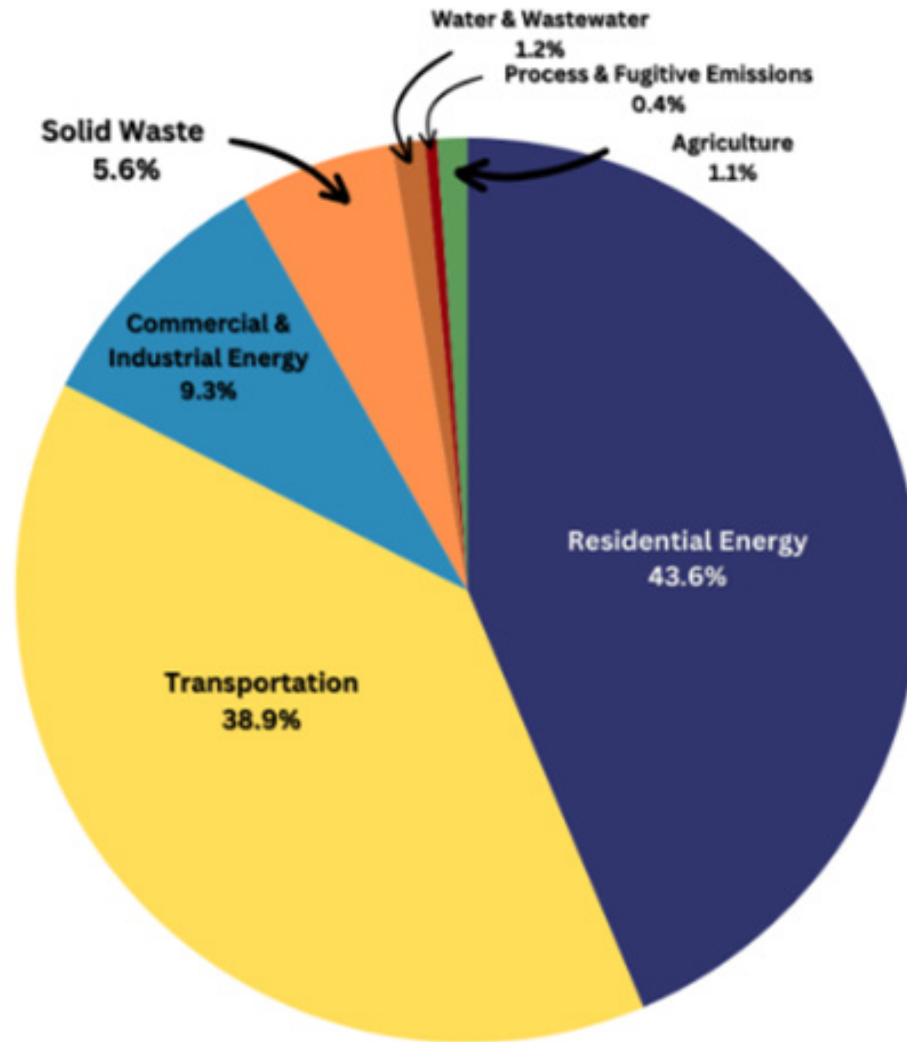
Solebury's municipal facilities already purchase its electricity from renewable sources, but this is only part of the need to ensure that renewable electricity is generated locally. As we move toward 100% electrification, electricity delivered by utility providers (i.e. PECO) must be generated from carbon-free, clean energy sources such as solar, small-scale hydroelectric power, and onshore/offshore wind.

The Benefits?

- Weather Resilience**
- Cost-Effective**
- Energy Independence**
- Healthy Ecosystems & Communities**

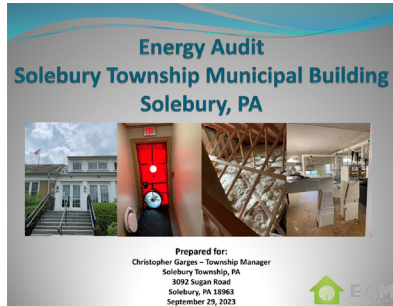
SOLEBURY TOWNSHIP | Baseline Greenhouse Gas Emissions

