

CHELTENHAM TOWNSHIP SUSTAINABILITY PLAN



CHELTENHAM TOWNSHIP
MONTGOMERY COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA
DRAFT DECEMBER, 2012

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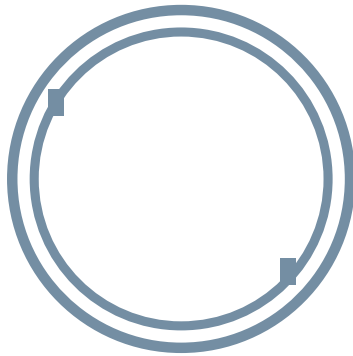
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SUSTAINABILITY PLAN

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY



In the spring of 2011, the Cheltenham Township Commissioners decided to initiate a township-wide planning effort to create a Sustainability Plan in response to the growing interest among citizens to explore ways to make the community more resilient and environmentally friendly. Residents, businesses, community groups and organizations are all stakeholders in the plan, which seeks to create a united vision for a sustainable community, shared goals to achieve that vision, and a set of specific actions that the Cheltenham Township government can take to become a sustainable municipality.

In May 2011 a group of 45 citizens, elected and appointed Township officials and staff and representatives of major Cheltenham institutions, including the School District, Arcadia University, and Einstein Hospital, were selected to represent the community on the Sustainable Cheltenham General Committee with the Montgomery County Planning Commission serving as the planning consultant. These members played a significant role by meeting on a regular basis to provide input during the process and to review drafts of the plan. The purpose of the Committee was to identify aggressive community-wide goals, furthering the vision of a Sustainable Cheltenham, that can be implemented with a set of concrete, achievable actions and that can be accomplished by Cheltenham Township government. Workshops were held to discuss specific issues in addition to a public open house, held by the Committee, to inform the public of the efforts and to receive their input. A public website was created where the writing team distributed information and visitors to the site could engage in a dialogue about sustainability. The Board of Supervisors was given regular updates on the progress of the plan at public meetings. Throughout the planning process an effort has been made to reach out to the public because,

without the input and support of the community, this plan could never become the useful public tool it is intended to be.

The plan is divided into six sections. Each section can be used separately, or they can be read together as one publication.

Executive Summary - This section is a concise summary of the plan.

Introduction – This section introduces the reader to Cheltenham Township, the topic of sustainability and why Cheltenham strives to be a sustainable community. It also describes in more detail the planning process and the Cheltenham Township Sustainability Plan.

Cheltenham Community-Wide Goals and Objectives – This section describes the goals and objectives for Cheltenham Township. These goals and objectives can be used by any organization, institution or individual in the Township to promote sustainability:

Community Engagement

Engage and educate all Cheltenham residents and stakeholders to unite behind a shared set of goals to build a sustainable future.

Energy

Maximize energy efficiency, minimize energy demand and emissions, and shift all community electricity consumption to renewably-sourced energy generated within the township and the region.

Mobility

Minimize vehicular travel and emissions, increase use of alternative modes of transportation, and make it desirable, safe, and convenient to walk and bike throughout the township and connect to the region.

Waste Reduction

Minimize solid and hazardous waste disposal, and maximize the re-use of waste products as a resource.

Ecological Stewardship

Protect and improve the overall health and ecological diversity of the Township's habitats, waterways, and soils, both on public and private lands.

Sustainable Development

Promote building, land use, site development, and landscaping that respects the natural environment and maximizes clean and efficient use of resources, and ensure that all permitting, codes, and regulations support the community's sustainability goals.

Water Management

Minimize stormwater hazards, reduce wastewater flows, increase natural absorption of rainwater, and maximize the utility of rainwater as a resource.

Local Economy

Encourage and support local and regional agriculture, artisans, businesses, institutions, and industry by strengthening connections to, and markets for, local goods and services.

Healthy Living For All

Promote healthy living in Cheltenham through equitable, affordable, and safe access to information, education, recreation, natural areas, car-free transportation, fresh local foods, health care services, clean air, and clean water.

Monitoring

Track and report the progress of measurable implementation strategies; re-evaluate and update goals and targets as needed.

of sustainability in Cheltenham and have easy access to pertinent data.

Municipal Action Plan – The Cheltenham Township government strives to be a leader in sustainability and therefore should serve as a model for Township citizens. The Cheltenham Township Sustainability Municipal Action Plan outlines action items that the Township can undertake to function in a more sustainable manner. The Cheltenham Township government will work to implement as many of the action items as possible. Although the timeline for each item may differ, for example some action items could be implemented immediately while others may take years, every item is worthwhile and will be pursued as soon as possible. Community members are encouraged to create their own action items which they can undertake in order to accomplish the Township's sustainability goals.

Input from Stakeholders - The material in this section contains valuable comments gathered during the public process and is not an official part of the Sustainability Plan.

This plan is meant to evolve and change over time. The goals, objectives and action items should be assessed on a regular basis and modified to fit the changing needs of Cheltenham Township. In the near future, new technologies and techniques may become available that will help Cheltenham become more sustainable. Or new challenges may arise that require swift action by the community. This plan should adapt to the needs of Cheltenham Township so that it can be a valuable tool to promote sustainability. In 2020, the township could perform an overall assessment of the Sustainability Plan and perform a formal update of the plan to ensure it remains a useful tool for community.

Sustainability Resources – This section functions as a resource for Cheltenham Township to pursue the sustainability goals. For each goal, this section provides information so that the reader can understand the role



Cheltenham Township was one of Philadelphia’s first suburbs, growing as railroads and roadways were extended out from the city allowing people to migrate out of the city for a variety of social and economic reasons. But, the roadways were not the reason that people decided to live in Cheltenham. The incentives for expansion came from the desire of residents and businesses to benefit from the natural resources Cheltenham had to offer – woodlands, clean streams, and an exceptional living environment that includes preserved historic structures among a diverse building inventory filled with people of all races, ethnicities and backgrounds.

Although much has changed over its 300 year history, the Township remains an attractive community in which to live and work. Cheltenham Township’s combined economic, cultural and natural amenities have attracted over 36,000 residents and 18,000 jobs to the municipality. Some of these amenities include:

- over 800 acres of preserved land
- a highly educated, civically engaged and diverse community
- nationally- and regionally-respected educational institutions
- thriving business centers
- easy access to transportation choices

Township officials, residents and business owners understand that their quality of life depends on preserving and enhancing these amenities. They are concerned that the factors that brought them to the community may erode without proper long-term sustainability planning. Throughout Cheltenham Township’s history freethinking, creative and civically minded people have contributed to the creation of the present day Township. Moving toward sustainability will require this same lim-

less creative problem solving ability and willingness to adapt to our changing times within the availability of natural resources.

Creating and maintaining a healthy community that balances social, economic, and environmental needs requires an understanding of sustainability, a term that has many meanings. In 1987 the Brundtland Commission, a committee formed to promote sustainability around the world, gave sustainability its classic definition of “meeting the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs.” While the true meaning of sustainability is constantly being explored and revised, at the core of sustainability is the triple bottom line: environmental, social, and economic responsibility, along with a responsibility to not harm the current or future generations. A harmony must be established between the built and natural world which takes into account these three factors and the constraints of our natural resources and local economics.

There are numerous social and environmental factors that influence the quality of life in any community. Some of the most pressing include: climate change, en-

ergy and food security, human health, natural resource conservation, and population growth. There are also local issues which are less broad in their impact, but no less important to quality of life. These include congestion, economic vitality, and open space preservation. Implementing sustainability requires establishing and maintaining the difficult and delicate balance among individuals, society, the economy and natural resources all while taking into account environmental and social changes. To do so, sustainability principles must be established and followed in a consensus-building, participatory process.

There are numerous sustainability principles that can form the foundation for a sustainability plan, linking the community vision to a realistic process to achieve mutually agreed upon goals. Cheltenham's Sustainability Plan relies on the four Natural Steps proposed by Dr. Karl Henrik-Robert. The Natural Steps will be the benchmark by which the Committee evaluates every policy and practice considered in the plan. All recommendations in the Cheltenham Township Sustainability Plan will seek to meet these four conditions:

- Reducing to the extent possible our dependence on fossil fuels and ecologically-persistent chemicals
- Eliminating all wasteful use of scarce natural resources and synthetic substances
- Eliminating all thoughtless and unnecessary destruction and degradation of and encroachment on our natural ecosystems and resources
- Meeting everyone's human needs fairly and efficiently

Agreement on these principles was achieved in a process that spanned more than a year and involved all parts of the Cheltenham Township community, in an effort called "Sustainable Cheltenham." That effort produced this Cheltenham Township Sustainability Plan – an overarching document using these sustainability principles to guide the community into a future where thoughtful choices and coordinated action can foster economic vitality, preserve natural resources and ensure that people and neighborhoods thrive.

To succeed, a sustainability plan must also take into account the broad scope that these issues cover. Over the years the township has studied many of these issues and developed reports to plan for the future. The Cheltenham Township Sustainability Plan is written in the context of these previous planning efforts and takes their work into consideration. Some of the

Township's previous planning efforts include, but are not limited to:

- Cheltenham Comprehensive Plan
- Wall Park Master Plan
- Tookany Creek Trail Master Plan
- Tookany Creek Watershed Management Plan
- Tookany/Tacony-Creek Integrated Watershed Management Plan
- Community Revitalization Plan
- Arcadia University Master Plan
- Commercial District Enhancement Plan
- Glenside Commercial District/Arcadia University Revitalization and Circulation Feasibility Study
- Cheltenham Avenue Business Improvement District
- Cheltenham Open Space Plan

To protect and enhance the resources of the community for future generations, Cheltenham Township realized it needed to be a pioneer and create a formal sustainability plan to address the problems mentioned above. These new efforts will build upon previous sustainability initiatives and successes:

- 4 million dollars in federal, state and county grant funded stream bank restoration and stabilization efforts.
- Large scale recycling program that diverts more than 5.5 million pounds of materials each year from the waste stream.
- Greening efforts that have resulted in awards and recognition from the Pennsylvania Horticultural Society and the Montgomery County Lands Trust.
- Continued exploration of green energy and green building opportunities.
- Focus on local sustainability issues by local organizations and citizens groups.
- Creation of an Environmental Advisory Council to manage and oversee all township efforts regarding environmental issues.

The sustainability plan can become an important municipal tool to address the issues Cheltenham faces. Impacts from climate change, energy insecurity, natural resource loss, population and demographic shifts, shifts in regional economies, and environmental justice issues are first felt on a local level. Municipalities are able to incorporate sustainable practices into their daily oper-

ations and long term planning to address these issues internally, which buffer the local economy and environment from these impacts. A municipality that adopts a sustainability plan can lead by example and advocate for sustainable practices among businesses and residents.

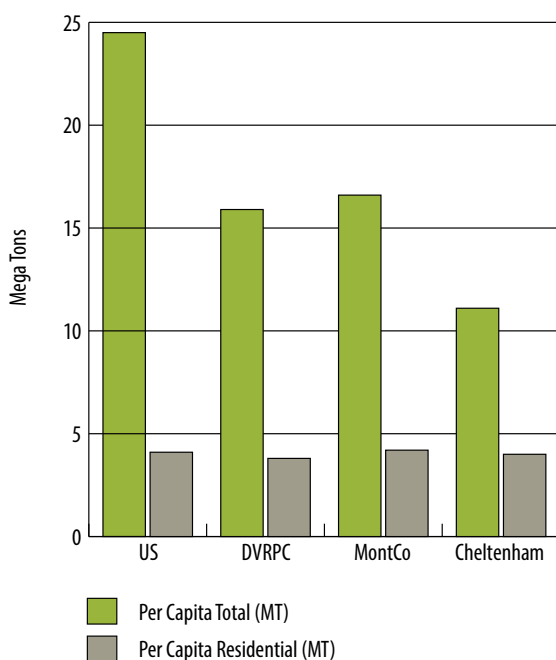
The plan outlined in this document is a collaboration between Township officials and staff, Montgomery County Planning Commission (MCPC), and the Sustainable Cheltenham Committee (a group of 45 citizens and representatives of major Cheltenham institutions, including the School District of Cheltenham Township, Arcadia University, and Einstein Hospital). Several public meetings, a sustainability open house and a public website were used to create a dialogue between residents and the Sustainability Committee. These meetings and discussions highlighted some of the major challenges facing Cheltenham and its communities:

Energy Quick Fact: The combustion of natural gas, coal and petroleum for energy lead to the emission of greenhouse gases: carbon dioxide, methane and nitrous oxide. While there is a national trend towards using more renewable energy resources, imported fossil fuels continue to be the main source of national and global energy production. According to the DVRPC Regional Greenhouse Gas Emissions Inventory, Cheltenham emits significantly less GHGs per capita from total emission sources than the national average. However, this difference is essential-

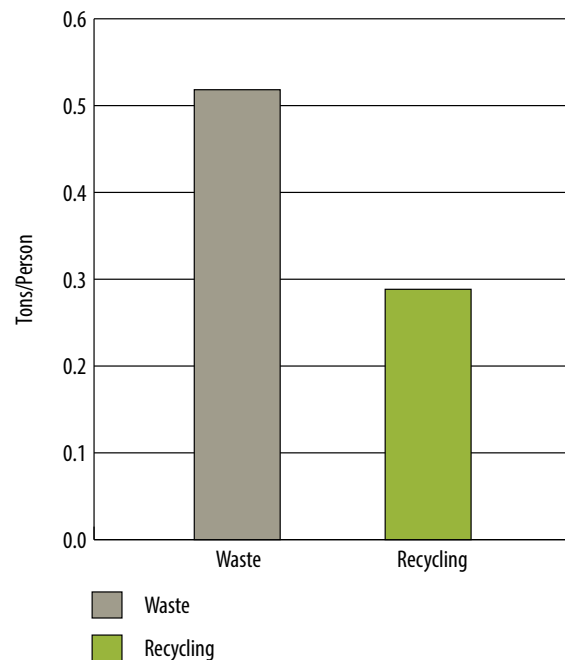
ly eliminated when only residential GHG emissions are taken into account

Waste Quick Fact: Waste production continues to be a major environmental problem. In 2010, Americans generated approximately *250 million tons of trash*. Unless handled properly, disposal of such large quantities of waste, some hazardous, can lead to groundwater and air pollution. Current disposal practices often ignore the potential for reuse of these materials. Cheltenham residents produce less waste per capita than the national average, but only by 0.01 pounds. In 2010, Cheltenham’s 36,793 residents produced 19,070 tons of residential and commercial waste and diverted 10,611 tons into the recycling stream.

PER CAPITA WASTE CONSUMPTION IN 2010



PER CAPITA CONSUMPTION IN CHELTENHAM IN 2010



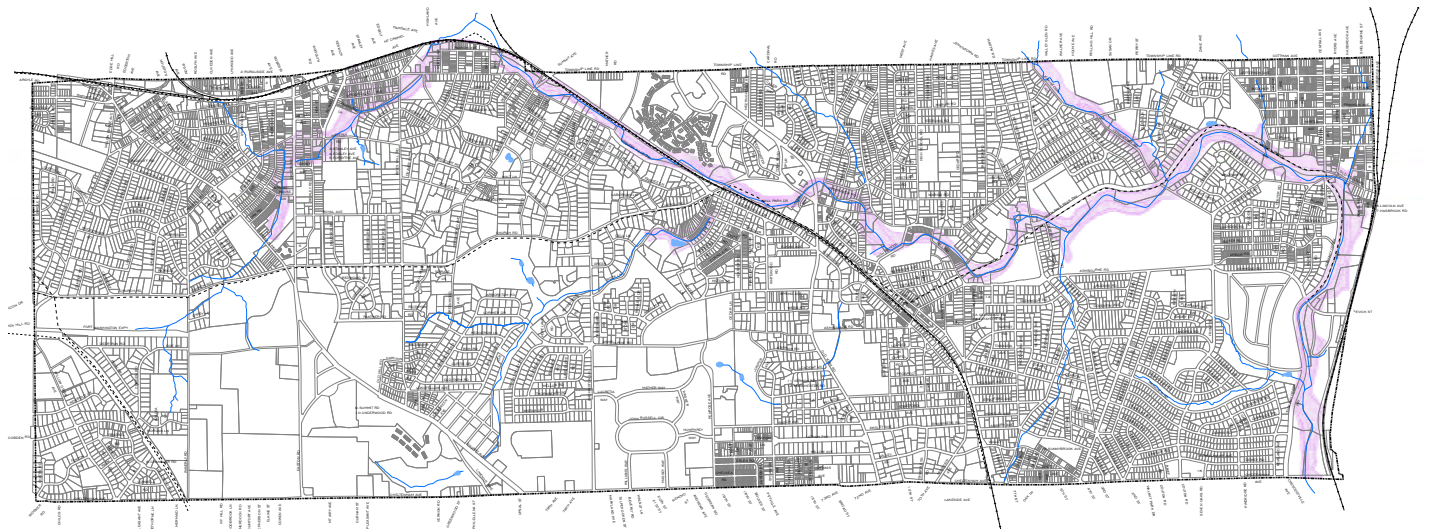
Water Quick Fact: The US EPA estimates that there are *41,154 impaired waterbodies* nationally. This impairment is a result of contamination by pathogens, heavy metals, nutrients or organic materials, usually from atmospheric deposition, agriculture, stormwater, or hydrologic modifications. Cheltenham lies primarily within the Tookany Creek watershed, which has been listed as impaired by the US EPA. Of the township's 9.06 square miles, 98% has been developed. Of that, *32.6% is impervious surface*, discharging significant amounts of stormwater to the creek.

Climate Change Quick Fact: Climate change generally refers to the significant and lasting change in global temperatures, weather and climate patterns via anthropogenic sources; it does not depend on whether "global warming" is or is not happening. It is also influenced by natural sources: oceanic processes, variations in solar radiation, and volcanic activity. Current climate-related impacts include changes in precipitation patterns (heavy downpours, drought), rising temperatures, and earlier snowmelt. Changes in climate have the potential to influence crop, livestock and human health. Cheltenham Township has approximately 380 acres in the 100-year floodplain. Climate change will influence the strength of storms, potentially leading to damaging and recurring flooding in these areas.

IMPERVIOUS COVERAGE

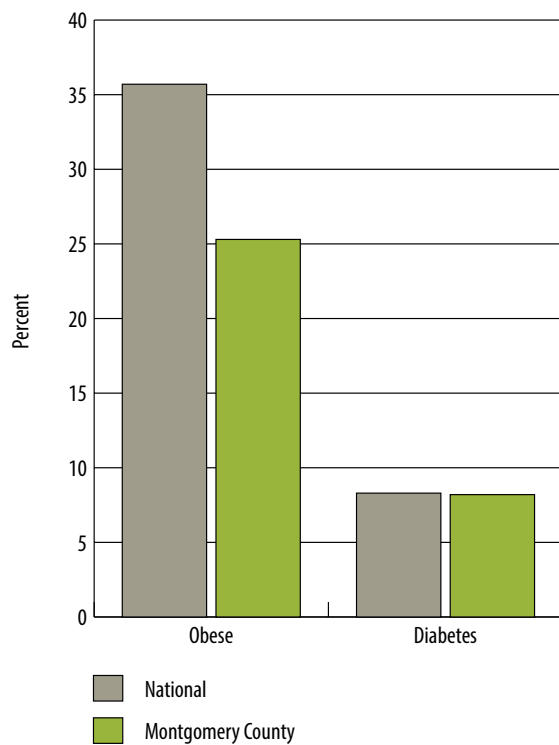


CURRENT FEMA FLOODPLAIN



Healthy Living Quick Fact: Some of the nation’s population lacks access to the basics underlying a healthy lifestyle. This could be a lack of access to education, healthcare, healthy foods, recreation, transportation, and clean air and water. This is exemplified in the nation’s obesity rates, where more than *one-third of U.S. adults* (35.7 percent) are obese, and approximately 8.3 percent of the population has diabetes. In Cheltenham, 25 percent of the population suffers from obesity and the resultant health problems (8.2 percent of the population has diabetes).

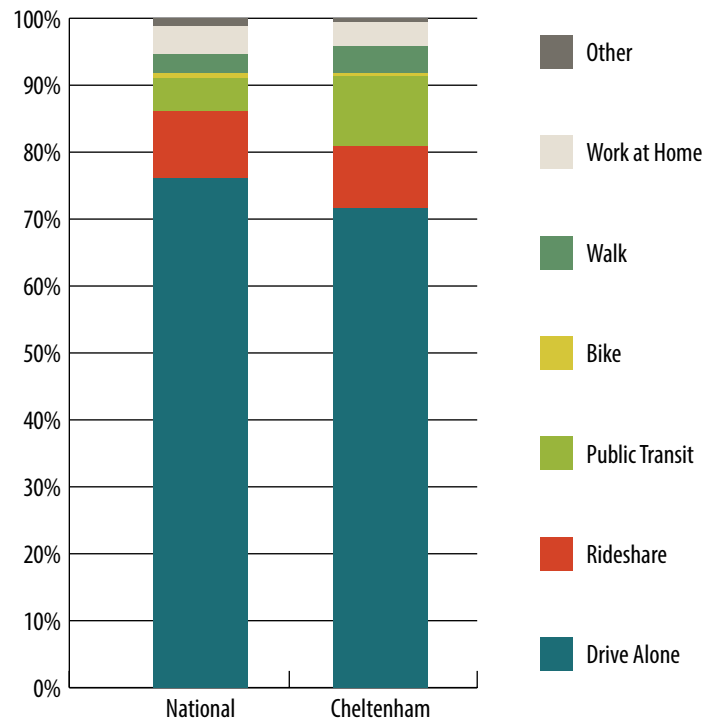
OBEISITY AND DIABETES RATES



Transportation Quick Fact: While there is a push to use alternative modes of transportation, the single-occupancy vehicle remains the most prevalent mode of transit. In 2009, 86% of national commuters drove cars (either single-occupancy or carpooled), 5% used public transportation, 3% walked, and 0.6% biked. A car-centric transportation system relies on imported oil, emits carbon dioxide and other pollutants, reduces opportunities for physical exercise, and requires a network of impervious surfaces. The relatively easy access to public transportation means that Cheltenham’s population has a higher than

average transit use (10.5 percent in 2010). However, the majority of the Cheltenham’s population still relies on single occupancy vehicles for commuting.