2022:
59,700 MTCO₂e

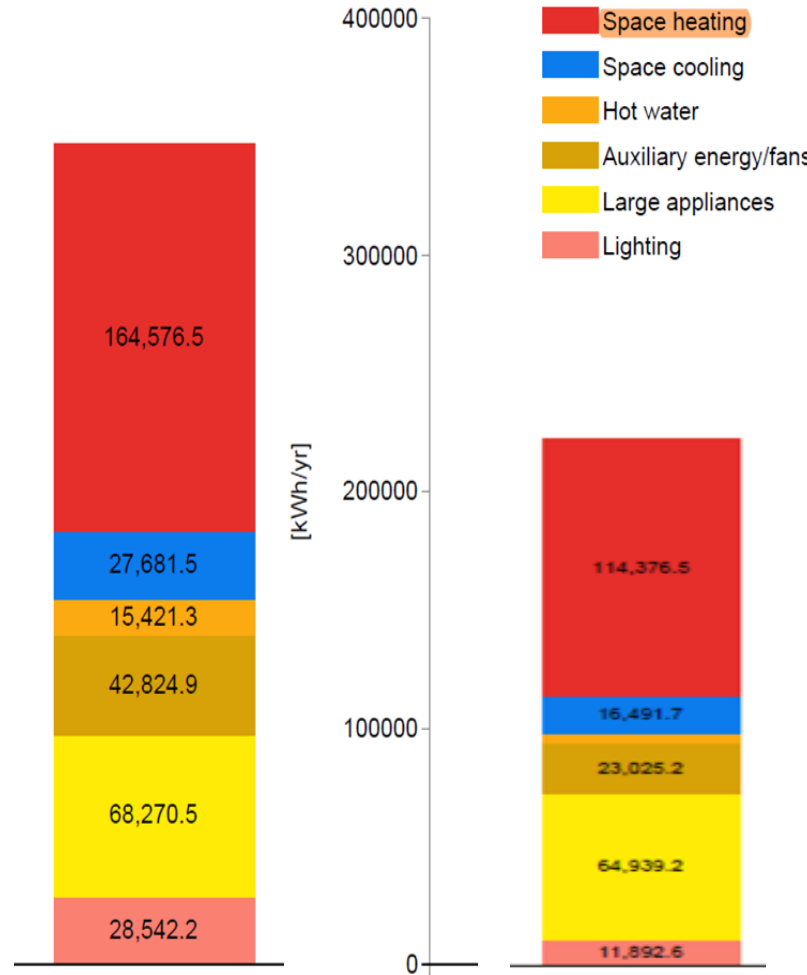


Sector	MTCO ₂ e
Residential Energy	26,048
Transportation	23,212
Commercial & Industrial Energy	5,523
Solid Waste	3,318
Agriculture	638
Water & Wastewater	699
Process & Fugitive Emissions	261
Total Emissions	59,699

SOLEBURY TOWNSHIP | SSC: Township Building Case Study: Energy Audit



EXISTING
347,314 KwH/yr

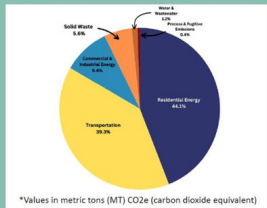


OPTIMIZED:
230,423 KwH/yr

Solebury Township Partnership with PSU



In 2024, Solebury Township's EAC began working with students from PSU's Energy and Sustainability Policy program (ESP). Students were able to gain real-world experience working with a local township to forward sustainability goals.



Two students assisted with updating Solebury's GHG emissions inventory for the township's Local Climate Action Plan (LCAP). Understanding where emissions are coming from is vital for reducing them!

One student worked with the EAC to increase public outreach for the township's Energy Transition Plan (ETP). To reach our sustainable future, we need to have a road map. Most importantly, we need to engage with our community members to make sure we're all on the right path!



Connect with
Sustainable Solebury!

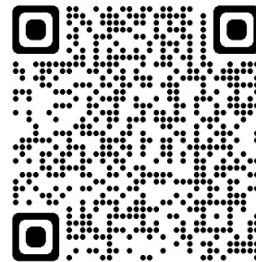


Can I Recycle This?

Recycling or Trash? We'll help you sort it out.



Visit the Solebury Township recycling webpage:



It's Never Been Easier to Buy an EV!

Big Change for 2024: [Point of Sale Tax Credit](#)

For the first time, dealerships can reduce the purchase price of qualifying EVs by up to **\$7,500**. No more waiting for tax season to get your EV savings!



Lower the price of your EV **NOW**



Do you Qualify?

New EV income limits (AGI)

- Single and married filing separately: \$150,000
- Head of household: \$225,000
- Married filing jointly: \$300,000

Used EV income limits (AGI)

- Single and married filing separately: \$75,000
- Head of household: \$112,500
- Married filing jointly: \$150,000

What qualifies?

Sedans & passenger cars



MSRP **\$55k** or less

Vans, SUVs, & Pickup trucks



MSRP **\$80k** or less

See QR code for full list of requirements



Connect with Solebury to help plan for your sustainable future!





Brandi Robinson

Associate Teaching
Professor

Department of Energy and
Mineral Engineering

ABOUT:

Brandi Robinson is an associate teaching professor for the Energy and Sustainability Policy bachelor's program as well as the Renewable Energy and Sustainability Systems master's program. She brings expertise in policy formation and analysis relative to voluntary carbon markets to her teaching, as well as local-scale greenhouse gas inventorying and mitigation strategy development.

RESEARCH PROJECTS:

Robinson's research focuses on the efficacy of utilizing local policy mechanisms and structures of governance to address issues surrounding global climate change. Specifically, her interest is in understanding how to connect the causes and impacts of climate change with areas of existing concern and interest in local communities to build partnerships for meaningful change.

Currently, Robinson serves as chair of the Implementation Technical Advisory Group for the Centre Region's [Climate Action and Adaptation Plan](#). The CAAP seeks to reduce region-wide emissions by 80% by 2050. Robinson also co-directs the [Local Climate Action Program](#) which partners undergraduate and graduate students with local government officials to complete greenhouse gas emissions inventorying and climate policy planning over two semesters.

AWARDS:

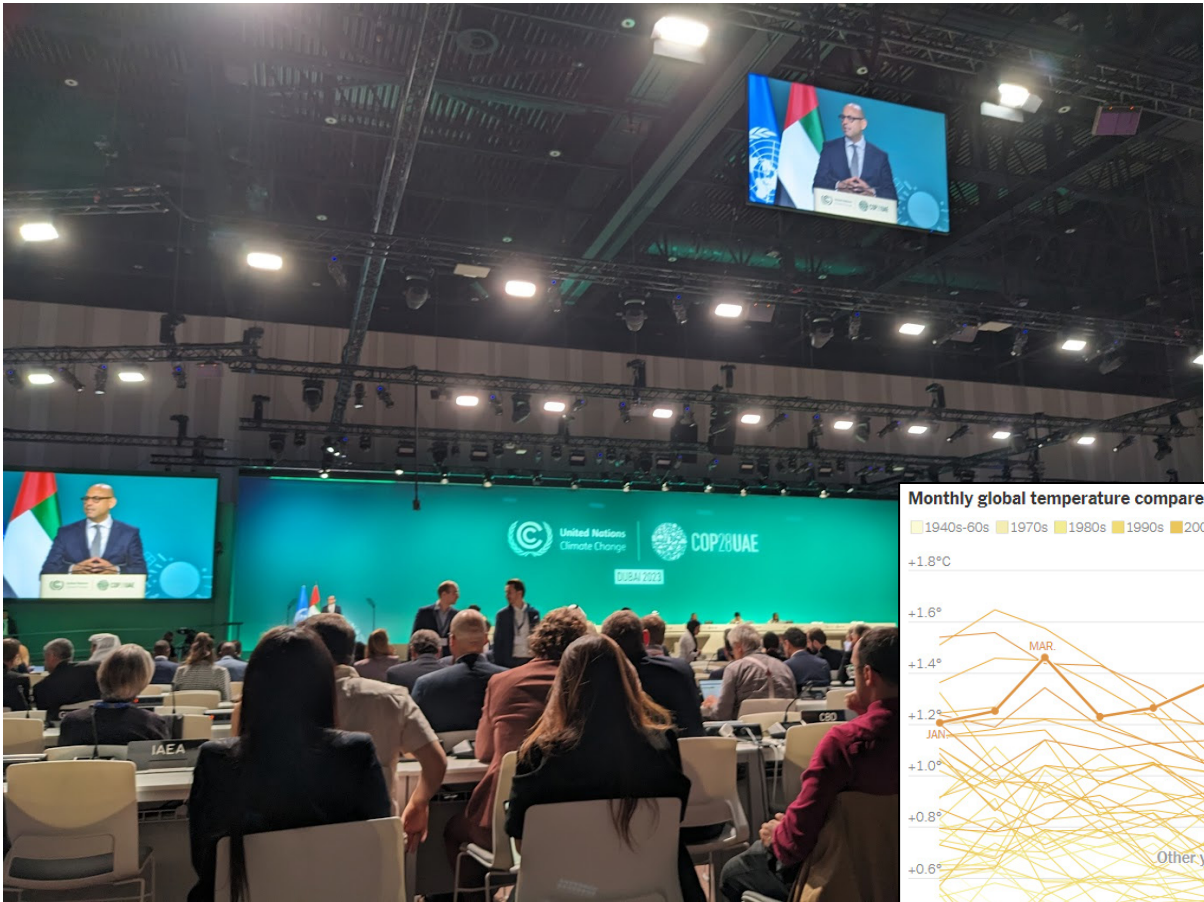
- College of Earth and Mineral Sciences Faculty Advising Award, 2013
- University Faculty Advising Award, 2018



Local Action for Global Solutions

Brandi Robinson
Associate Teaching Professor
Energy and Sustainability Policy
Co-director of the Local Climate Action Program