MODES OF TRANSPORTATION



The Sustainability Plan

Discussions among residents, the Sustainable Cheltenham Committee, and MCPC about these issues led to the identification of ten community-wide goals focusing on sustainability. Each goal contains a set of objectives for private as well as public (local government) action, and the potential for public-private ventures. The community took the planning process one step further and identified a set of concrete, achievable actions that the local governments could take to meet these important community health objectives.

This plan is meant to evolve and change over time. The goals, objectives and action items should be assessed on a regular basis and modified to fit the changing needs of Cheltenham Township. In the near future, new technologies and techniques may become available that will help Cheltenham become more sustainable. Or new challenges may arise that require swift action by the community. This plan should adapt to the needs of Cheltenham Township so that it can be a valuable tool to

promote sustainability. In 2020, the township could perform an overall assessment of the Sustainability Plan and perform a formal update of the plan to ensure it remains a useful tool for community. The rest of this document will discuss these goals and actions in greater detail.

The Cheltenham Sustainability Plan is divided into various sections detailed below. Each section can be used separately, or they can all be read as one publication. The Cheltenham Sustainability Plan contains the following elements:

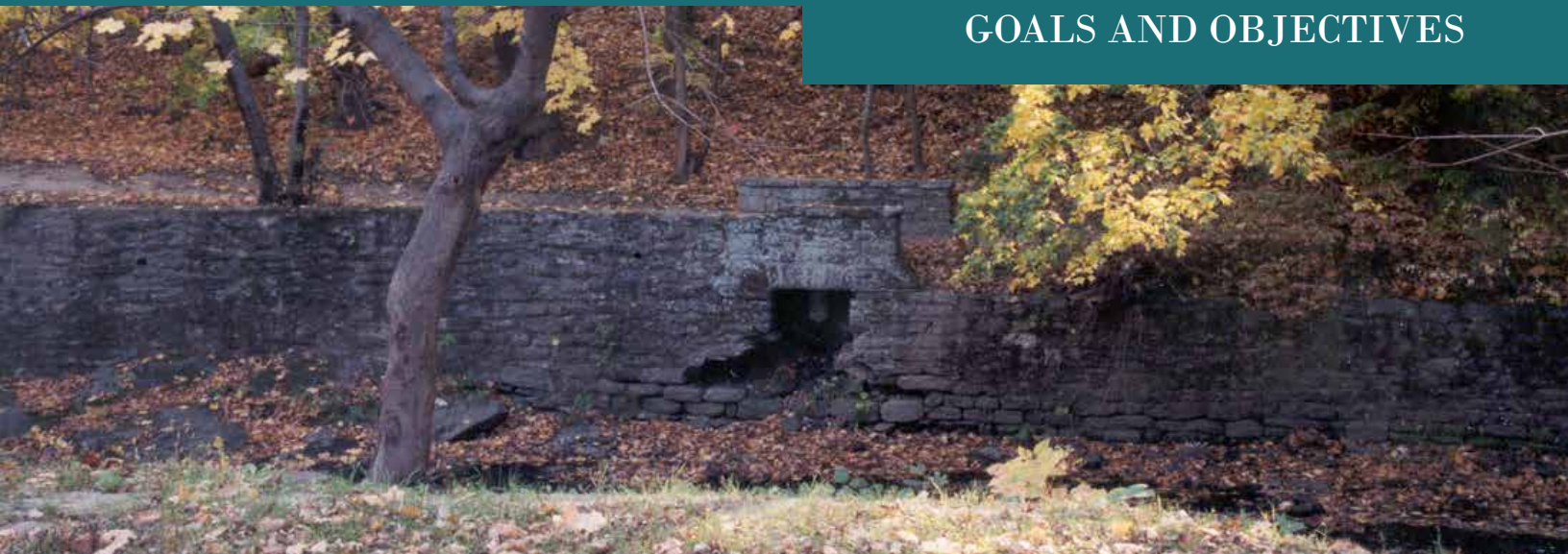
Executive Summary – The executive summary is a concise description of the reasons for the plan, the planning process, how the plan is structured and how it will be implemented.

Cheltenham Community Goals and Objectives – This section describes the goals and objectives for Cheltenham Township. These goals and objectives can be used by any organization, institution or individual in the Township to promote sustainability.

Sustainability Resources – This section functions as a resource for Cheltenham Township to pursue the sustainability goals. For each goal, this section provides information so that the reader can understand the role of sustainability in Cheltenham.

Municipal Action Plan – Cheltenham Township government strives to be a leader in sustainability. If the Township hopes its businesses and residents will live in a more sustainable manner, then the Township government should commit itself to be a “good citizen” and set a good example. The Cheltenham Township Sustainability Municipal Action Plan identifies many steps that the Township could take to operate in a more sustainable manner. The Cheltenham Township government has indicated its intention to implement as many of the action items as it can. Some may not be accomplished immediately and some will take consistent resolve over several years to accomplish, but all the items are worthwhile and will be pursued as soon as possible. All members of the community – especially larger employers, academic institutions, school districts, hospitals, and private living communities – are encouraged to create their own sustainability action plans and outline the steps they can undertake to accomplish our community’s sustainability goals.

GOALS AND OBJECTIVES



After much discussion and analysis of existing community conditions, and a group visioning process, the Sustainable Cheltenham Committee drafted the following ten community-wide sustainability goals and objectives.

GOALS are broad and encompassing, providing a vision for the community to uphold as it moves ahead into the future.

OBJECTIVES are a refining of the goals that are more detailed oriented and specific.

These goals and objectives can be used by any organization, institution or individual in the Township to promote sustainability.



Community Engagement

Engage and educate all Cheltenham residents and stakeholders to unite behind a shared set of goals to build a sustainable future.

OBJECTIVES:

1. Engage and educate residents on what they can do to live sustainably.
2. Provide incentives to residents, businesses, and institutions to make sustainable changes and choices.
3. Integrate sustainability into schools' curriculum and practices.
4. More citizen involvement in all Township meetings and planning.
5. Align rules, regulations, policies, and incentive programs to support all of the community sustainability goals outlined herein.

6. Support the creation or existence of an organization that will promote the sustainability goals outlined above and holistically work toward their implementation.



Energy

Maximize energy efficiency, minimize energy demand and emissions, and shift all community electricity consumption to renewably-sourced energy generated within the township and the region.

OBJECTIVES:

1. Maximize energy efficiency and conservation.
2. Become energy producers rather than energy users.
3. Shift all energy use away from non-renewable and unsustainable sources (coal, natural gas, petroleum, nuclear, ethanol, etc.) to renewable sources (solar PV, geothermal, solar thermal, wind, etc).
4. Promote locally-sourced energy preferably generated on-site / within the Township.
5. Minimize greenhouse gas emissions; offset emissions with sequestration and other scientifically proven methods.
6. Reduce "heat island" effect by changing roof and paved area composition.
7. Township government can be a leader in the region and provide incentives to residents, businesses and property owners.



Mobility

Minimize vehicular travel and emissions, increase use of alternative modes of transportation, and make it desirable, safe, and convenient to walk and bike throughout the township and connect to the region.

OBJECTIVES:

1. Minimize vehicle miles traveled and associated emissions.
2. Integrate green spaces and bike and pedestrian pathways into fabric of community and as part of transportation system.
3. Increase use of public transportation.
4. Increase variety of modes of transportation used in the township.
5. Pursue transportation strategies that support the energy objectives outlined in the Energy Goals section above.



Waste Reduction

Minimize solid and hazardous waste disposal, and maximize the re-use of waste products as a resource.

OBJECTIVES:

1. Minimize waste from households, schools, businesses, etc. & maximize recycling & re-use.
2. Safely recycle hazardous waste (batteries, electronics, chemicals, etc.).
3. Promote community-wide resource sharing and re-use (up-cycling, "free sales," tool-sharing, co-ops, bartering, etc.).
4. Increase composting at home and throughout the community.
5. Promote "green" purchasing practices, including bulk purchasing of green products and purchasing products/services created within the community.



Sustainable Development

Promote building, land use, site development, and landscaping that respects the natural environment and maximizes clean and efficient use of resources, and ensure that all permitting, codes, and regulations support the community's sustainability goals.

OBJECTIVES:

1. Promote energy-efficient, renewable, and clean construction (both new construction and remodeling) with financial and policy incentives.
2. Ensure that new development is compatible with and strengthens existing neighborhoods, infrastructure, and tax-base.
3. Align Township land use codes and policies with sustainability goals.
4. Encourage "low-impact-development" practices that are designed to have minimal environmental impacts.
5. Promote walkable and transit-oriented development.



Ecological Stewardship

Protect and improve the overall health and ecological diversity of the Township's habitats, waterways, and soils, both on public and private lands.

OBJECTIVES:

1. Ensure clean and healthy indoor and outdoor air quality.
2. Plant native species and remove invasive species.
3. Research and reduce use of harmful chemicals, fertilizers, and pesticides indoors
4. and out and implement the use of healthy alternatives.
5. Promote best gardening practices for food, beauty, and ecosystem enhancement.
6. Increase tree cover and improve the care and maintenance of trees.



Water Management

Minimize stormwater hazards, reduce wastewater flows, increase natural absorption of rainwater, and maximize the utility of rainwater as a resource.

OBJECTIVES:

1. Promote the reuse of rainwater through the use of rain barrels, etc.
2. Reduce impervious areas and increase support for porous pavement and other stormwater best management practices.
3. stormwater best management practices.
4. Conserve water resources (low-flow toilets, washing machines, dish washing, etc.).
5. Reestablish and preserve floodplains, wetlands, riparian plantings and other natural ways to manage stormwater.
6. Ensure clean and healthy streams within the Township and throughout the region.



Local Economy

Encourage and support local and regional agriculture, artisans, businesses, institutions, and industry by strengthening connections to, and markets for, local goods and services.

OBJECTIVES:

1. "Shop Local" as a way of life.
2. Attract and maintain local businesses, for tax revenue, jobs, and goods close to home.
3. Award achievement for businesses' sustainability efforts.
4. Walkable grocery stores / food outlets, health services, and other essential goods in every neighborhood.
5. Promote local goods and services, including locally-grown food, local contractors and other service providers, and local artisans.



Healthy Living For All

Promote healthy living in Cheltenham through equitable, affordable, and safe access to information, education, recreation, natural areas, car-free transportation, fresh local foods, health care services, clean air, and clean water.

OBJECTIVES:

1. Promote convenient, affordable access to wellness practices and medical care for all.
2. Ensure clean air and water.
3. Facilitate access to fresh and healthy foods through home-growing, farmers' markets, schools, & community gardens.
4. Enable and encourage residents, especially children, to walk & bike to schools, parks, libraries.
5. Provide safe access to green spaces for everyone – kids, adults, athletes, walkers, dogs and bikers that promote physical activity, connectivity throughout the Township and build a sense of community.



Monitoring

Track and report the progress of measurable implementation strategies; re-evaluate and update goals and targets as needed.

OBJECTIVES:

1. Develop an implementation process.
2. Develop action items that work to achieve each goal and objective.
3. Establish baseline measurements related to the goals and objective.
4. Track progress towards the achievement of the goals and objective.
5. Re-evaluate and update goals and objectives in 2020.



This section functions as the sustainability resource guide for Cheltenham Township and is useful in understanding Cheltenham's Sustainability Plan goals. This is not an all-inclusive list; relevant information is highlighted for each section. As new or updated information is obtained, it can be included in this resource.

Community Engagement

The key to any sustainability effort is communication and education. Citizens must be made aware of the value of their efforts. This will make it easier to garner support and dispel any negative perceptions.

HELPFUL LINKS:

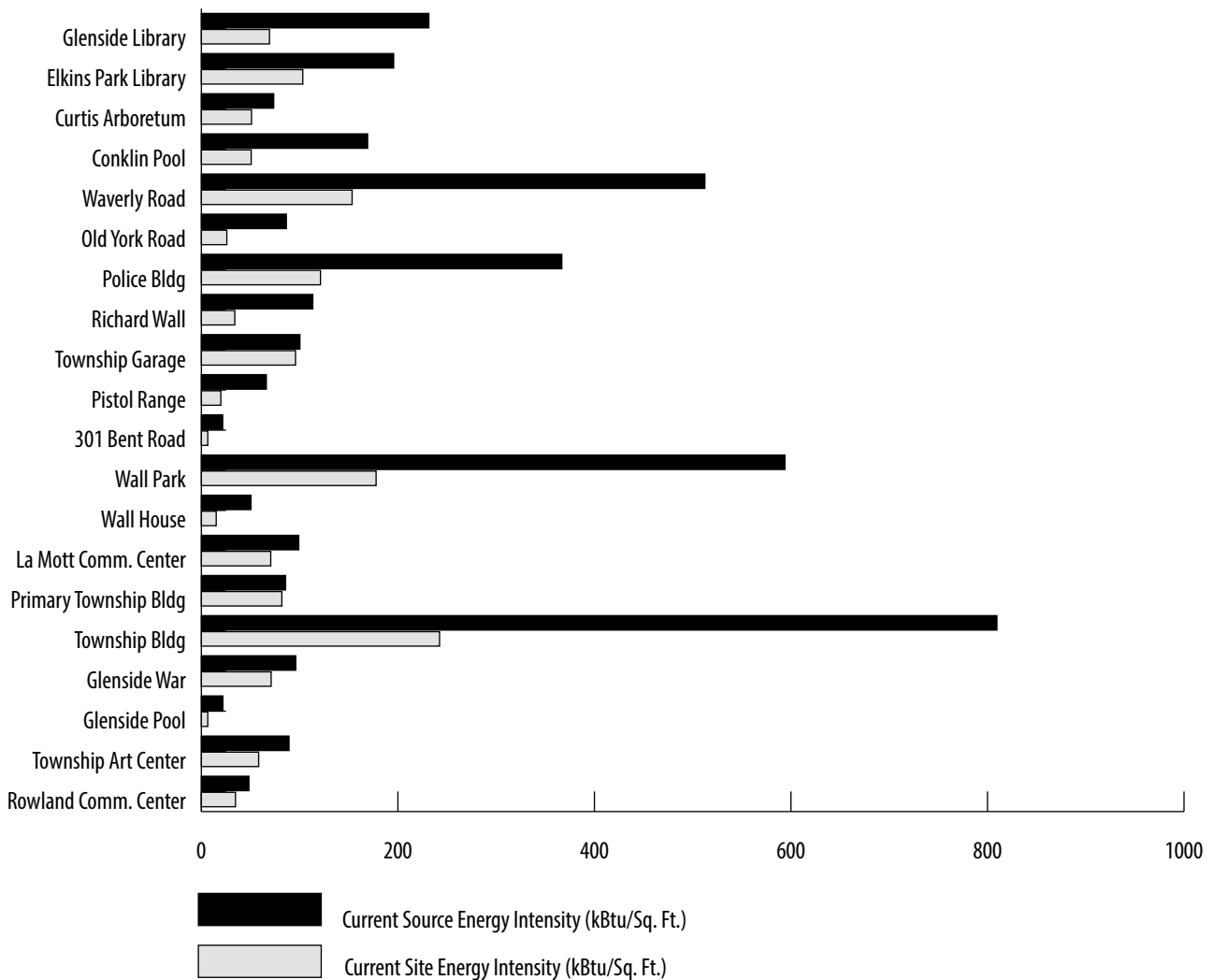
- Federal Tax Credits, http://www.energystar.gov/index.cfm?c=tax_credits.tx_index
- Education for Sustainable Development Toolkit, <http://www.esdtoolkit.org>
- Empowerment Institute: The Low Carbon Diet, http://www.empowermentinstitute.net/lcd/lcd_files/Cool_America.html
- The Natural Step Framework, <http://www.naturalstep.org/it/usa>
- Sustainable Communities Network, <http://www.sustainable.org/>
- Energy Education, Inc., <http://www.energyeducation.com/OurServices/tabid/58/Default.aspx>
- Schools for Energy Efficiency, <http://www.see-programs.com/overview.htm>
- EPA It's Easy Being Green-Guide to Planning Environmentally Aware Events, <http://www.epa.gov/osw/wycd/grn-mtgs/gm-bklt.pdf>
- Green Event Planning Guide, <http://sustainability.ucsb.edu/purchasing/docs/pubs/Bridging-the-Gap-Green-Event-Manual.pdf>
- Sustainable Communities Network's "How to Plan a Sustainable Event," <http://www.sustainable.org/information/susevent.html>
- Sustainable Green Pages, <http://www.nesea.org/sgp/>
- Planet Green, <http://planetgreen.discovery.com/>
- GRID Magazine, <http://www.gridphilly.com/>

Energy

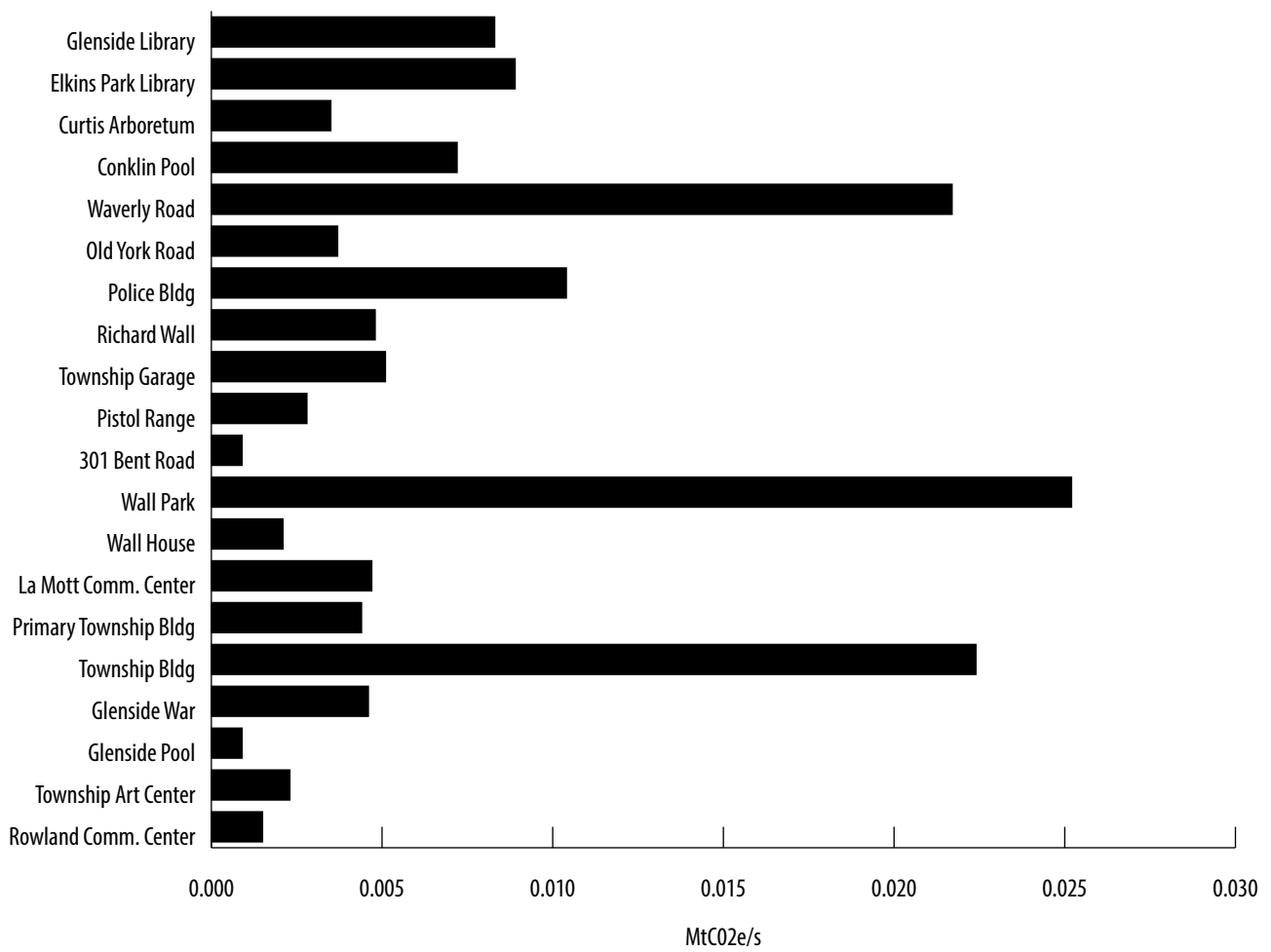
Energy usage, energy production and the related greenhouse gas issues are critical in the discussion of sustainability in Cheltenham Township.

Energy Data for Township Buildings (Based on DVRPC Energy Analysis Toolkit): The purpose of the toolkit is to provide local governments with the ability to generate an energy use, cost and GHG emissions baseline of local government operational sectors using EnergyStar Portfolio Manager data and other EXCEL-based programs.

ENERGY USE INTENSITY (EUI) FOR SOURCE AND SITE ENERGY (KBTU/SQ. FT.)

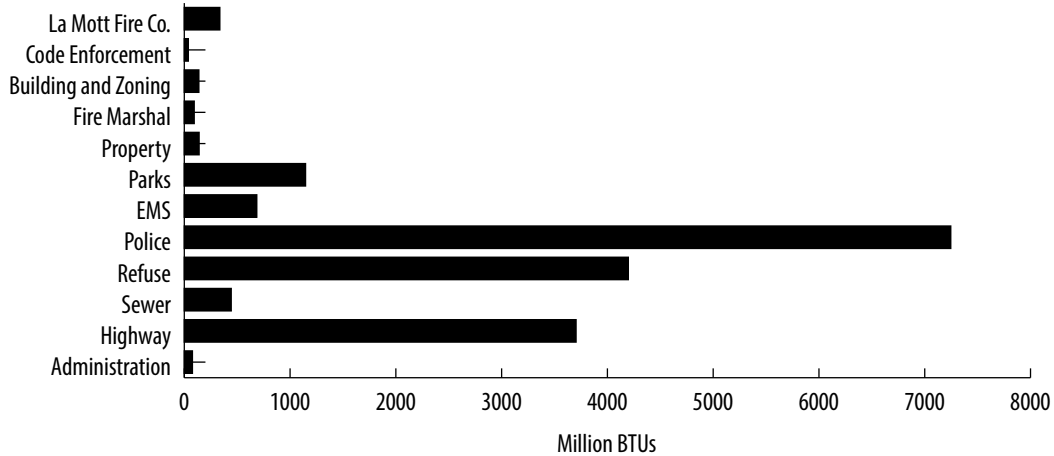


EMISSIONS INTENSITY (MTCO2E/SQ. FT.)

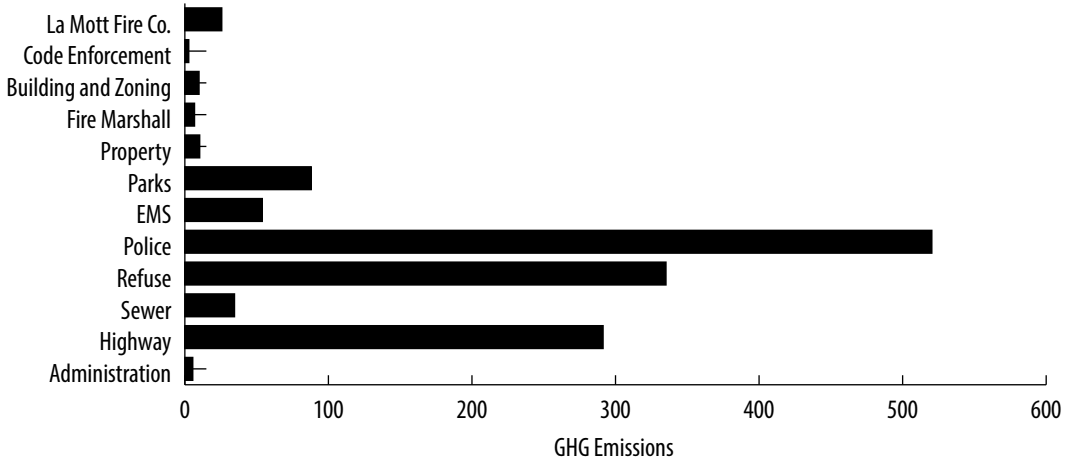


Energy Data for the Township Fleet (Based on DVRPC Energy Analysis Toolkit): The purpose of the toolkit is to provide local governments with the ability to generate an energy use, cost and GHG emissions baseline of local government operational sectors using EnergyStar Portfolio Manager data and other EXCEL-based programs.

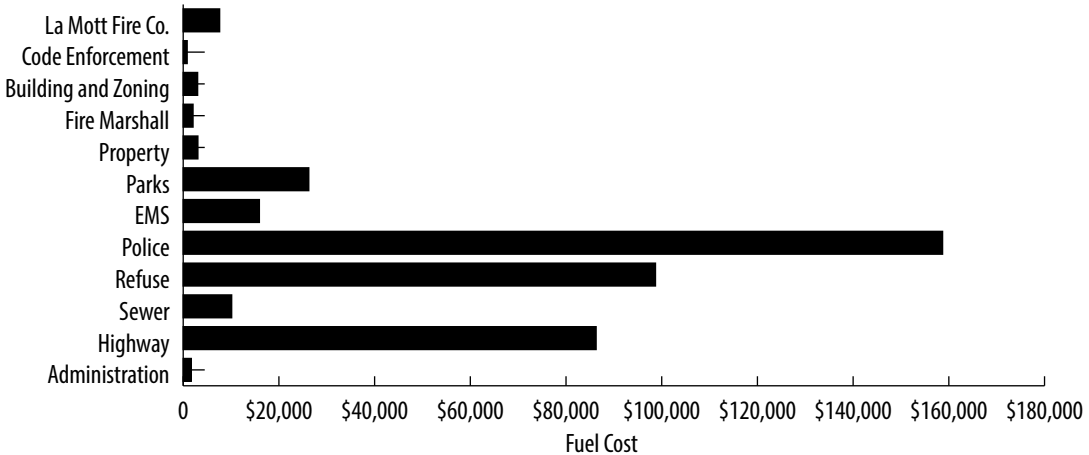
ENERGY CONSUMPTION BY VEHICLE GROUP



GHG EMISSIONS BY VEHICLE GROUP

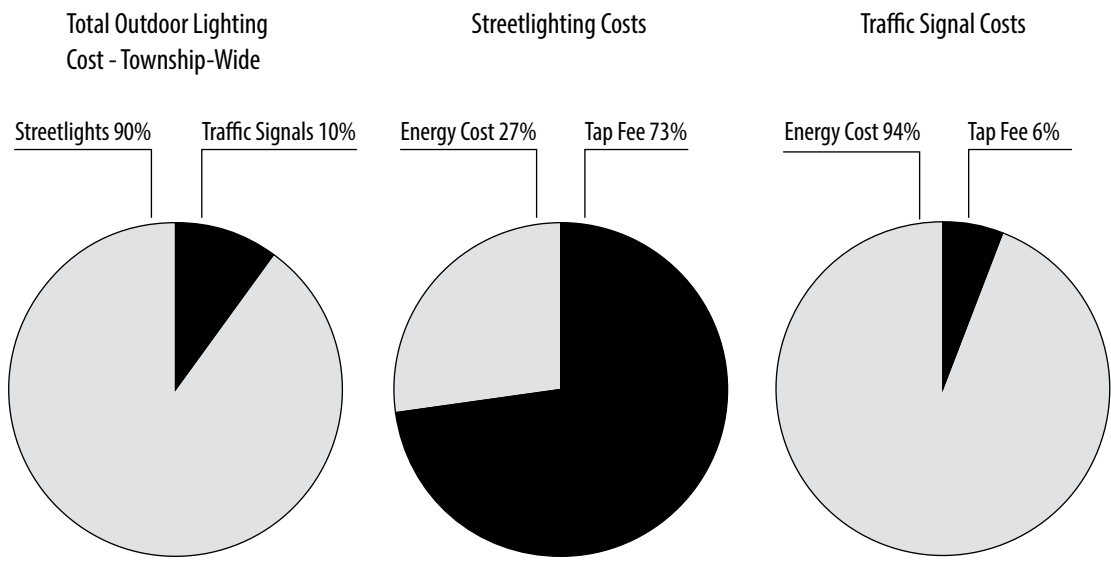


FUEL COST BY VEHICLE GROUP



Energy Data for Township Outdoor Lighting (Based on DVRPC Energy Analysis Tool): The purpose of the toolkit is to provide local governments with the ability to generate an energy use, cost and GHG emissions base-line of local government operational sectors using EnergyStar Portfolio Manager data and other EXCEL-based programs.

OUTDOOR LIGHTING

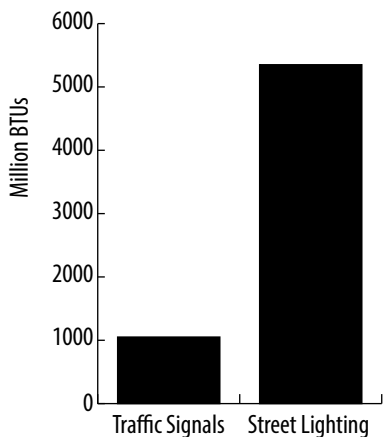


Total Cost	
Streetlights	\$ 367,792.91
Traffic Signals	\$ 42,103.74

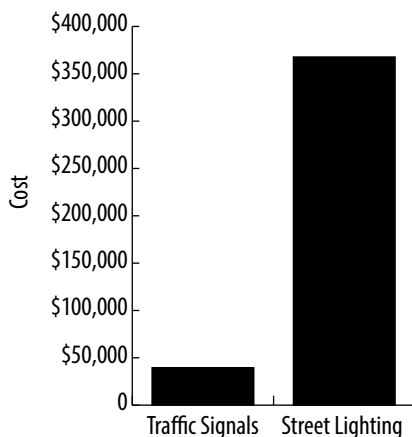
Streetlights	
Energy Costs	\$ 100,995.83
Tap Fee	\$ 266,797.08
Total Cost	\$ 367,792.91

Traffic Signals	
Energy Costs	\$ 39,499.74
Tap Fee	\$ 2,604.00
Total Cost	\$ 42,103.74

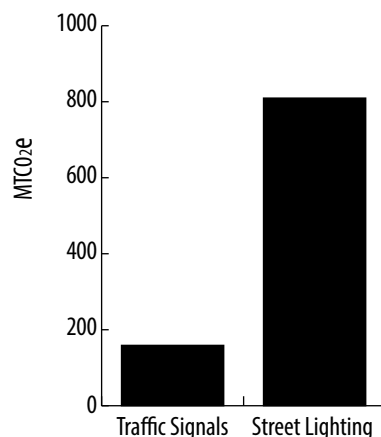
ENERGY CONSUMPTION BY LIGHTING TYPE



COST BY LIGHTING TYPE

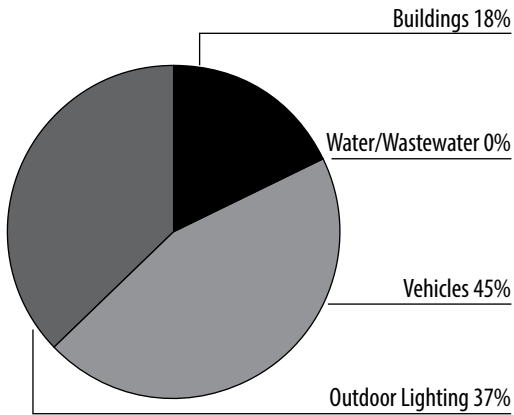


GHG EMISSIONS BY LIGHTING TYPE

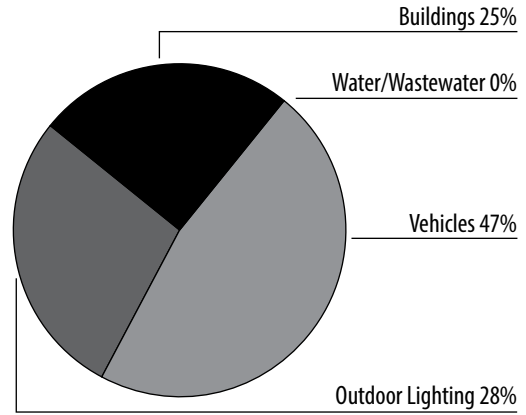


Summary of Township Energy Data (Based on DVRPC Energy Analysis Tool): The purpose of the toolkit is to provide local governments with the ability to generate an energy use, cost and GHG emissions baseline of local government operational sectors using EnergyStar Portfolio Manager data and other EXCEL-based programs.

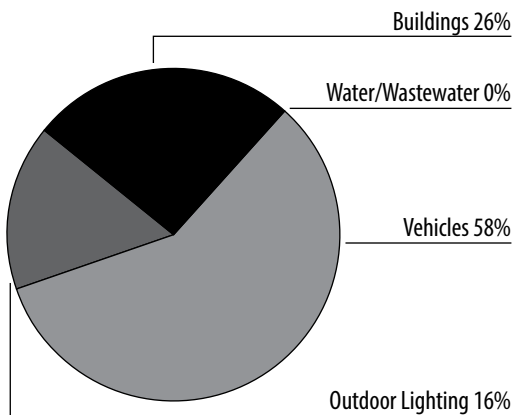
ENERGY COST



GHG EMISSIONS



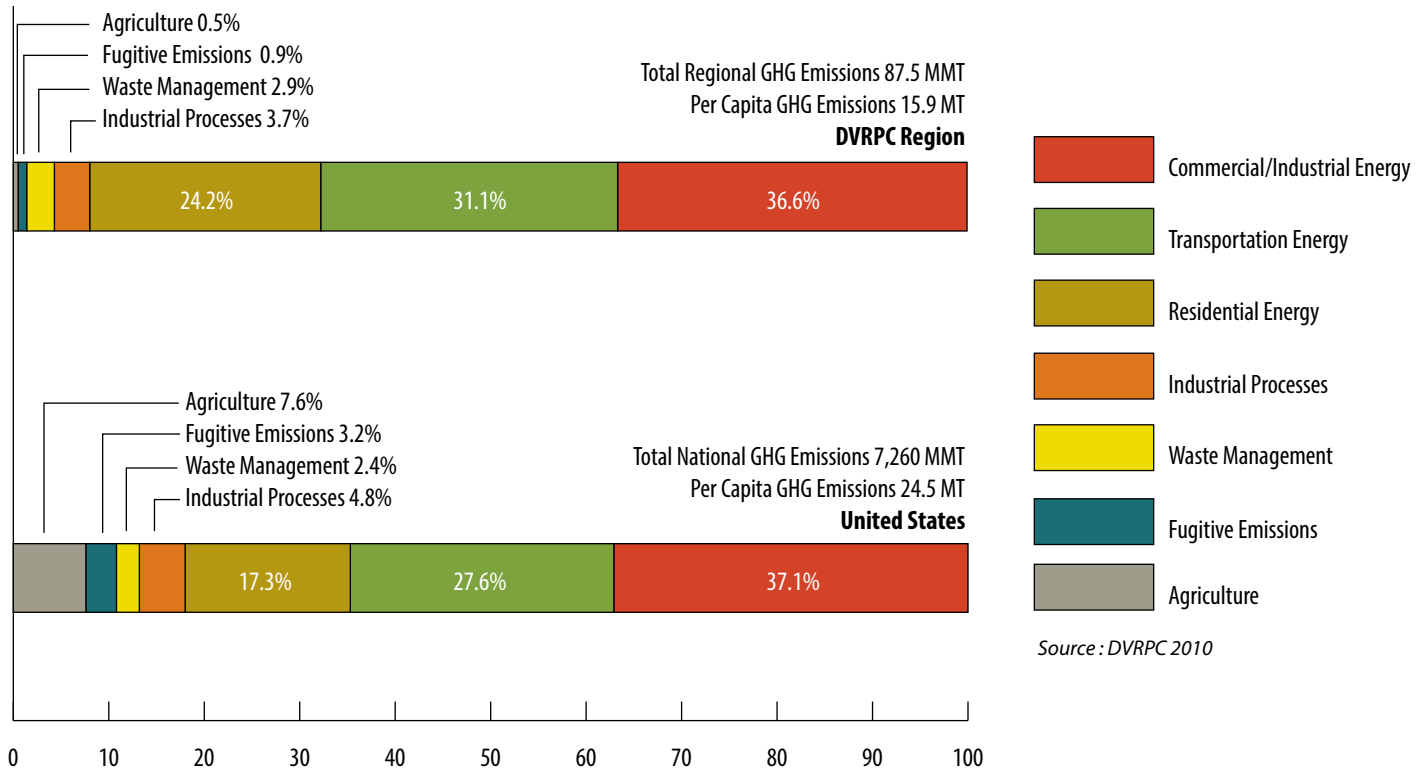
ENERGY CONSUMPTION



Regional GHG Emissions Data from the DVRPC

Regional GHG Inventory Report: The full report and a description of the methodology used can be found on the DVRPC website at <http://www.dvrpc.org/energyclimate/inventory.htm>

RELATIVE CONTRIBUTION OF EMISSION SOURCES TO TOTAL DVRPC AND NATIONAL GHG EMISSIONS BY SOURCE CATEGORY - 2005



QUOTED FROM THE DVRPC REGIONAL GHG INVENTORY REPORT FOR MAPS SHOWN ON PAGE 18 AND 19:

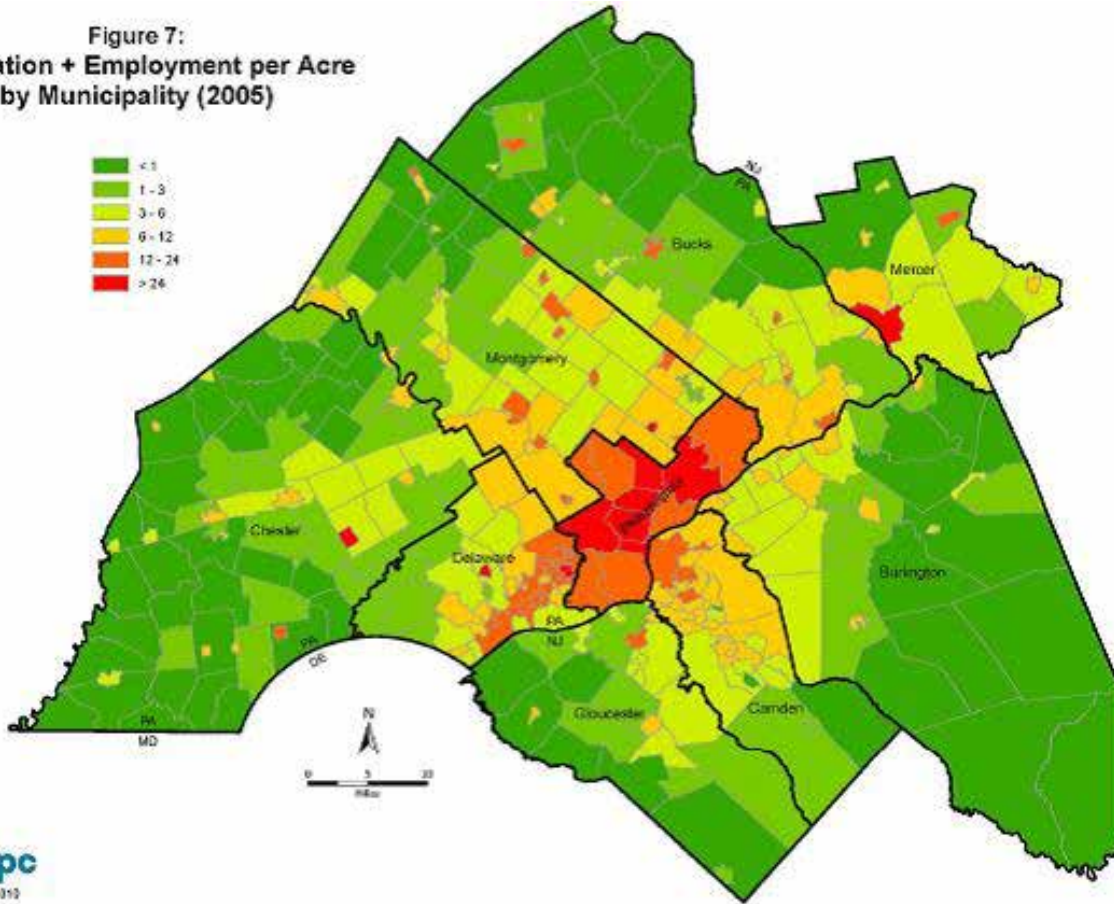
Figure 7 shows how the municipalities in the region differ from each other in density of population and employment. **Figure 8** and **Figure 9** illustrate the results of the municipality level greenhouse gas emissions allocation and their relationship to density in two different views.

Figure 8 shows greenhouse gas emissions per acre by municipality for the DVRPC region. As might be expected, the denser areas of the region produce more of the emissions, as these are the areas where people live and where businesses are located.