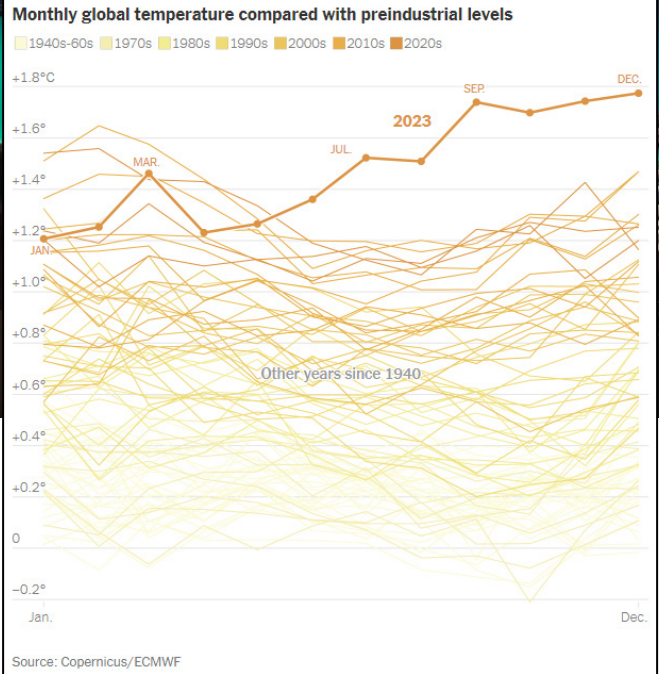
April 4, 2024



“We’re taking baby steps when we need to run.”
 Simon Stiell, Executive Secretary UNFCCC



“We stay laser-focused on our North Star, and that is keeping 1.5 within reach.”
 Sultan Ahmed Al-Jaber
 COP28 President





LOCAL CLIMATE ACTION SUMMIT

Powered by Bloomberg Philanthropies



History of the LCAP

- Started by PA Department of Environmental Protection Energy Programs Office
- Matched university faculty and students across PA with local government officials for individual projects
- Partnered with ICLEI Local Governments for Sustainability for training and software
- Fall: GHG Inventory and Report
Spring: Draft Climate Action Plan



Penn State LCAP Communities

2022 - 2023

- Bucks County
- Doylestown Borough
- Doylestown Township
- East Fallowfield Township
- Erie
- Lower Macungie Township
- Lower Merion Township
- Reading
- Scranton
- State College Borough
- Uwchlan Township
- Wormleysburg Township

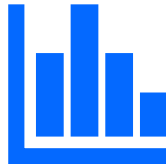
2023 - 2024

- Centre County
- Churchill Borough
- Conshohocken Borough
- Dept of Conservation and Natural Resources
- Homestead, Borough
- Lower Macungie Township
- Mechanicsburg Township
- Palmer Township
- **Solebury Township**
- State College Borough

Fall: Creating an Inventory



Establishing
communication plans for
each team



Collecting and analyzing
data



Navigating the ClearPath
learning curve

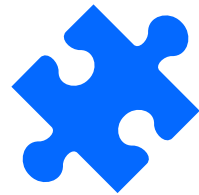


Presenting the inventory
to the local government
publicly

Spring: Climate Planning



Creating a scope of work and deliverables to advance local climate action



Delegating pieces of that work to students



Presenting findings to the local government publicly



Engaging in weekly seminar series

Energy and Sustainability Policy: Capstone

Michael Johnson

- **Supporting EAC's work on outreach for the implementation of the Energy Transition Plan**



Brandi Robinson

Associate Teaching
Professor

Department of Energy and
Mineral Engineering

Thank you!



brobinson@psu.edu



Neale Dougherty

Bucks County Director Of Sustainability

Bucks County Controller 2018 to 2022

DELAWARE VALLEY
dvrpc
REGIONAL
PLANNING COMMISSION



SUSTAINABLE ENERGY PARTNERSHIP OF SOUTHEAST PA

Memorandum of Understanding for creating the

Sustainable Energy Partnership

of Southeast PA

Since September 2020, bringing us together to explore new approaches to procure electricity and renewable energy for county operations, in order to achieve:

Partnership Goals

- 1** **Meet renewable energy targets** through access to large-scale renewables
- 2** Access low, transparent, and stable electricity prices
- 3** Ability to on-board additional parties such as municipalities, authorities, and schools

Fulfilling Ready for 100 Resolution (2/17/21 COMMISSIONERS 17a): 100% renewable electricity by 2035

All
counties:



Adopted C-
PACE



Dedicated
Sustainability
Oriented
Staff



Climate
Action Plan

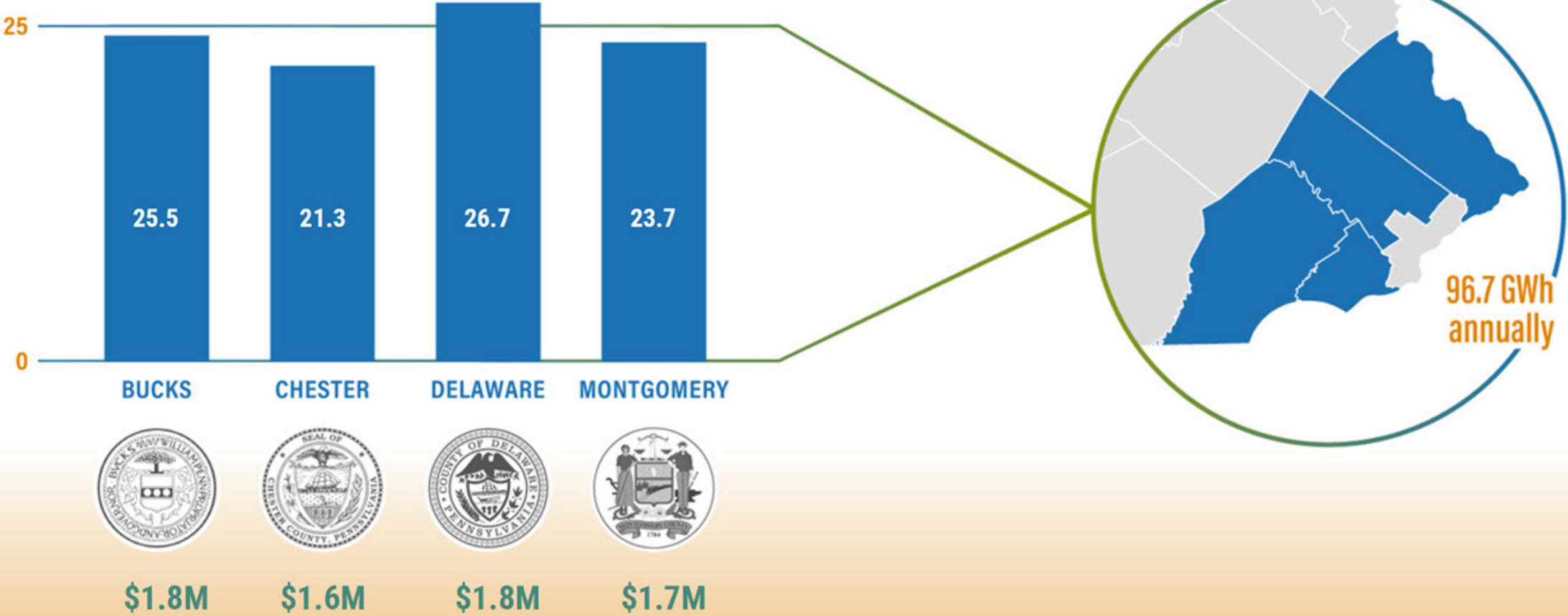


Purchasing
100% Green-e
RECS

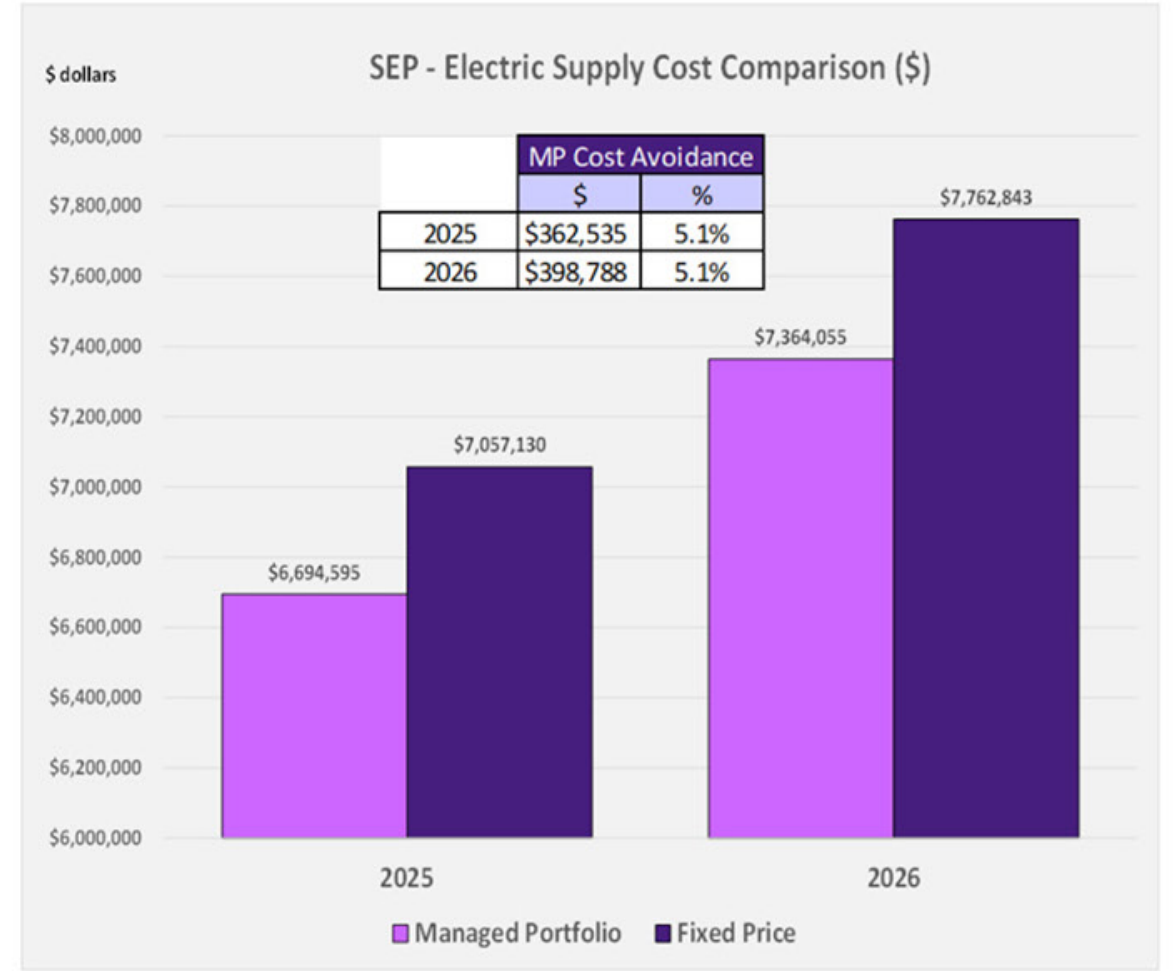
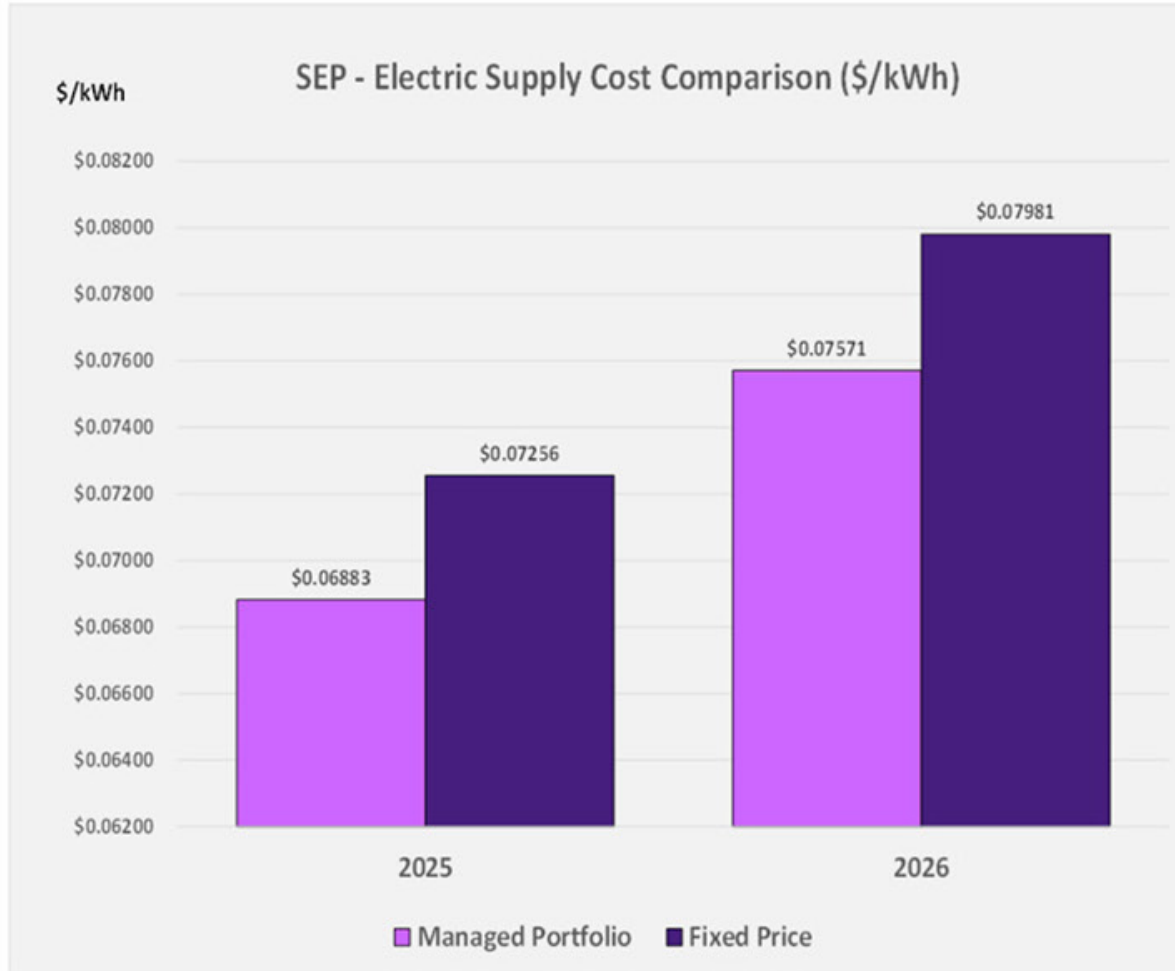
Current County Electricity Procurement



Annual Electric Usage (GWh)



Electric Supply Cost Comparison



Rates and costs include PA Gross Receipts Tax (GRT)

The Partnership recommends that we pursue a **Self-Managed Portfolio** in PJM (subaccount). This is a more flexible, engaged, and transparent procurement strategy that will allow to meet our shared goals through proactive and collaborative action in energy markets.