Figure 9 shows the allocated greenhouse gas emissions at the municipality level normalized by the sum of population and employment, which together serve to indicate the level of human activity. This view indicates

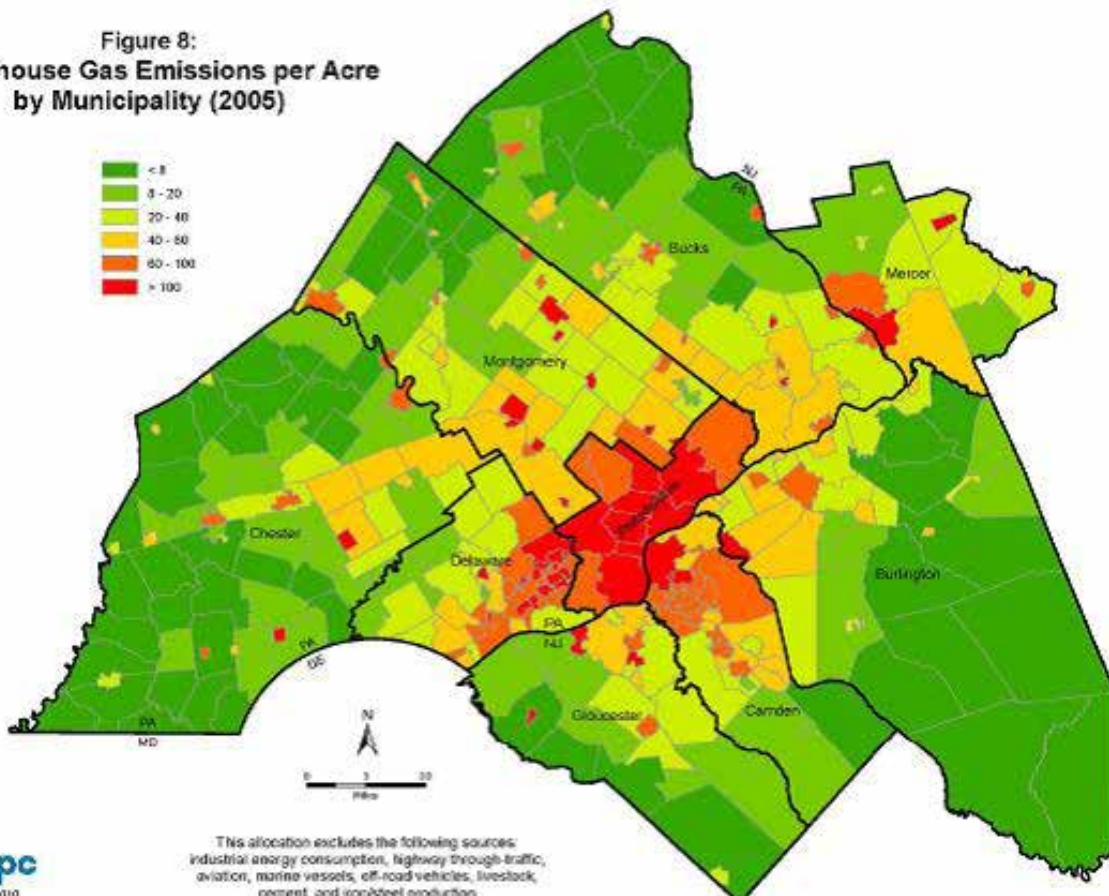
a clear correlation between municipalities with higher density of population and employment, and lower per capita greenhouse emissions. In general, these municipalities have amenities closer together than municipalities with less dense population and employment. This allows shorter trips, and the ability to walk for some trips that might require driving in less dense municipalities. In addition, these municipalities may provide sufficient density to make mass transit feasible for some residents and employees. In addition, residential and commercial buildings may be smaller per capita or employee, and may be directly connected to adjacent housing or businesses (e.g., rowhouses or businesses with apartments above them), providing the energy efficiency benefits of shared walls. Further analysis of the data would be required to develop a better understanding of these relationships.

Figure 7:
Population + Employment per Acre
by Municipality (2005)



dvrpc
November, 2010

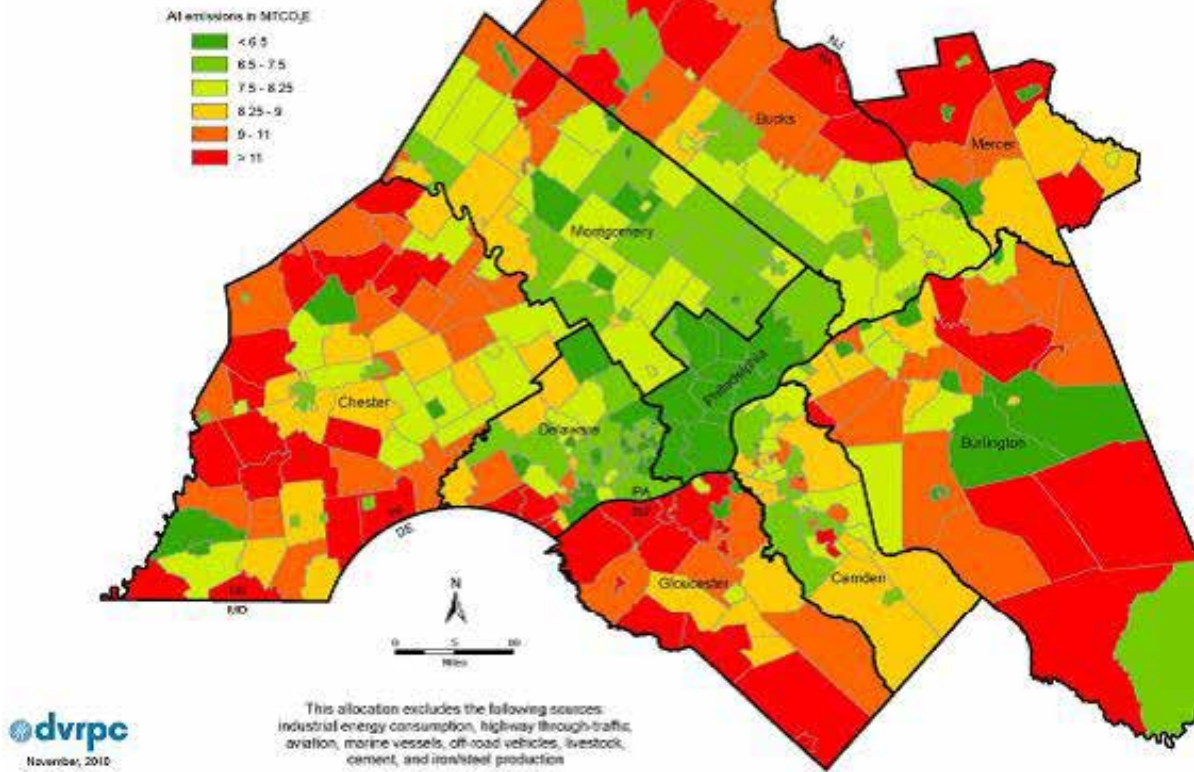
Figure 8:
Greenhouse Gas Emissions per Acre
by Municipality (2005)



This allocation excludes the following sources:
industrial energy consumption, highway through-traffic,
aviation, marine vessels, off-road vehicles, livestock,
cement, and iron/steel production

dvrpc
November, 2010

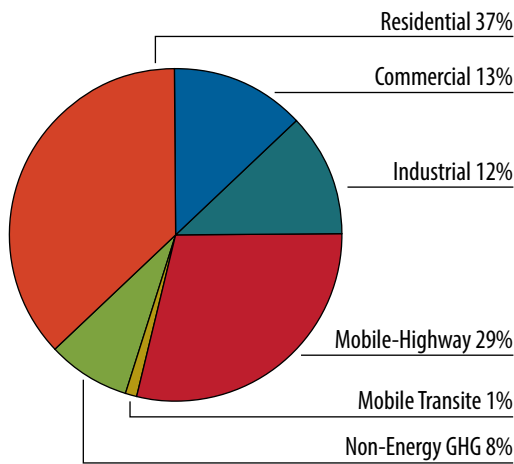
**Figure 9:
Greenhouse Gas Emissions per Population +
Employment by Municipality (2005)**



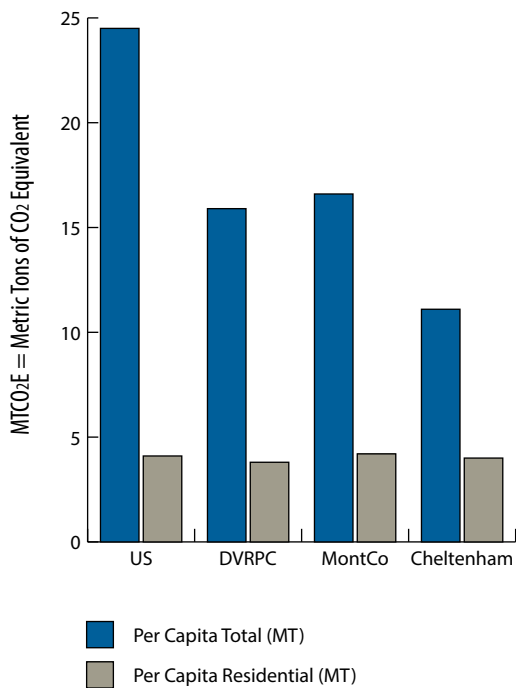
Energy Use and Emissions Totals for Cheltenham Township (Based on DVRPC Regional GHG Emission Report):

Sector	Total Energy Use Billion BTU (BBTU)	Total GHG Emissions (MTCO ₂ eq.)
Residential	1,914	148,885
Commercial	502	54,306
Industrial	354	50,665
Mobile-Highway	1,617	118,716
Mobile Transit	42	4,417
Non-Energy GHG	NA	30,939
Total	4,428	407,928

CHELTENHAM TOWNSHIP GHG EMISSIONS, 2005



GHG EMISSIONS COMPARISON, 2005



HELPFUL LINKS:

- American Solar Energy Society, <http://www.ases.org/>
- Energy Star Home Program, http://www.energystar.gov/index.cfm?c=home_improvement.hm_improvement_index
- Energy Star Buildings and Plants, http://www.energystar.gov/index.cfm?c=business.bus_index
- Green Power Partnership, <http://www.epa.gov/green-power/>
- Environmental Impacts of Electricity Generation, <http://www.epa.gov/cleanenergy/energy-and-you/affect/index.html>
- Green Power Locator, <http://www.epa.gov/greenpower/pubs/gplocator.htm>
- Power Profiler, <http://www.epa.gov/cleanenergy/energy-and-you/how-clean.html>
- Greenhouse Gas Equivalencies Calculator, <http://www.epa.gov/cleanenergy/energy-resources/calculator.html>
- Emissions & Generation Resource Integrated Database, <http://cfpub.epa.gov/egridweb/>
- Green Power Benefits, <http://www.epa.gov/greenpower/buygp/index.htm>
- Energy Saver, <http://energy.gov/energysaver/energy-saver>
- Top 5 Reasons To Be Energy Efficient, <http://ase.org/resources/top-5-reasons-be-energy-efficient>
- Home Energy Audit, <http://ase.org/resources/home-energy-audit>
- Home Energy Checklist, <http://www.aceee.org/consumer/home-energy-checklist>
- American Council for Energy Efficiency Economy: Consumer Resources, <http://www.aceee.org/consumer>
- Local Government and Municipal Energy Assistance, http://www.portal.state.pa.us/portal/server.pt/community/local_government/10404
- Pennsylvania Public Utility Commission Consumer Info http://www.puc.state.pa.us/consumer_info.aspx
- Pennsylvania Public Utility Commission Approved Green Energy Suppliers, <http://www.papowerswitch.com/ways-to-save-energy/renewable-energy-resources/>
- Household Carbon Footprint Calculator, <http://www.epa.gov/climatechange/ghgemissions/ind-calculator.html>
- Home Weatherization, <http://energy.gov/public-services/homes/home-weatherization>

Mobility

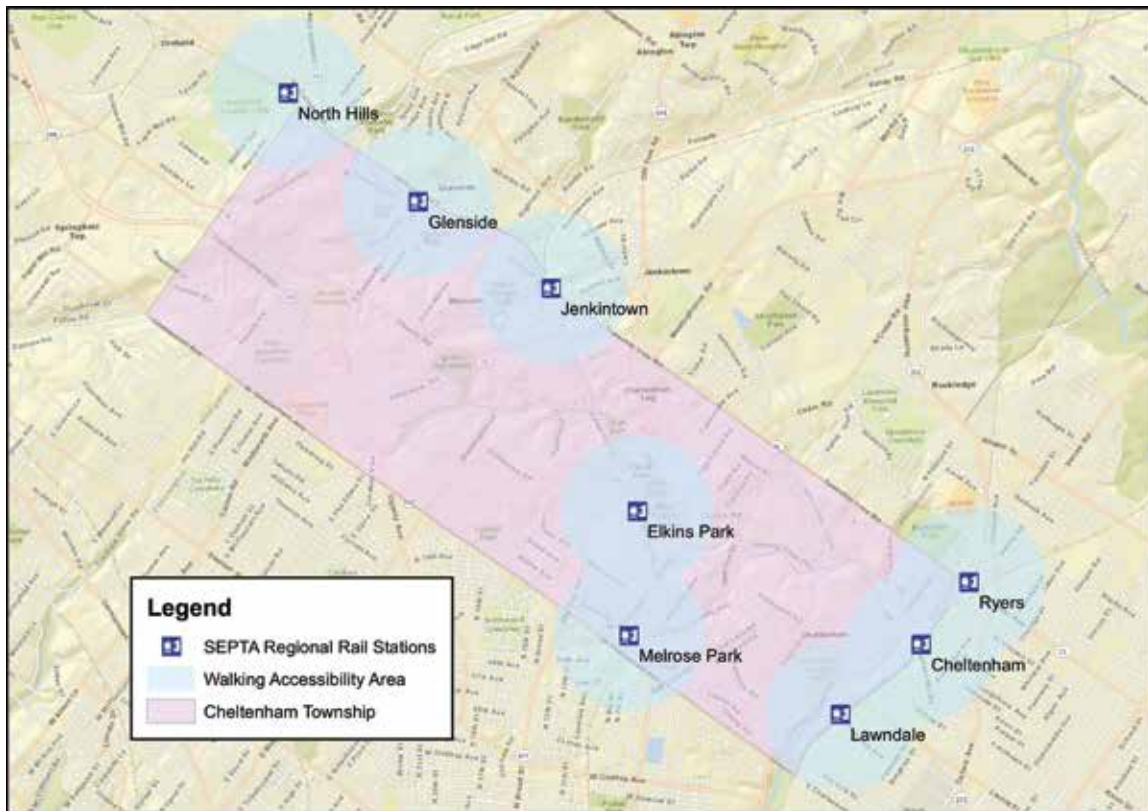
No discussion of sustainability can take place without considering mobility. Reducing vehicle miles traveled can significantly reduce the Township’s greenhouse gas emissions, pollution emissions and also encourage residents to live a healthier lifestyle by walking and biking more often.

SEPTA DATA



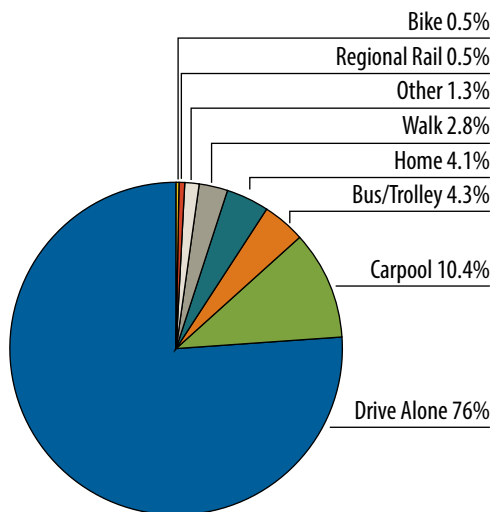
Cheltenham Township SEPTA Bus Lines	
Bus	Route
XH	Broad-Erie to Cheltenham Ogontz
80	Express Horsham to Olney Transportation Center
55	Willow Grove & Doylestown to Olney Transportation Center
22	Warminster & Willow Grove to Olney Transportation Center
18	Fox Chase to Cedarbrook Plaza
16	City Hall to Cheltenham-Ogontz
6	Cheltenham-Ogontz to Olney Transportation Center

REGIONAL RAIL STATIONS WITH HALF MILE WALKING ACCESSIBILITY BUFFERS

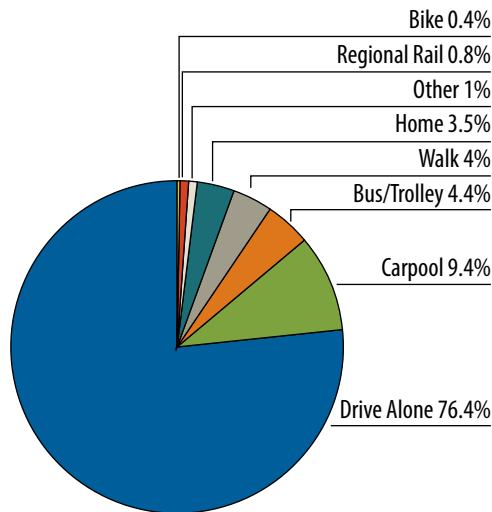


SUSTAINABILITY RESOURCES

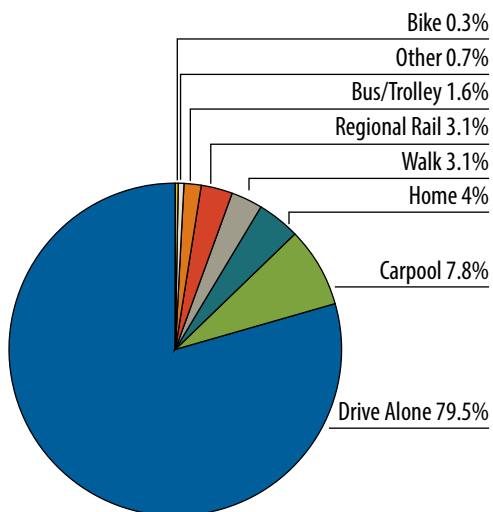
UNITED STATES COMMUTING PATTERNS (BASED ON 2010 CENSUS DATA)



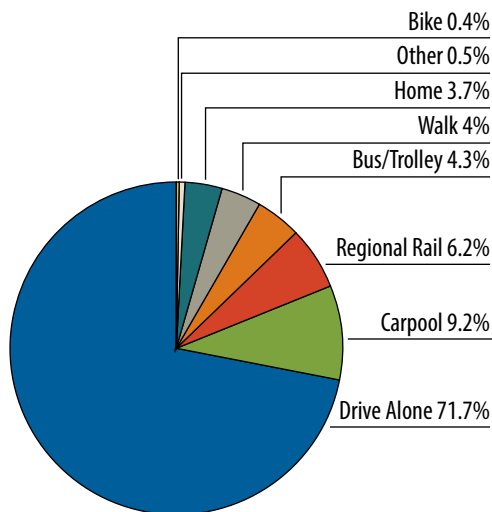
PENNSYLVANIA COMMUTING PATTERNS (BASED ON 2010 CENSUS DATA)



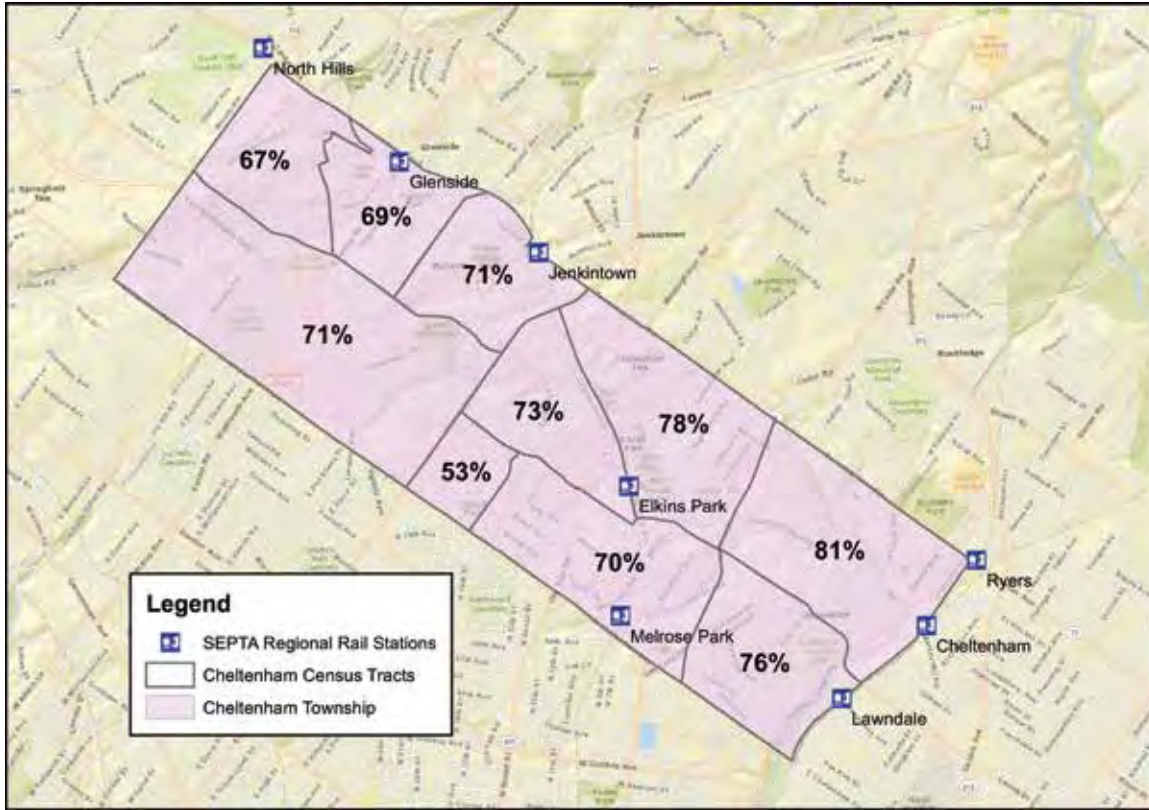
MONTGOMERY COUNTY COMMUTING PATTERNS (BASED ON 2010 CENSUS DATA)



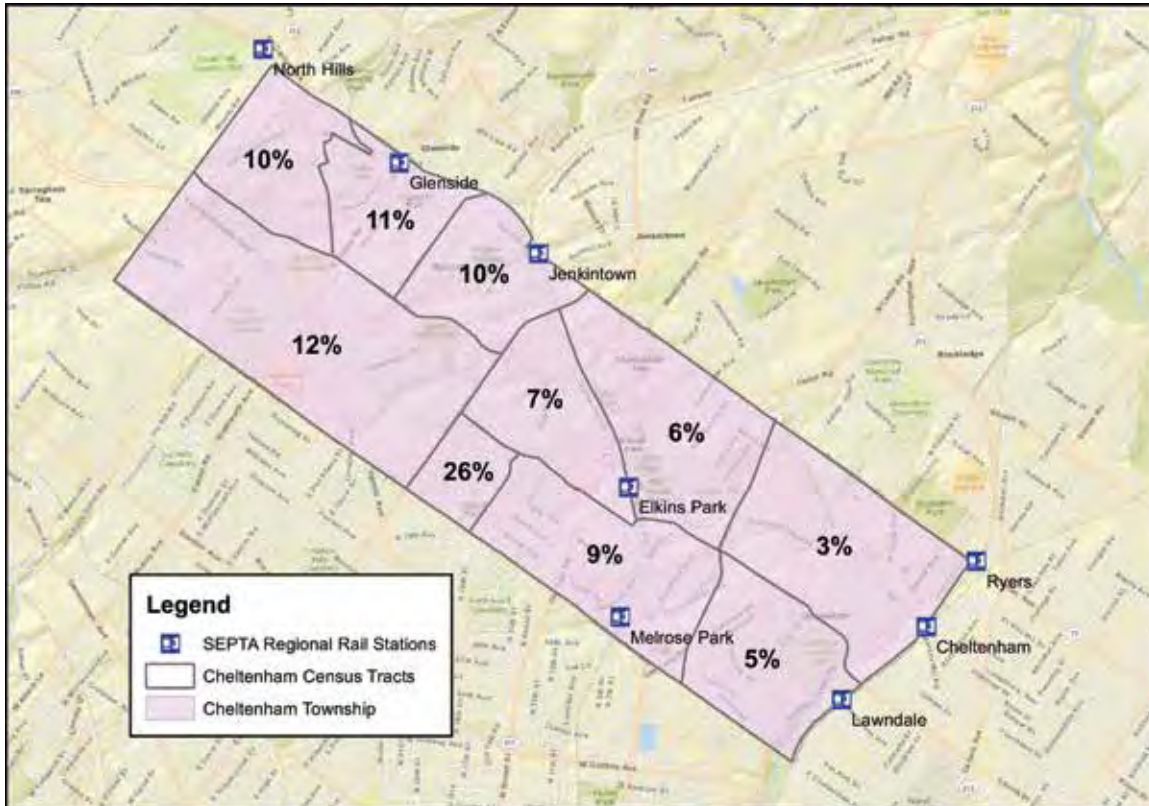
CHELLENHAM COMMUTING PATTERNS (BASED ON 2010 CENSUS DATA)



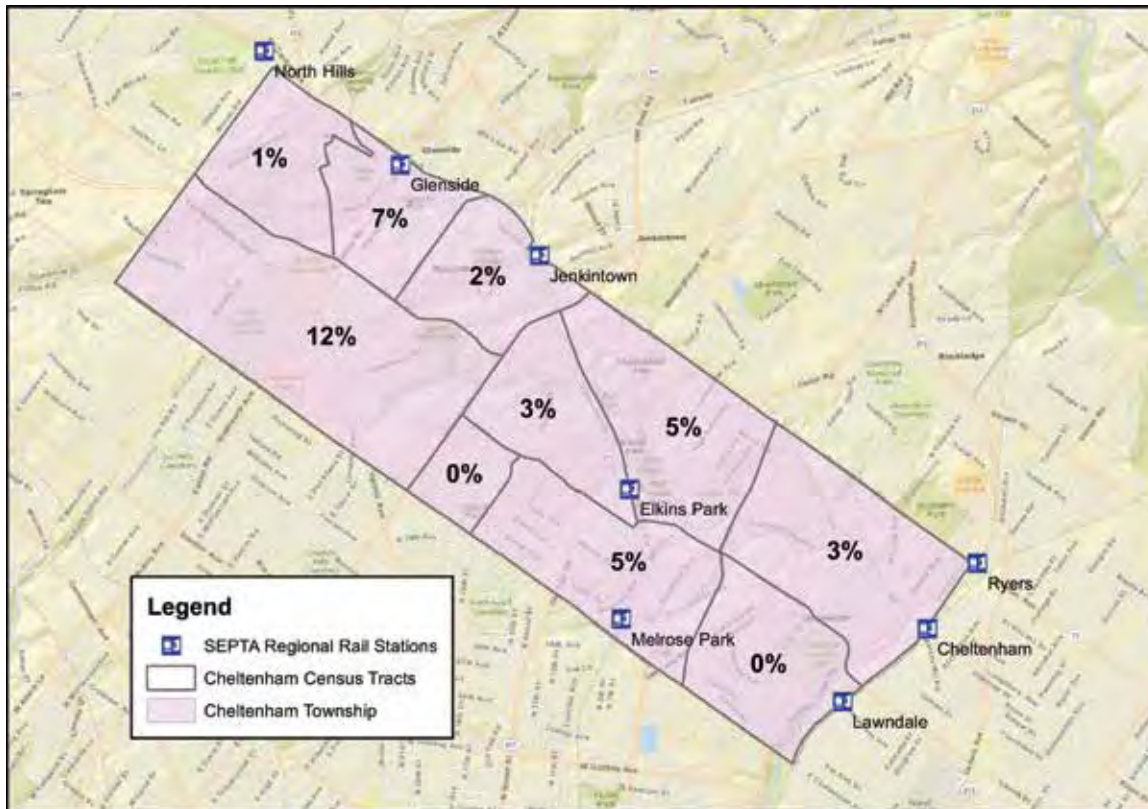
DRIVE ALONE TO WORK, BASED ON 2005 - 2009 AMERICAN COMMUNITY SURVEY



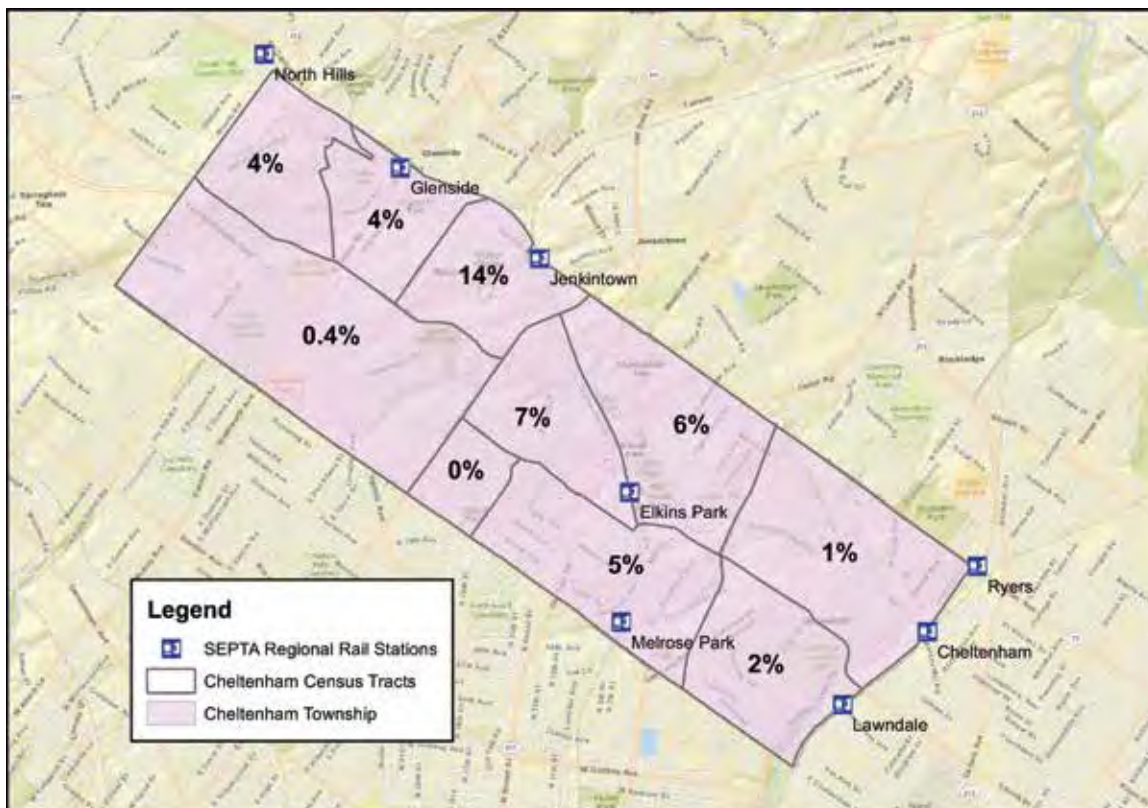
RAIL OR BUS TO WORK, BASED ON 2005 - 2009 AMERICAN COMMUNITY SURVEY

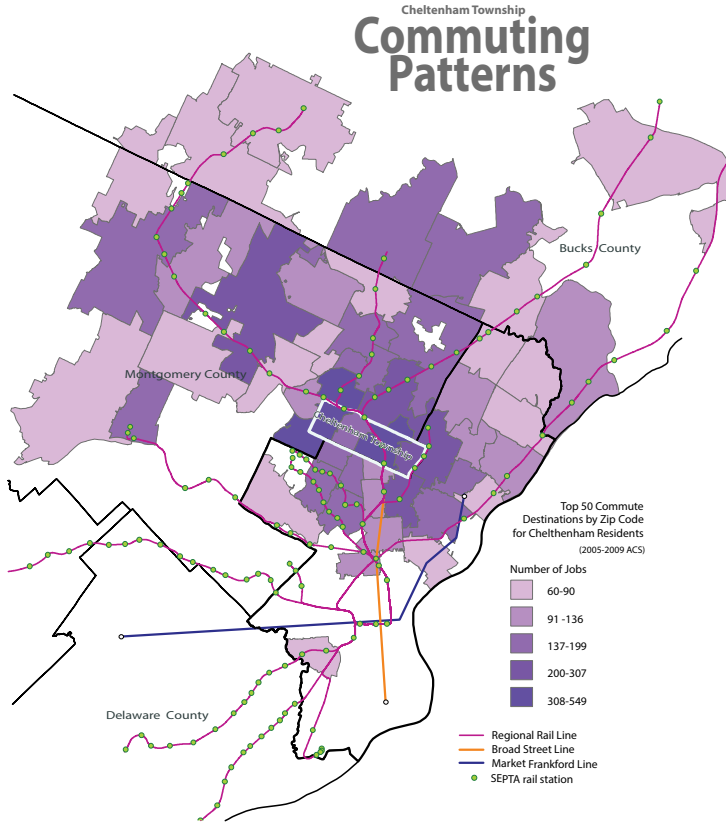


BIKE OR WALK TO WORK, BASED ON 2005 - 2009 AMERICAN COMMUNITY SURVEY

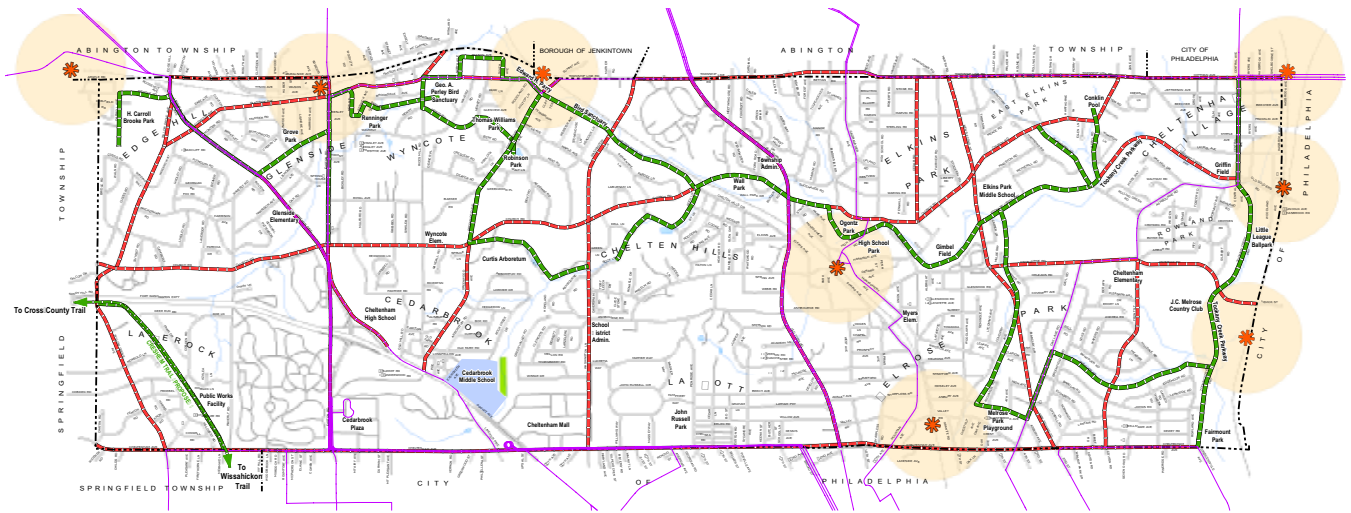


WORK FROM HOME, BASED ON 2005 - 2009 AMERICAN COMMUNITY SURVEY





CHELTENHAM PROPOSED BIKE AND MOBILITY MAPS:



Legend

- ★ Commuter Rail Stations
- SEPTA Bus Lines
- Quarter Mile Radius to Rail Station
- Proposed Bike Routes (County Plan)
- Proposed Trails (Open Space Plan)
- Township Parks & Facilities
- Libraries & Community Centers
- Public Schools

**CHELTENHAM TOWNSHIP
MONTGOMERY COUNTY, PENNA.**

2012



MCPC Montgomery County Planning Commission
 Montgomery County Courthouse - Planning Commission
 400 Elm St. | Philadelphia, PA 19106-2111
 (215) 251-2722 | 481-911-2824
www.montcopa.org/planning

Map Created February 2012 by
 Montgomery County Planning Commission

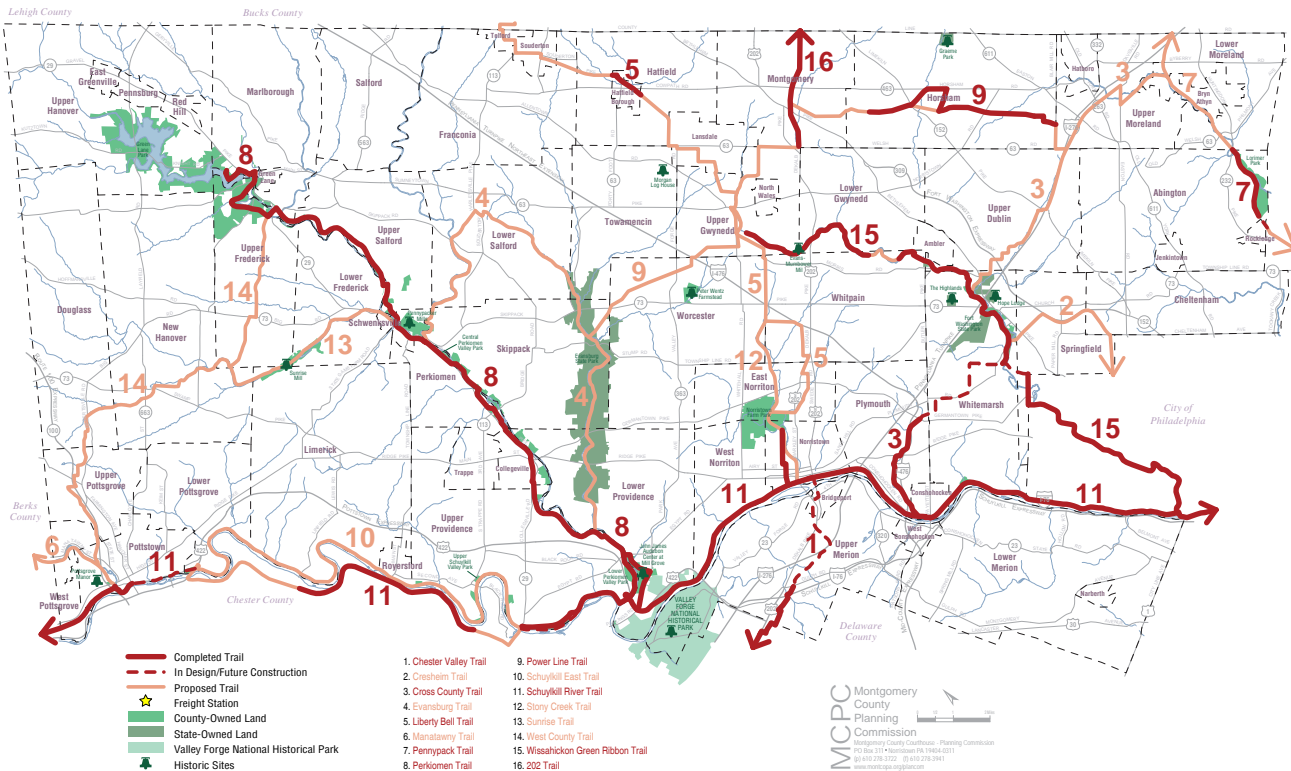
CHELTENHAM | PROPOSED BIKE ROUTES



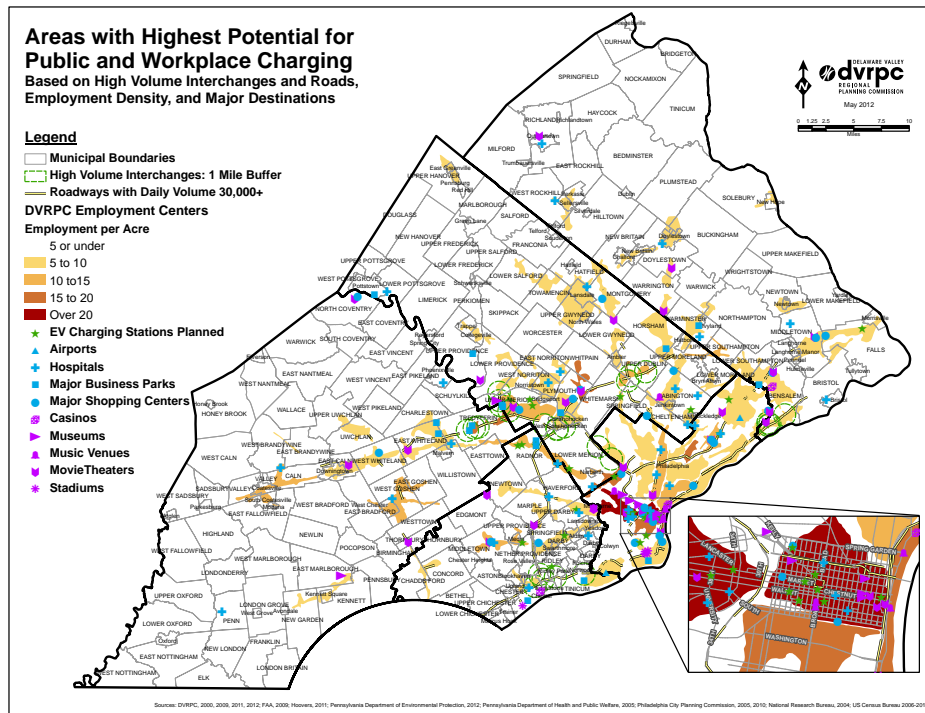
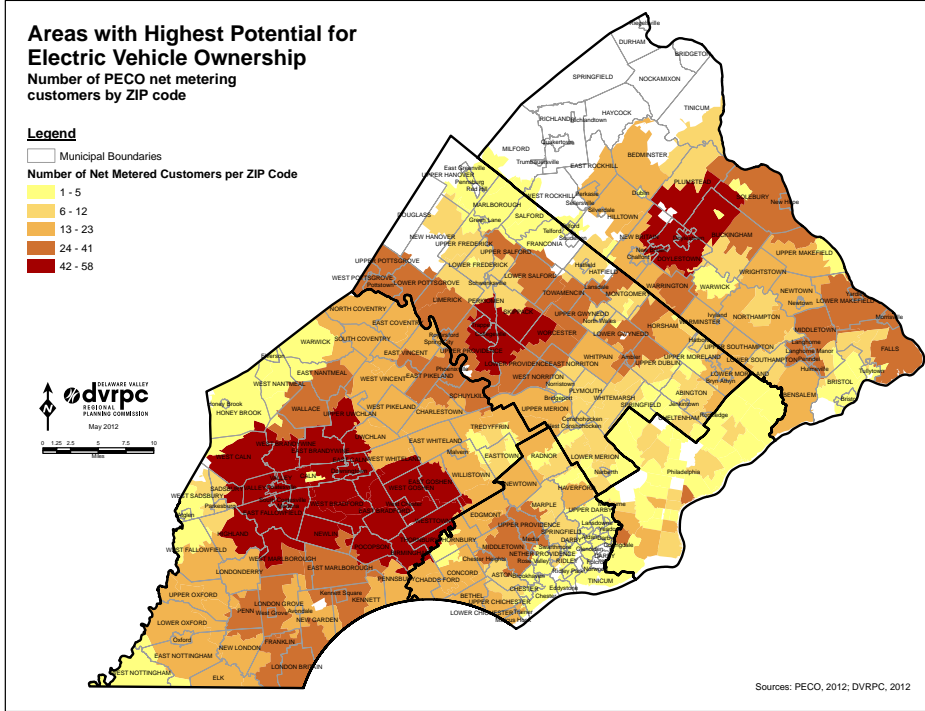
SEPTEMBER 2 ND , 2011	KEY:		Septa Station Intersection in need of side crossing School	Shared Road/Back Streets for bike + car Painted Bike Lane Shared Sidewalk	Bunch Circulation for Bicycles Crestline Trail Park	J B A J DAVIS ARCHITECTS