Flexibility



Transparency



Cost-effective



Expert Guided



Renewables
Integration



Expand
membership

DELAWARE VALLEY
dvrpc
REGIONAL
PLANNING COMMISSION



SUSTAINABLE ENERGY PARTNERSHIP OF SOUTHEAST PA

Question?

NHS Environmental Club

OUR VISION: To educate NHS students on local and global environmental issues in an effort to help reduce our environmental impact as individuals and as a school community.



2022-23 Accomplishments



- 1) **2022 Climate + Energy Forum**
 - presented our goals to the larger township
- 2) **Campus + Community Clean-Ups**
 - involved 70+ students in efforts
- 3) **Volunteering w/ Community Orgs.**



2022-23 Accomplishments Continued

- 1) **Facilities Committee Membership**
- 2) **Earth Day & EV Festival**
 - spread our message to the community
 - involved **20+** sponsors and **20+** EVs
 - raised **\$1500+** for the club
- 3) **Renewable Energy Plan**
 - organized 4 years of energy data + presented it to facilities committee



2023-24 Accomplishments/Goals

1) Community Involvement

- Student Involvement
 - 130+ students involved this year!
- Campus / Canal Clean-Ups
- Earth Day and Electric Vehicle Festival
 - April 27th 10:00 AM-2:00 PM

2) District Outreach

- Volunteer Opportunities
- Connecting w/ Local Organizations
 - AWA, Township EAC, Exact Solar
- Fundraising
 - T-Shirt Sales, Lions Fest, etc.

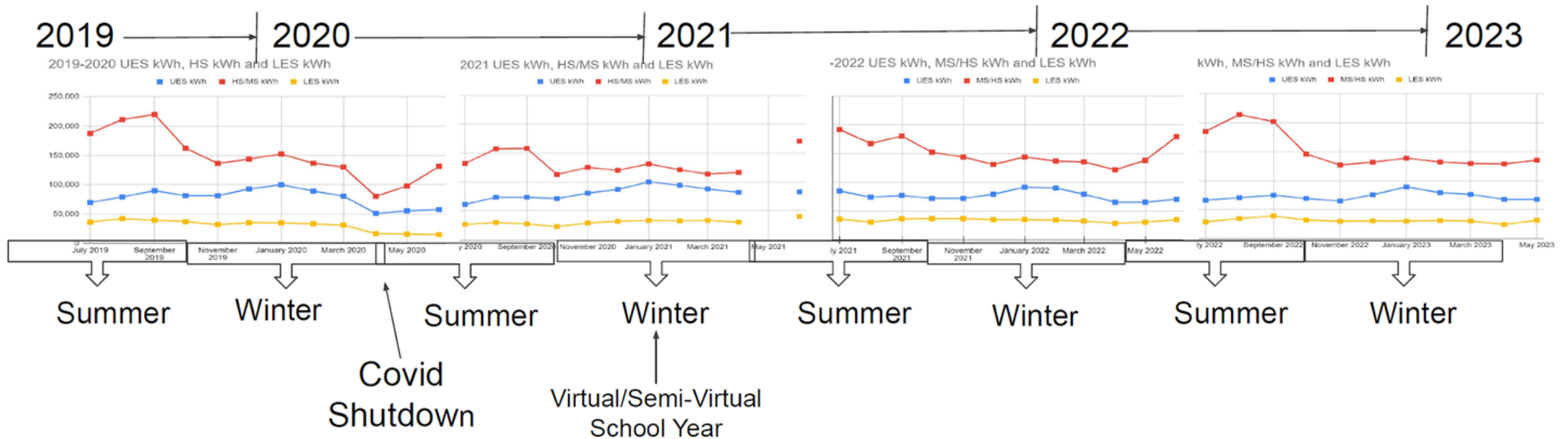


2023-24 Accomplishments/Goals Continued

3) Sustainability Plan

- Renewable Energy
- Reduced Waste
- Facilities Committee Membership*

2019-2023 Sequenced
Compilation of Energy Data





**New Hope-Solebury
Environmental Club Presents:**

2nd annual

Earth Day & Electric Vehicle Festival

APRIL 27, 2024: 10 AM - 2 PM

SPONSOR AND
VENDOR INFO:



180 WEST BRIDGE
STREET, NEW HOPE,
PA 18938

VARIOUS TABLE AND SPONSOR
OPPORTUNITIES
\$20 PER VEHICLE IN SHOW
SPECTATORS FREE
FOOD TRUCKS

@ 12 PM

CAR SHOW
INFO:



IG: @nhsdenvironmentalclub
email: lmacdonald@nhsd.org

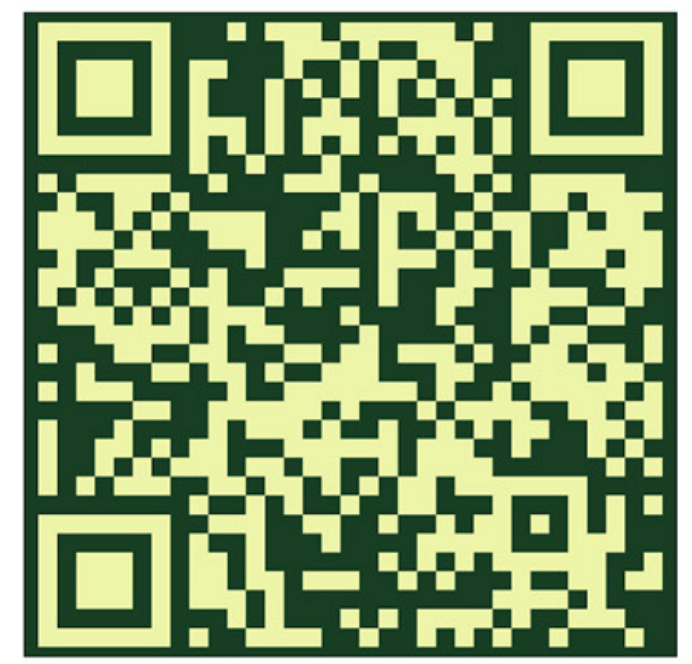
JUDGING @ 1 PM

Earth Day & Electric Vehicle Festival 2024

SPONSOR AND VENDOR INFO:



CAR SHOW SIGN-UP INFO:



Contact Information

Mrs. Lever - Co-Advisor

clever@nhsd.org

Mr. Mac - Co-Advisor

lmacdonald@nhsd.org

Sofia Tasoluk - Co-President

tasoluksofia@nhsdlions.org

Rena Xu - Co-President

xurena@nhsdlions.org

Cadence Scott - Vice President

scottcadence@nhsdlions.org

Ila Pendleton - Secretary

pendletonila@nhsdlions.org

Olivia Naranjo - Treasurer

naranjoolivia@nhsdlions.org



@nhsdenvironmentalclub



THANK YOU, SPEAKERS!

Name	Group / Title / Topic
John Francis	Solebury Township BOS - EAC Liason - Solebury Environmental Leadership
EAC	Environmental Advisory Council / Sustainability Sub-Committee
- Eric Allen	Solebury Township EAC Chair - Deer Management Program
- Christy Cheever	Solebury Township BOS - Plastic Bag Ban
- SSC	Sustainability SubCommittee
Brandi Robinson	Penn State University - Energy and Sustainability Policy
Neale Dougherty	Bucks County Director of Sustainability
NHS Environmental Club	High School Initiatives

WE WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU!

Take a moment for the
Community Poll 😊

- ~ Share your ideas!
- ~ Sign up for news and events!



Community Poll!

VISIT TONIGHT'S LOCAL ORGANIZATIONS!

<i>Bird Town PA</i>	<i>Deer Program</i>
<i>Naturalizing New Hope / native plantings that help wildlife</i>	<i>NHS Environmental Club</i>
<i>Electric Buildings / Airtightness Game</i>	<i>PECO / Home Energy Audits</i>
<i>Primrose Creek Watershed Assoc</i>	<i>Solebury Township Trails + Parks</i>
<i>Aquetong Watershed Assoc</i>	<i>Spring Creek Farm</i>
<i>EAC SSC / Sign Up + Suggestion Table</i>	<i>Solebury Chief of Police</i>
<i>Bucks County Conservation District / Enviroscope Model</i>	<i>Bucks County Audubon Society / Tuckamony Farms</i>

Visit with tonight's speakers and these sustainable groups!

LEARN MORE : *Helpful Links Handout!*

<i>Bird Town PA</i>	<i>Deer Program</i>
<i>Naturalizing New Hope / native plantings that help wildlife</i>	<i>NHS Environmental Club</i>
<i>Electric Buildings / Airtightness Game</i>	<i>PECO / Home Energy Audits</i>
<i>Primrose Creek Watershed Assoc</i>	<i>Solebury Township Trails + Parks</i>
<i>Aquetong Watershed Assoc</i>	<i>Spring Creek Farm</i>
<i>EAC SSC / Sign Up + Suggestion Table</i>	<i>Solebury Chief of Police</i>
<i>Bucks County Conservation District / Enviroscape Model</i>	<i>Bucks County Audubon Society / Tuckamony Farms</i>



Helpful Links!

THANK YOU for coming!