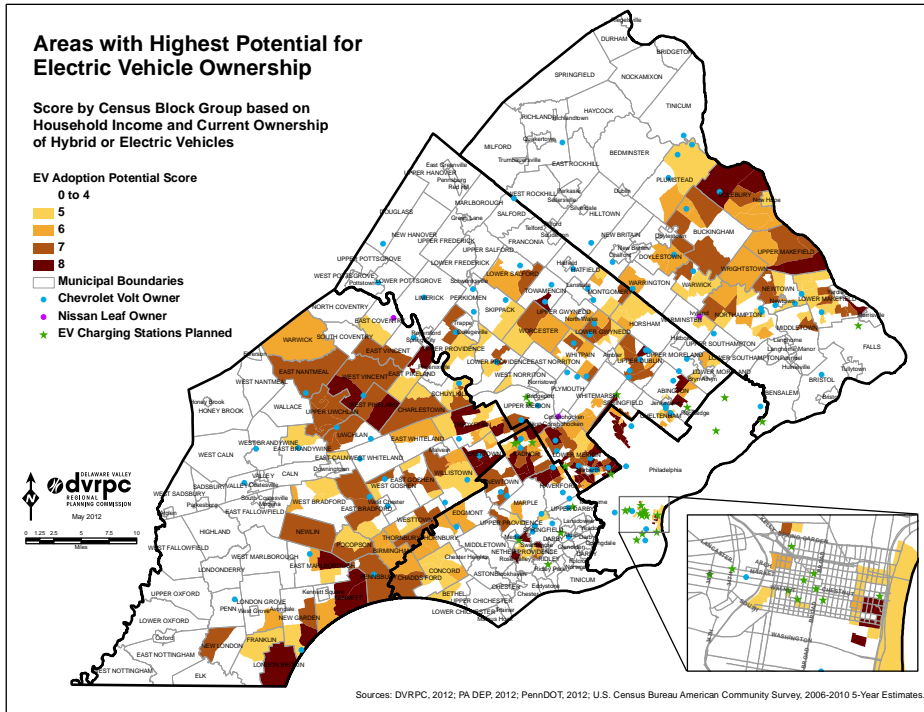
This map has been contributed to by 50 Cheltenham bike enthusiasts

REGIONAL PROPOSED BIKE AND MOBILITY MAP



Electric Vehicle Data for Cheltenham and the Region Provided by a DVRPC Study: For more information on this data and other DVRPC alternative fuel vehicle information visit <http://www.dvrpc.org/energyclimate/AlternativeFuelVehicles.htm>





Helpful Links:

International Walk to School in the USA, <http://www.walktoschool.org/>

National Center for Bicycling and Walking, <http://www.bikewalk.org/saferoutestoschool.php>

National Center for Safe Routes to School, <http://www.saferoutesinfo.org/>

Safe Routes to School National Partnership, <http://saferoutespartnership.org/>

Smart Ways, <http://www.epa.gov/smartway/>

Greener Driving Tips, <http://www.greencars.org/driving-tips.htm>

6 ways to Save Gas, <http://www.greendrivingusa.com/sixtips.html>

Fuel Economy Resources, <http://www.fueleconomy.gov/>
ACEEE's Green Book, <http://www.greencars.org/green-book.htm>

Bicycle Coalition of Greater Philadelphia, <http://www.bicyclecoalition.org/>

Greater Philadelphia's Regional trail Network, <http://connectthecircuit.org/>

Trail Link by Rails to Trails Conservancy, <http://www.trailink.com/>

Rideshare Community, <http://www.ridester.com/>

eRideShare, <http://www.erideshare.com/>

iCarpool, <http://www.icarpool.com/>

PickUp Pal, <http://www.pickuppal.com/pup/intro.html>

SEPTA Regional Rail, <http://www.septa.org/service/rail/>

SEPTA Trip Planner, <http://airs1.septa.org/bin/query.exe/n?s=From?&SALL=1&z=To?&ZALL=1&getstop=1&date=9/19/12&time=10:25%20AM&>

Public Transit in Your Community, <http://www.publictransportation.org/tools/local/Pages/Pennsylvania.aspx#a51>

Fuel Savings Calculator, <http://www.publictransportation.org/tools/fuelsavings/Pages/default.aspx>

Carbon Savings Calculator, <http://www.publictransportation.org/tools/carbonsavings/Pages/default.aspx>

Google Maps Transit, <http://www.google.com/intl/en/landing/transit/#mdy>

Public Transit Facts at a Glance, <http://www.publictransportation.org/news/facts/Pages/default.aspx>

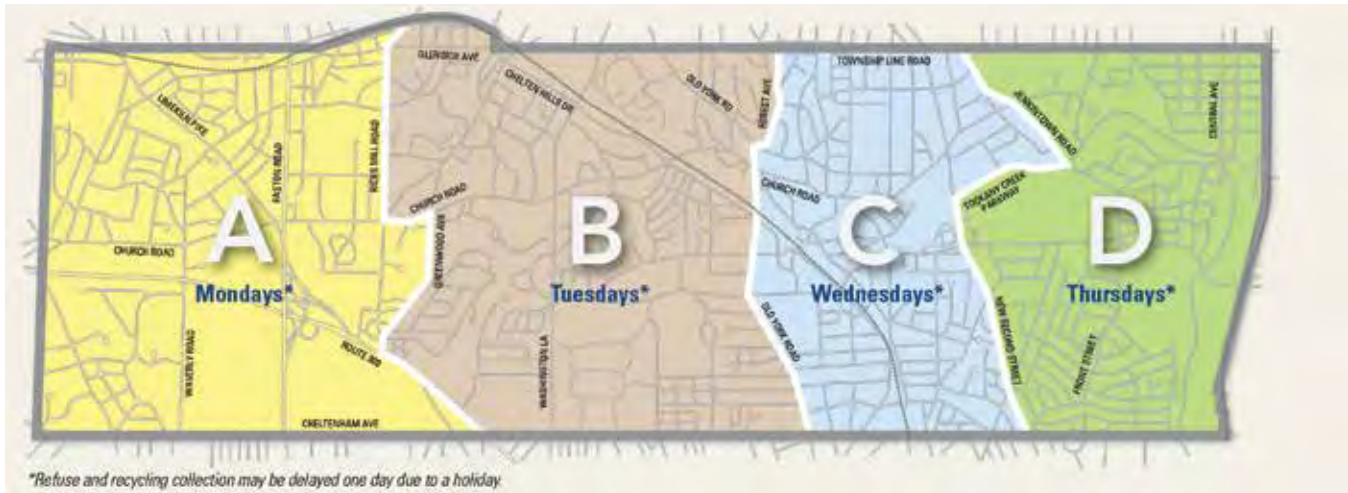
Transportation, Climate Change and Public Health, <http://www.apha.org/NR/rdonlyres/C09561E4-CAF2-4917-A231-9207A4C1DB4E/0/ClimateChangeTranspFactSheet.pdf>

The Hidden Health Costs of Transportation, <http://www.apha.org/NR/rdonlyres/B96B32A2-FA00-4D79-99AB-F0446C63B254/0/TheHiddenHealthCostsofTransportation-Backgrounder.pdf>

Waste Management

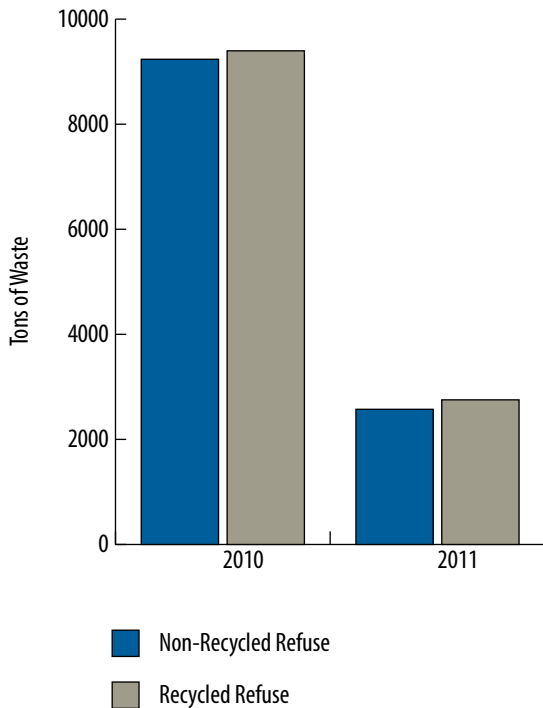
Cheltenham is concerned with its waste production. It aims to reduce total tonnage produced, increase reuse, and increase diversion to recycling streams.

CHELTENHAM REFUSE AND RECYCLING SCHEDULE

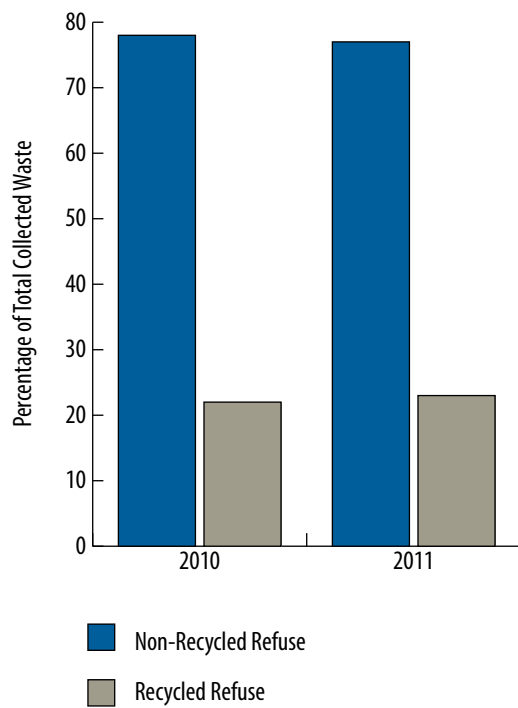


Cheltenham Waste Generation and Recycling Data (provided by the Cheltenham EAC):

CHELTENHAM TOWNSHIP COLLECTED WASTE



CHELTENHAM TOWNSHIP COLLECTED WASTE (%)



HELPFUL LINKS:

Cheltenham Township Recycling Guidelines, <http://cheltenhamtownship.org/pView.aspx?id=3293&catid=29>

Montgomery County's Household Hazardous Waste Collection Program, <http://www2.montcopa.org/montco/cwp/view,a,3,q,74873.asp>

Tips for Effective Composting,

<http://www.ext.colostate.edu/pubs/garden/07212.pdf>

<http://www.epa.gov/epawaste/conserves/rrr/composting/science.htm>

101 Ways to Reduce Waste, <http://www.deq.pima.gov/waste/101ways.html>

Building Materials Reuse Association, <http://www.bmra.org/listings/browse-by-state?catid=54>

Planet Reuse, <http://www.planetreuse.com/>

Water Management

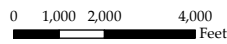
Water management, in its many forms, is critical to the wellbeing of Cheltenham Township. Concerns about stormwater and wastewater are foremost in the thoughts of Cheltenham's citizens and government.

IMPERVIOUS COVERAGE



CHELTENHAM TOWNSHIP MONTGOMERY COUNTY, PENNA.

2012



Map Created January, 2012

MCPC Montgomery
County
Planning
Commission
Montgomery County Courthouse - Planning Commission
PO Box 311 • Norristown PA 19304-0311
610.276.2922 • 610.276.2947
www.montcopa.org/planning

This map is based on GIS data, photography, and official records. No warranty is made as to the accuracy of the data. This map is not intended to be used as a legal instrument or for engineering purposes.

CURRENT FEMA FLOODPLAIN MAP



Cheltenham Impervious Surfaces Statistics based on a Montgomery County Planning Commission Study:

LAND AREA:

The total land area of Cheltenham Township is:
251,813,889 square feet
5780.9 acres
9.03 square miles

IMPERVIOUS COVER:

Impervious surfaces cover a total of **1,805 acres** of land area in Cheltenham Township, comprising **31.2% of the Township's total land area.**

BUILDING STRUCTURES:

There are 11,862 buildings/structures in the Township. These include residential and non-residential structures, some accessory structures (such as detached garages and sheds), and even such small structures as mausoleums in the Archdiocese cemetery.

The township's building structures cover **549 acres** of land area, comprising **9.5%** of the Township's total land area.

DRIVEWAYS, WALKWAYS, PATIOS, ETC.:

There are 10,067 driveways, walkways, patios, etc. on private property in the Township. These asphalt and concrete slabs cover **308 acres** of land area, comprising **5.3%** of the Township's total land area.

PARKING LOTS:

There are more than 400 surface parking lots and associated driveways in the Township. These asphalt and concrete areas (including islands within parking lots) cover **348 acres** of land area, comprising **5.3%** of the Township's total land area.

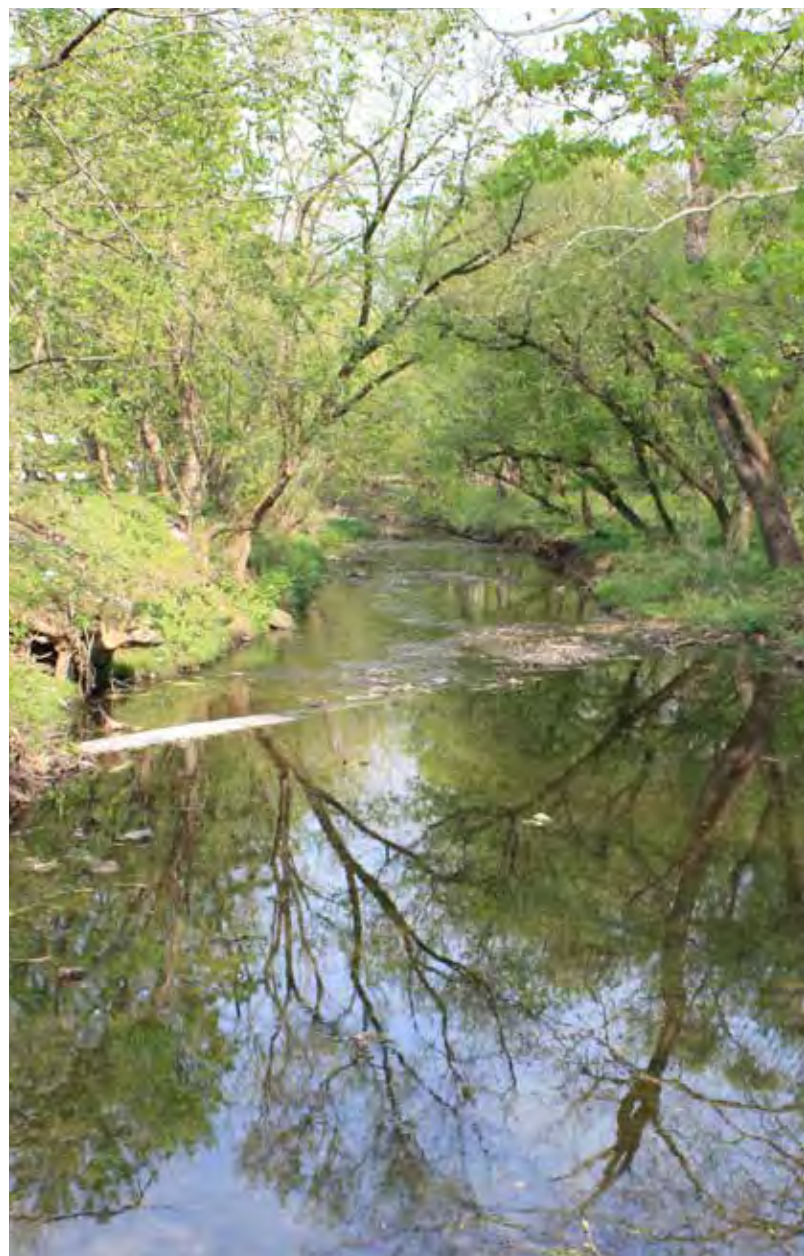
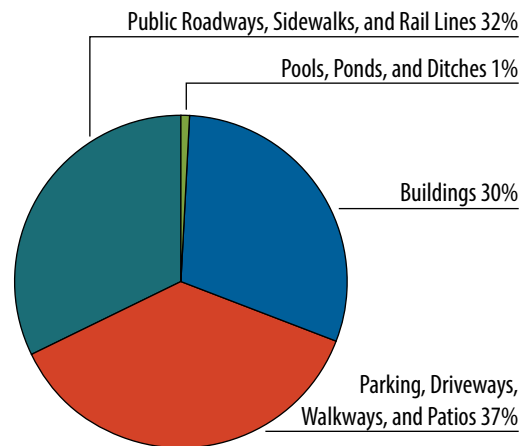
ROADWAYS AND RAIL LINES:

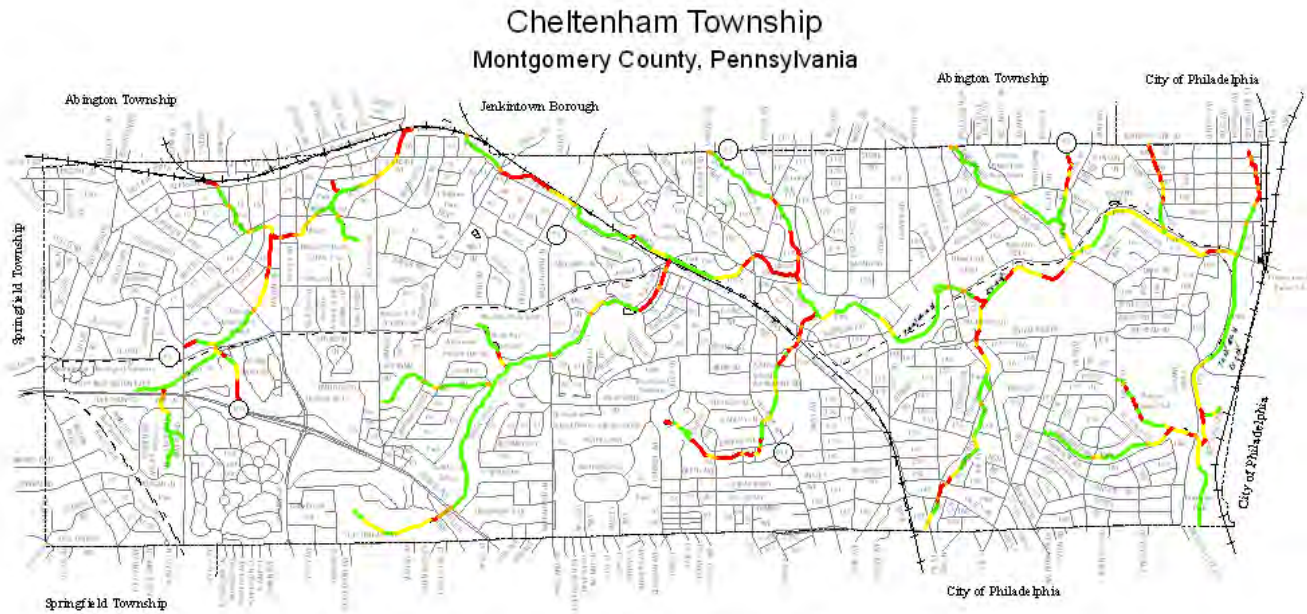
The Township's public travelways (including roads, medians, sidewalks, bridges, and paved shoulders) cover 568 acres of land area, and rail lines and bridges cover another 17 acres of land, totaling 585 acres, comprising 10.1% of the Township's total land area.

POOLS, PONDS, AND DITCHES:

There are 479 pools in the Township, as well as 25 concrete ponds and drainage ditches / channeled stream sections, all covering 14 acres of land area.

IMPERVIOUS SURFACE AREA IN CHELTENHAM TOWNSHIP





Riparian Buffer Assessment 2012 Update

- No Buffer
- Half Buffer
- Full Buffer
- Culvert Areas



Montgomery County Planning Commission
 Montgomery County Courthouse - Planning Commission
 PO Box 311 • Norristown PA 19384
 p: 610 278-3722 • f: 610 278-3944
 www.mcpa.org/pca.com

MCP

This map is based on 30 10' air photographs and official sources. Property lines were compiled from individual block maps from the Montgomery County Board of Assessment Appeals, with no verification from the deed. This map is not meant to be used as a legal definition of properties or for engineering purposes.

HELPFUL LINKS:

EPA's WaterSense Program for Reducing Water Usage & Calculating Savings, <http://www.epa.gov/WaterSense/index.html>

Hot Water Conservation Tips, <http://energy.gov/energysaver/articles/reduce-hot-water-use-energy-savings>

Build- A-Rain Barrel Workshops, Rutgers Water Resources Program, http://www.water.rutgers.edu/Stormwater_Management/rainbarrels.html#home

Energy Star Products, http://www.energystar.gov/index.cfm?c=products.pr_find_es_products

Tookany/Tacony Creek Integrated Watershed Management Plan, http://www.phillywatersheds.org/doc/Tacony_Frankford_WMP.pdf

Water Conservation Tips Sheet

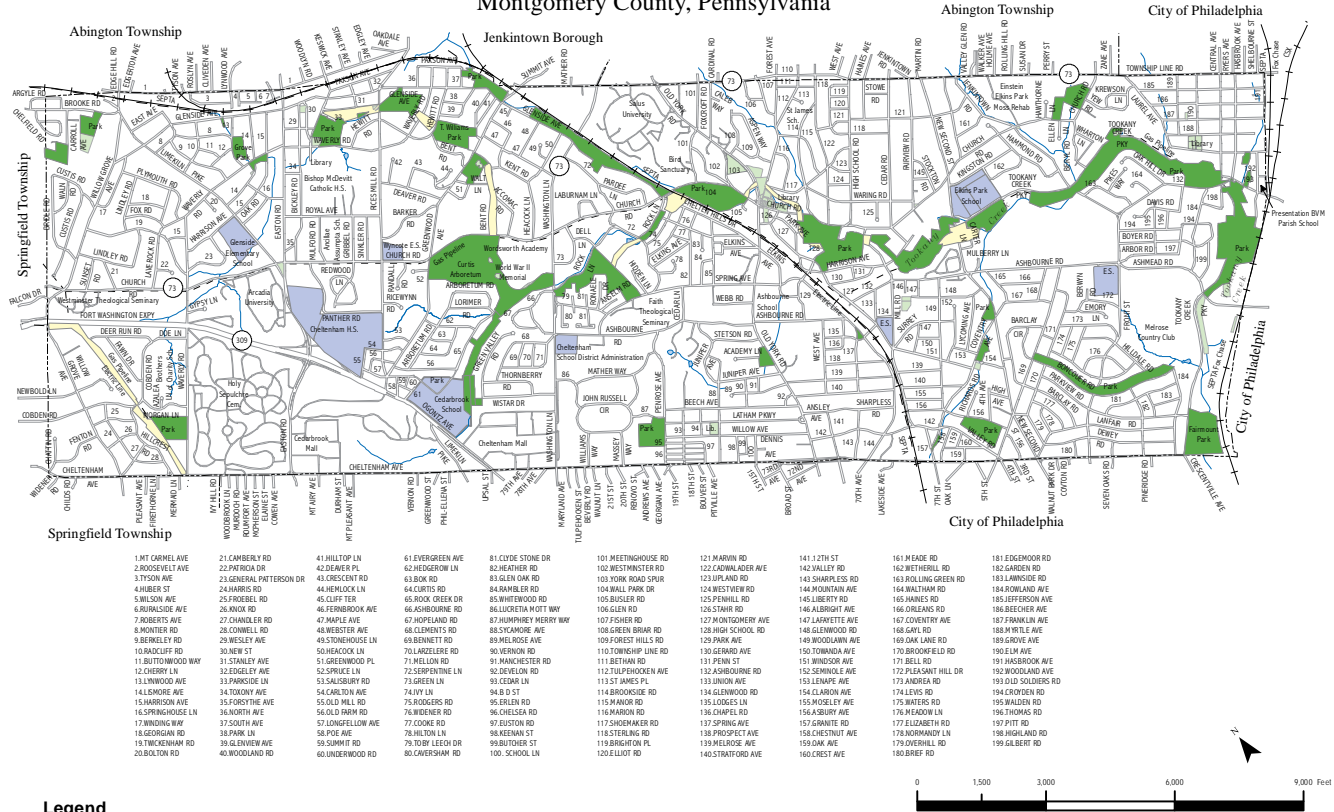
<http://www.warwick-bucks.org/stormwater/pdf/Water%20Conservation%20Tips.pdf>

Ecological Stewardship

It is important to protect existing natural resources in Cheltenham Township and look for opportunities to supplement what is already here.

OPEN SPACE NETWORK

Cheltenham Township Open Space Network Montgomery County, Pennsylvania



- Legend**
- Township Parks
 - School District Lands
 - Other Public Lands
 - Potential Greenways
 - Streams

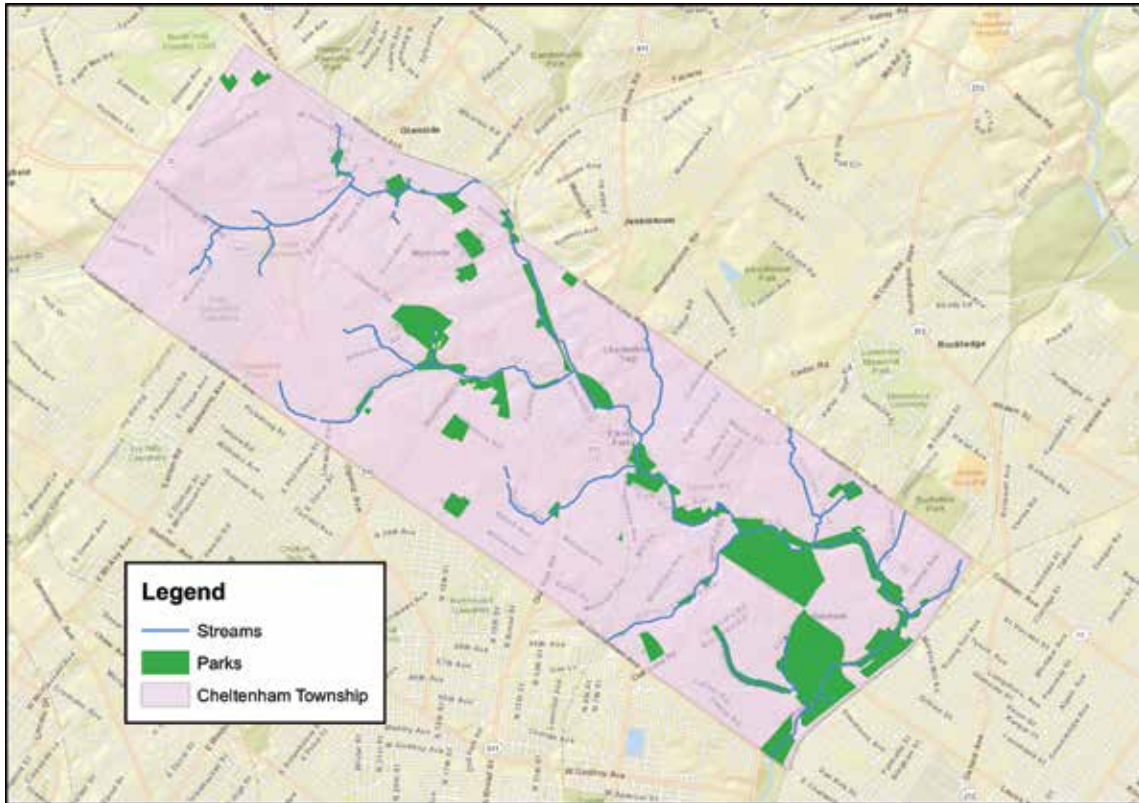
Pennsylvania Route

MCPC Montgomery County Planning Commission
 Montgomery County Courthouse - Planning Commission
 PO Box 311 • Norristown PA 19404
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 www.montcopa.org/plancom

This map is based on 2010 ortho photography and official sources. Property lines were compiled from individual block maps from the Montgomery County Board of Assessment Appeals, with no verification from the deed. This map is not meant to be used as a legal definition of properties or for engineering purposes.

Map prepared July 2011

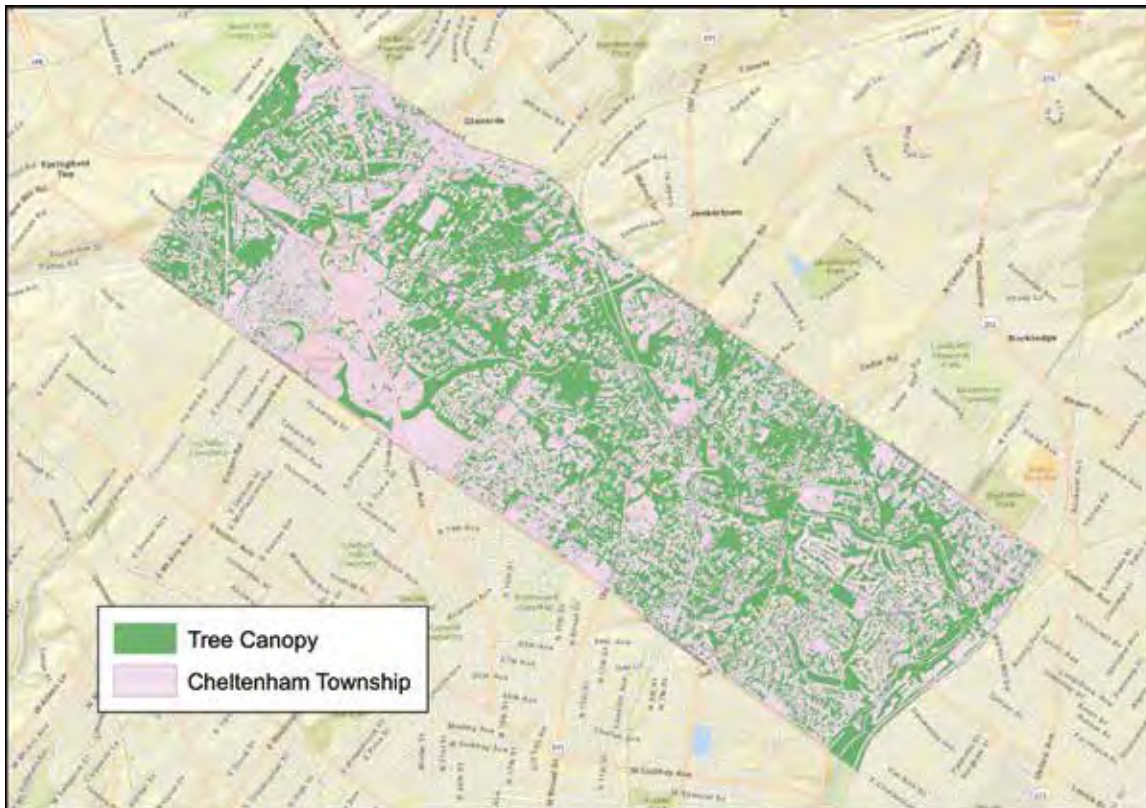
CHELTENHAM PARK SPACE



TREE CANOPY:

MCPC hand-outlined (in GIS) more than 7,000 trees and tree masses (multiple trees with a merged canopy), based on 2010 aerial photography, to create the tree canopy shown here. The tree canopy shown here covers 2,280 acres of land area (99,347,684 square feet; 3.6 square miles), which represents coverage of 39.4% of the total land area of the Township (5,781 acres).

Based on our analysis, almost 40% of Cheltenham Township has tree cover.

TREE COVERAGE**HELPFUL LINKS:**

FAQs About Invasive Species, <http://www.fws.gov/invasives/faq.html#q9>

American Forests <http://www.americanforests.org>

Arbor Day Foundation Tree Guide, <http://www.arborday.org/learn/>

Tree Maintenance Guide, Tips on Proper Tree Selection, Planting & Pruning, <http://www.oru.com/documents/energyandsafety/treemaintenanceguide.pdf>

Rutgers, NJ Agricultural Experiment Station, Tree, Shrub and Flower Growing Fact Sheets and Bulletins, <http://>

njaes.rutgers.edu/pubs/subcategory.asp?cat=5&sub=41

Eco-health relationship browser, <http://www.epa.gov/research/healthscience/browser/index.html>

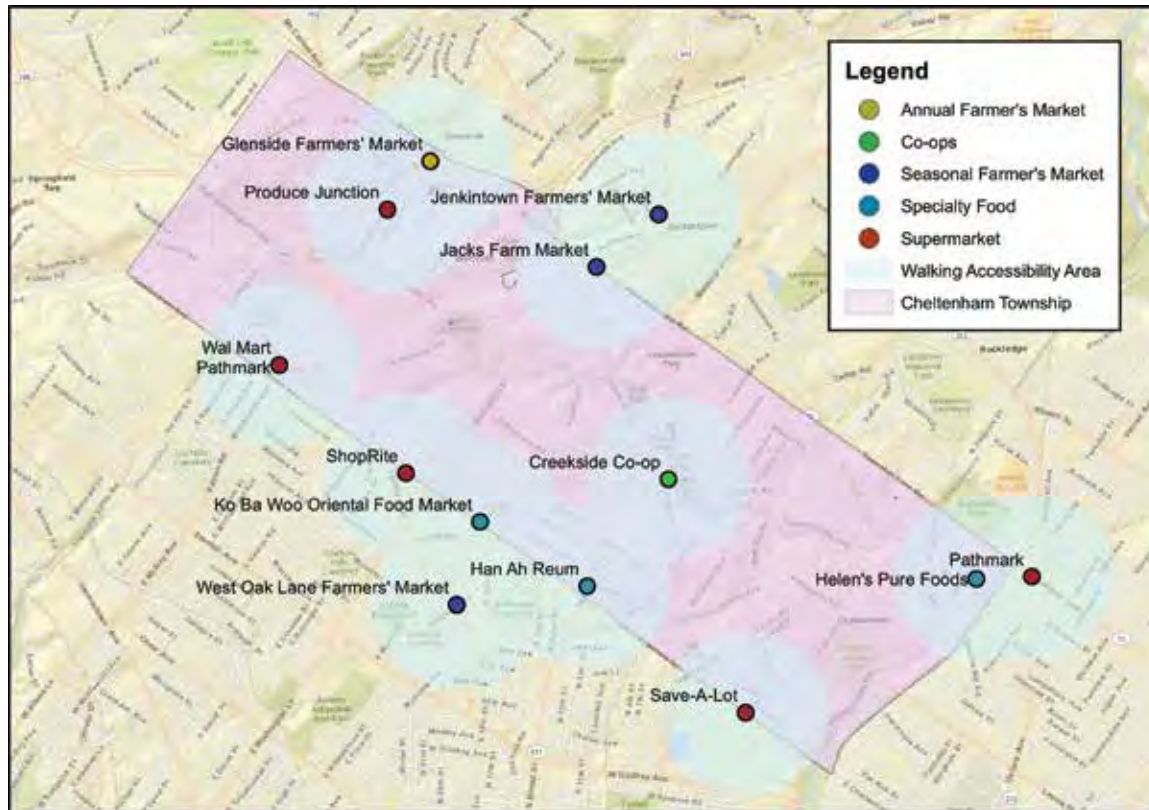
Philadelphia Horticultural Society Subject Guides <http://www.pennsylvaniahorticulturalsociety.org/learning-center/>

PHS Gold Medal Plants <http://www.goldmedalplants.org/>

Healthy Living For All

To sustain good health among township residents it is important that they have access to fresh food, health-care and physical activity opportunities

FOOD ACCESSIBILITY (WITHIN HALF MILE WALKING RADIUS)

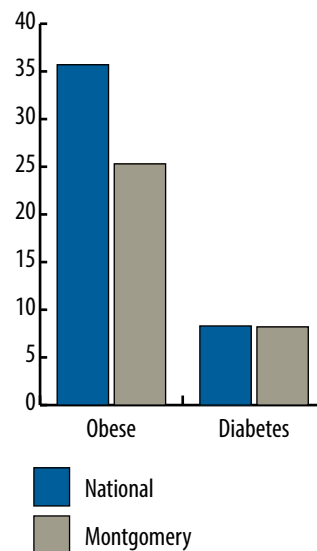


There are a number of grocery options in Cheltenham Township that are accessible by walking, demonstrated by the blue areas (half- mile radius). The area in purple represents a food desert, because there are no accessible food options within walking distance. There are no fresh supermarkets such as Whole Foods or Trader's Joe's accessible by walking from any part of the township, although those stores are within the 2 mile radius (typical bicycling distance).

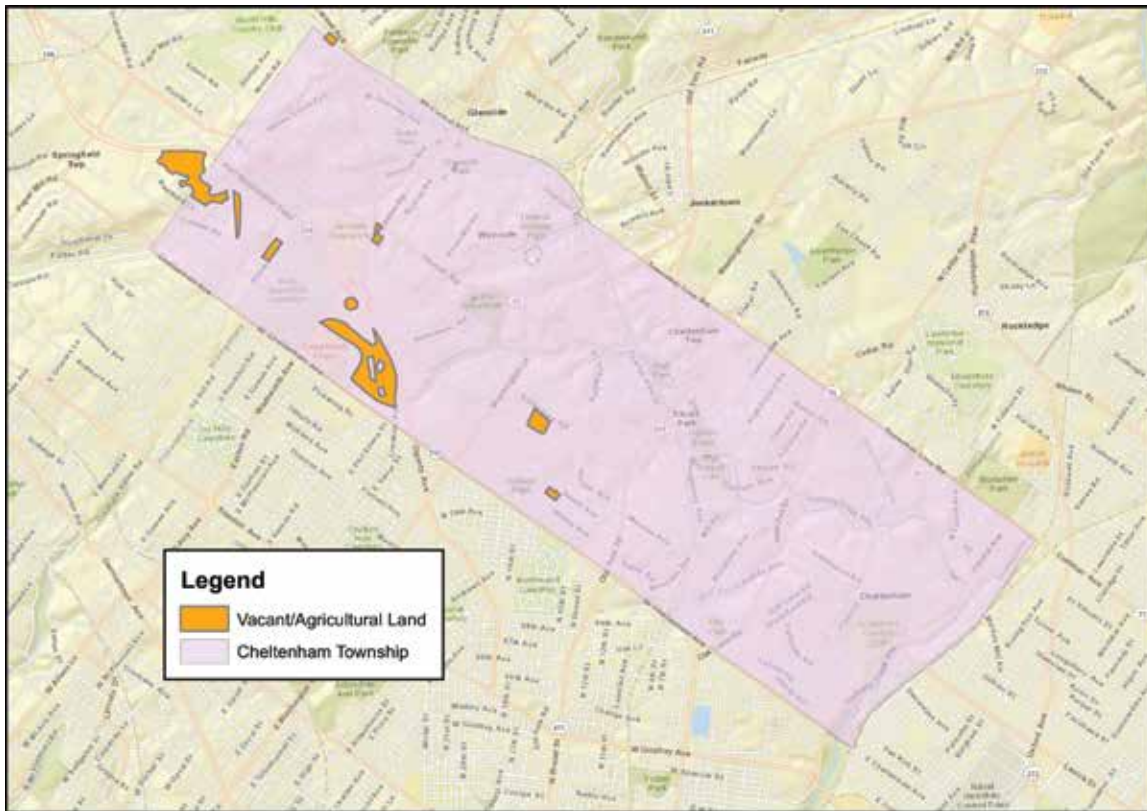
The Cheltenham Vacant Land map shows the location of vacant land and areas zoned for agricultural purposes in Cheltenham Township. These spaces could potentially be used for community gardens.

There are currently only two established community gardens in Cheltenham Township. One is located in Wyncote and the other in the LaMott neighborhood.

CHELTENHAM OBESITY DATA (BASED ON 2010 CENSUS DATA):



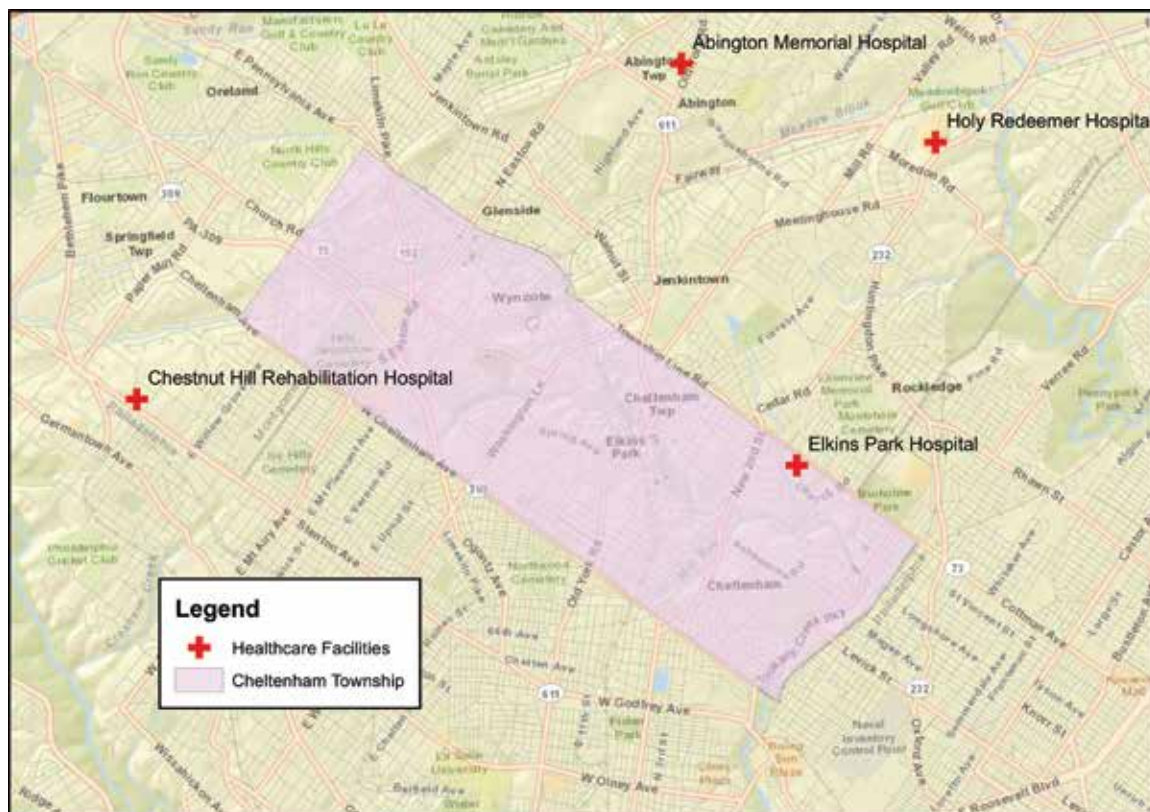
VACANT LAND



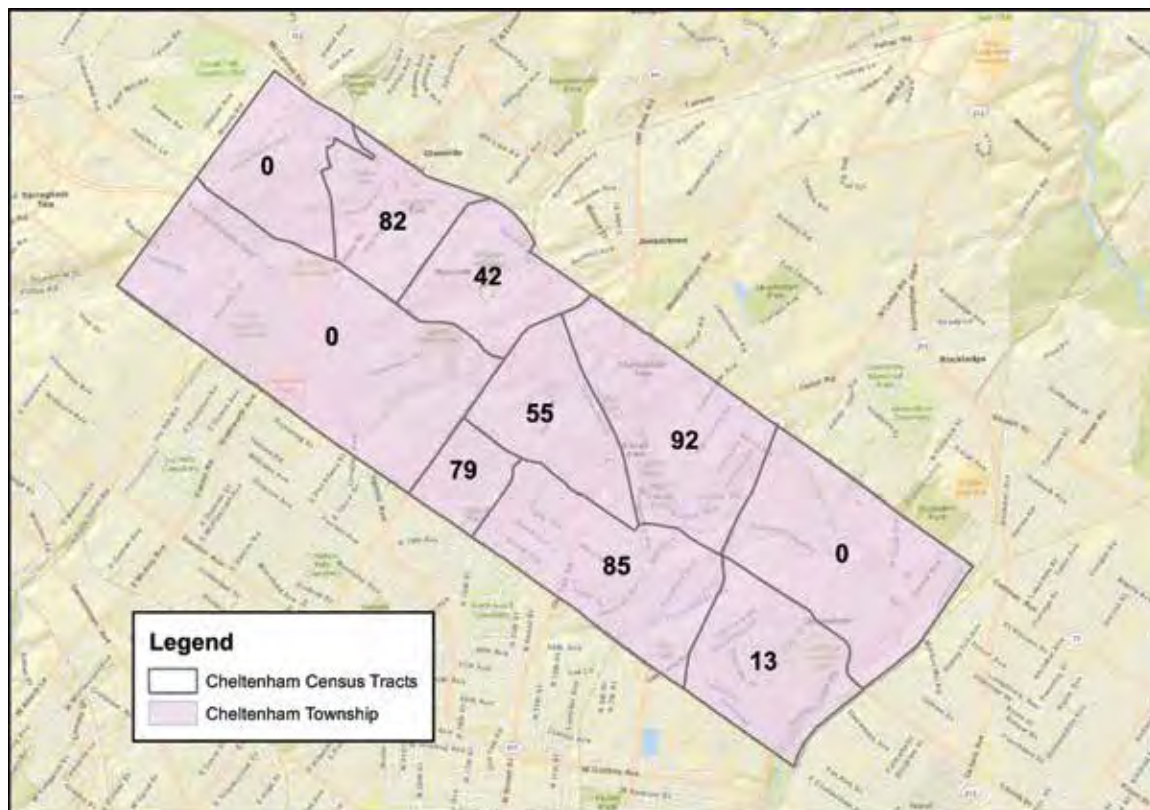
COMMUNITY GARDENS



AREA HEALTH CARE FACILITIES



HOUSEHOLDS WITH FOOD STAMPS



HELPFUL LINKS:

Community Garden Benefits & Requirements, <http://www.cityfarmer.org/madison.html>

FoodRoutes Network & Community Involved in Sustaining Agriculture (CISA), http://www.foodroutes.org/bl_toolkit.jsp

Local Harvest, <http://www.localharvest.org/>

Pennsylvania Association for Sustainable Agriculture, <http://www.pasafarming.org/>

Buy Fresh Buy Local, <http://www.buylocalpa.org/>

The Food Trust, <http://www.thefoodtrust.org/>

AirNow, <http://www.airnow.gov/>

Air Pollutants, <http://www.epa.gov/air/airpollutants.html>

PA's Environmental Facility Application Compliance Tracking System, <http://www.ahs2.dep.state.pa.us/eFacts-Web/default.aspx>

Design for the Environment – Labeled Products, <http://www.epa.gov/dfe/pubs/projects/formulat/formpart.htm>

Green at Work Guide, <http://files.dep.state.pa.us/Energy/Governor's%20Green%20Governance%20Council/GGGC-PortalFiles/greenatworkguide.pdf>

Top Green Homes Terms, <http://www.epa.gov/greenhomes/TopGreenHomeTerms.htm>

Urban Planning and Public Health: A Story of Separation and Reconnection

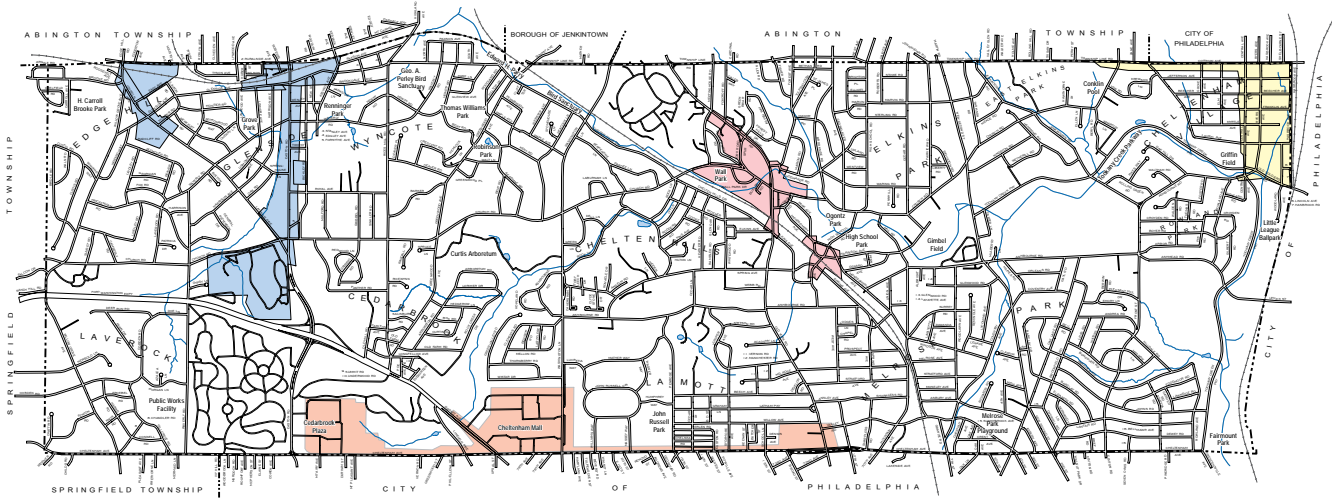
By Lawrence D. Frank PhD, RLA and Sarah Kavage MUP

http://www.nursingcenter.com/Inc/journalarticle?Article_ID=786709

Local Economy

Local economy plays a vital role in any sustainability effort. It is crucial to understand the dynamics of how residents live, work and shop. These activities can have a tremendous impact establishing a strong, local economy.

COMMERCIAL DISTRICTS



MAP OF CHELTENHAM TOWNSHIP
MONTGOMERY COUNTY, PENNA.

2012

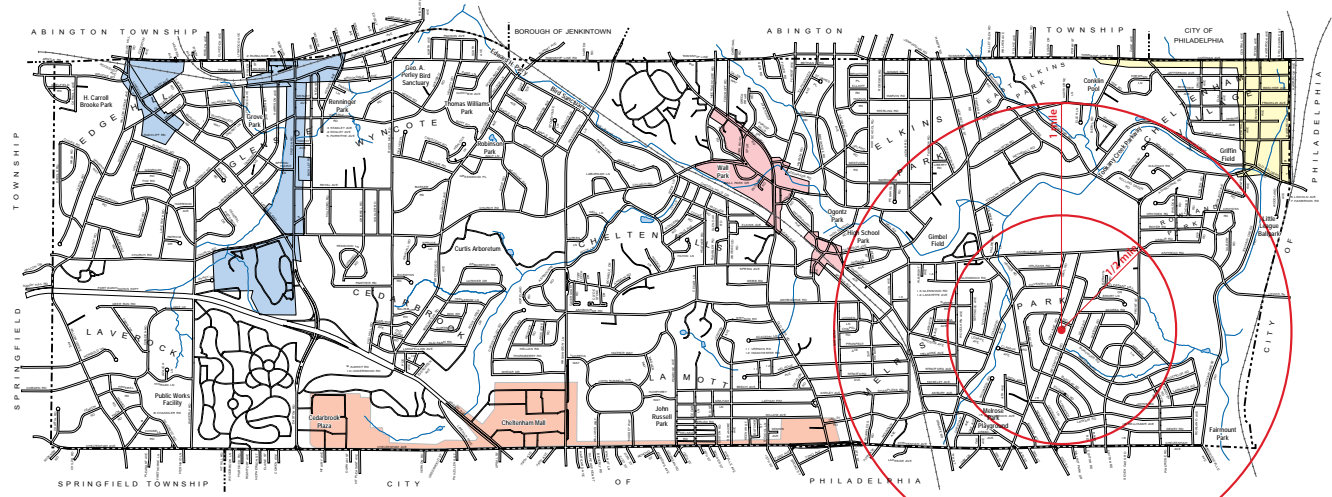
Commercial Districts

- Cheltenham Village
- Glenside
- Elkins Park East & West
- Cheltenham Avenue



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 www.montcopc.org/planning

COMMERCIAL DISTRICT ACCESSIBILITY:



MAP OF CHELTENHAM TOWNSHIP
MONTGOMERY COUNTY, PENNA.

2012

Commercial Districts

- Cheltenham Village
- Glenside
- Elkins Park East & West
- Cheltenham Avenue



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HELPFUL LINKS:

Cheltenham Township Business Directory, <http://cheltenhamtownship.org/businessview.aspx?l=a>

Sustainable Business Network of Greater Philadelphia, <http://www.sbnphiladelphia.org/>

Business Alliance for Local Living Economies (BALLE), <http://www.livingeconomies.org/>

US Green Chamber, <http://www.usgreenchamber.com/>

Sustainable Business Network of Greater Philadelphia, <http://sbnphiladelphia.org/>

Greater Philadelphia Green Business Program, <http://phillygreenbiz.com/>

U.S. Small Business Administration, <http://www.sba.gov/category/navigation-structure/starting-managing-business/managing-business/running-business/green-business-guide>

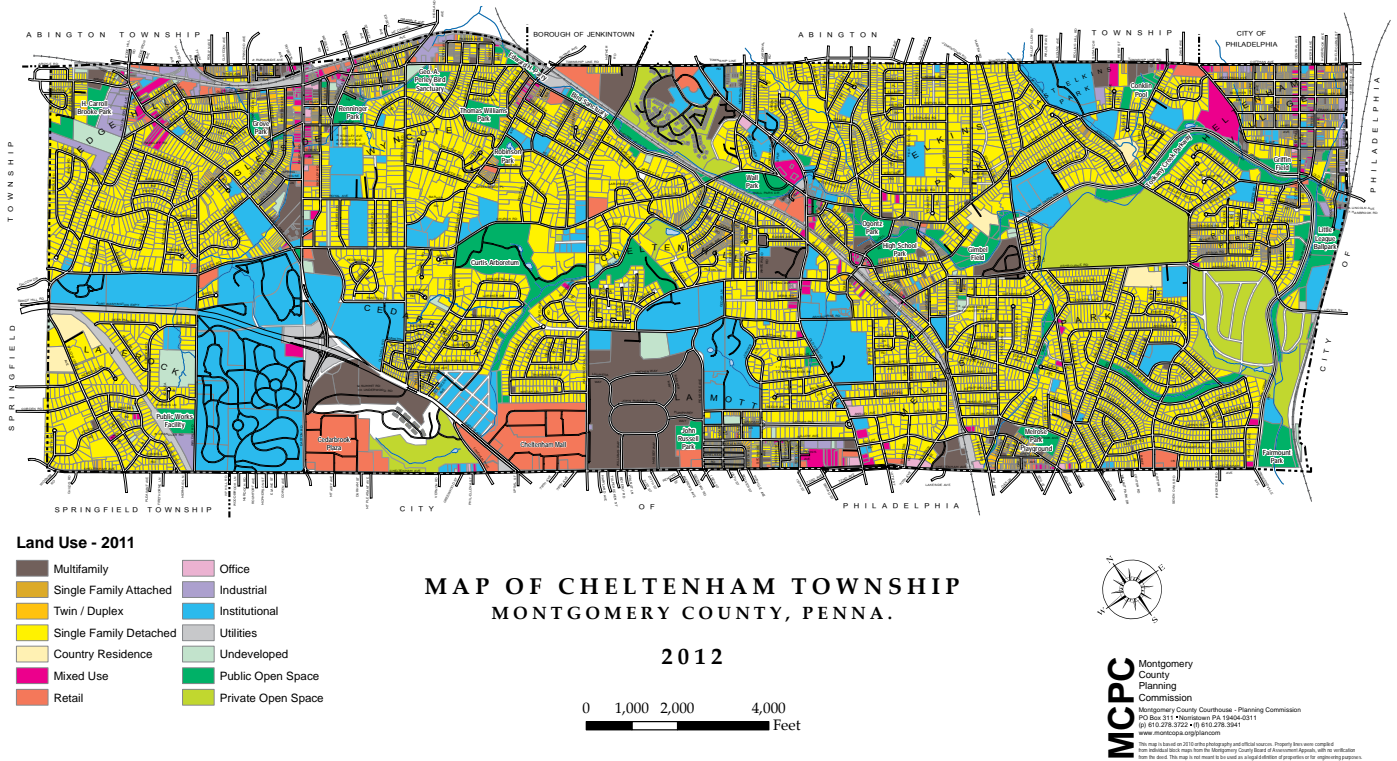
A guidebook to the Green Economy Issue 1: Green Economy, Green Growth, and Low-Carbon Development - history, definitions and a guide to recent publications, UN-DESA

<http://www.uncsd2012.org/index.php?page=view&type=400&nr=528&menu=45>

Sustainable Development

When development occurs, it should be done in a manner that has the most positive impact for the Township and the least negative impact on the environment.

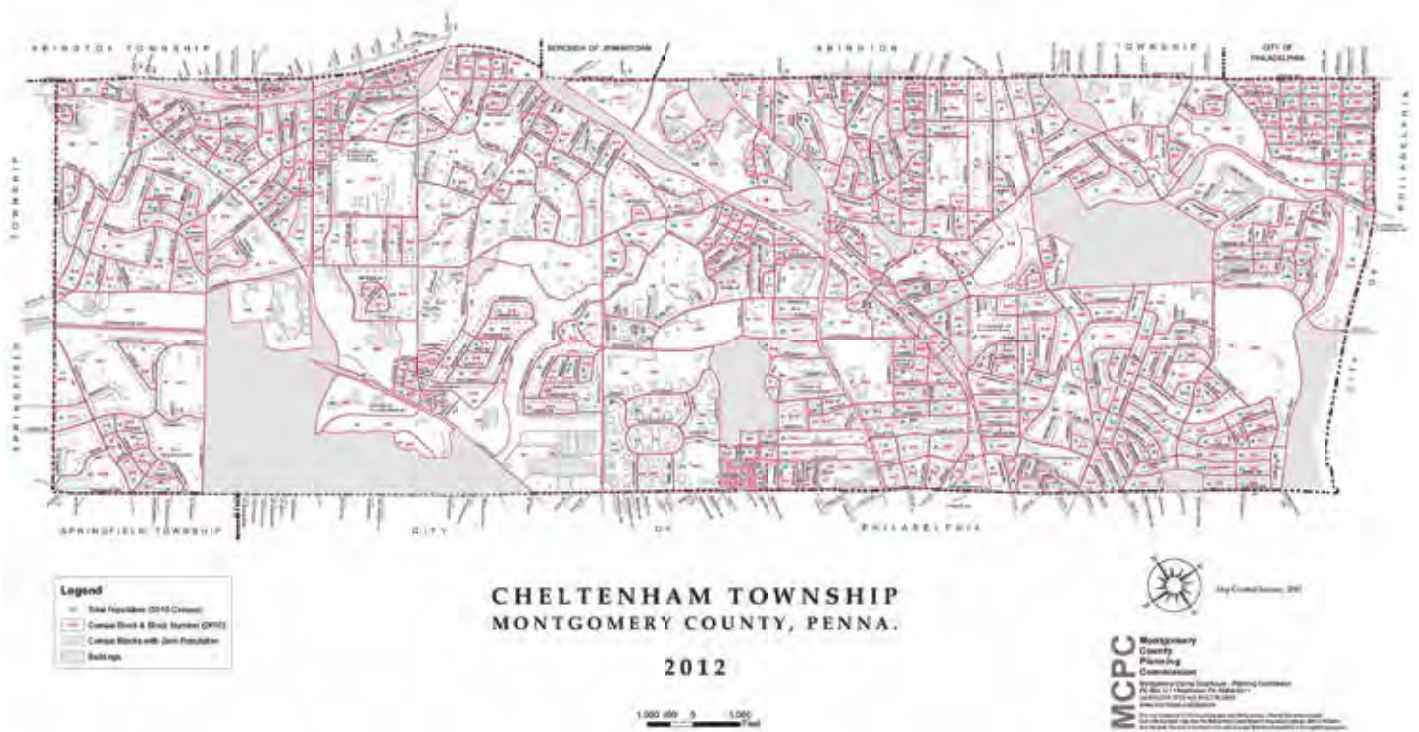
LAND USE MAP



TOWNSHIP-OWNED PROPERTIES



CENSUS BLOCK MAP



HELPFUL LINKS:

Environments for Living, http://www.environmentsfor-living.com/pdfs/PL_CG.pdf

U.S. Green Building Council (USGBC), <http://www.usgbc.org/>

National Association of Home Builders (NAHB), <http://www.nahb.org/>

Consensus Committee on the National Green Building Standard, <http://www.nahbc.org/technical/standards/greenbuilding.aspx>

Rutgers Center for Green Building, <http://www.green-building.rutgers.edu/>

Sustainable Sites Initiative, <http://www.sustainablesites.org/>

LEED for Homes, <http://www.usgbc.org/DisplayPage.aspx?CMSPageID=147>

LEED Building Certifications, <http://www.gbci.org/main-nav/building-certification/leed-certification.aspx>

Local Government Guide to LEED, <http://www.usgbc.org/DisplayPage.aspx?CMSPageID=2451>

National Association of Home Builders: Environment, <http://www.nahb.org/page.aspx/category/sectionID=211>

Green Building, Remodeling & Development, <http://www.nahb.org/page.aspx/category/sectionID=206>

Sustainable Development: From Brundtland to Rio 2012 http://www.un.org/wcm/webdav/site/climatechange/shared/gsp/docs/GSP1-6_Background%20on%20Sustainable%20Devt.pdf



The government of Cheltenham Township strives to be a leader in sustainability. To do so, the Township seeks to enact action items that will help it achieve a vibrant local economy, a healthy community, and a protected environment, and will in turn encourage local residents to live more sustainably as well. Some may not be accomplished immediately and some will take years to accomplish, but all the items are worthwhile and will be pursued as soon as possible. Any member of the community is encouraged to create their own action items to pursue sustainability in their own lives and further the Township's goals.

The Action Items are organized under each goal and contain a brief description followed by:

Phasing - A discussion of when the action item could begin and how long it may take to accomplish.

Cost and Possible Funding Issues – A discussion of cost and funding issues that may be associated with the action item.

Possible Partners – An identification of possible partner organizations and institutions both outside and within the Township to increase the chances of action items being accomplished.



Community Engagement

1. Expand the presence of sustainability on the municipal website

It is crucial for the public to be aware of Cheltenham's Sustainability Plan and become knowledgeable about sustainability in general. To that end, the Township website could include more information

concerning sustainability and the Cheltenham Sustainability Plan to make residents more aware of these issues when browsing or researching on the site. A separate website can also be created, devoted solely to the Sustainability Plan, and linked with the Township's website.

Phasing

Can be immediate

Cost and Possible Funding Issues

There will be some web design, implementation and maintenance costs. But, having a future Cheltenham Sustainability Implementation Organization manage the website would drastically reduce the Township's costs.

Possible Partners

The Environmental Action Committee (EAC), Township organizations and institutions, and any future Cheltenham Sustainability Implementation Organization.

2. Explore ways to promote the sustainable practices needed to achieve the goals and objectives of the Cheltenham Township Sustainability Plan.

It is crucial for the public to engage in sustainable practices in order to achieve the goals and objectives of the plan, and be prepared for the mounting climate, economic and resource challenges. The Township government can encourage public action, and should determine the best methods within its abilities to do so. The Township could explore tax incentives, other possible financial mechanisms and non-financial incentives that may motivate the public to embrace sustainable practices.

Phasing

Can be immediate

Cost and Possible Funding Issues

An extensive study should be conducted to research the best possible financial and non-financial practices within the Township's abilities that could encourage sustainable practices in a fiscally responsible manner.

Possible Partners

The EAC, Township organizations and institutions, and any future Cheltenham Sustainability Implementation Organization.

3. Use community events and displays at Township facilities to inform residents about sustainability

Township events are perfect, low-cost opportunities to reach out to the citizens. The Township can:

- A. Host tables or booths at events.
- B. The Township could consider acquiring an electronic dashboard for the Township Administration Building to show information about Township facilities, energy use, amount of material recycled, trash collected, other information about sustainable township activities (green cleaning, purchasing etc). The dashboard information could be shared via Sustainable Cheltenham website and with the public at events.
- C. Ensure sustainability-related organizations have an opportunity to be present at events.
- D. Educate the public about sustainable decisions the Township is implementing (such as recycling containers, recycled content, environmentally friendly materials being used, etc.).

- E. Provide sustainability information for public consumption in spaces like libraries, municipal buildings, park facilities and partnering organizations' buildings.

Phasing

Can be immediate

Cost and Possible Funding Issues

Production of materials to distribute, including handouts, posters, banners, etc. There will also be a cost in compensation for staff time to attend an event.

Possible Partners

The EAC, Township organizations and institutions, and any future Cheltenham Sustainability Implementation Organization.

4. Create a community calendar that lists all programs, events, meetings, etc. in one place to promote citizen participation

It is crucial for citizens to be aware of government activities and take advantage of opportunities to communicate and interact. The Township currently has a community calendar on the website that highlights meeting dates and times. A centralized calendar that includes more events, meetings, etc. will be a good way to bring people together and support the activities of Cheltenham Township and community organizations.

Phasing

Can be immediate

Cost and Possible Funding Issues

There will be some web design and implementation costs to upgrade the calendar. It will also take staff time to update and maintain the calendar if it is on the Township website.

Possible Partners

Input would be needed from organizations in the Township to provide the events they want listed.

5. Create an annual awards program for individual and group sustainability efforts

Creating an awards program can recognize the sustainability work being done by residents, commercial and retail properties and institutions. The com-

plexity of the program could range from recognition in the township newsletter to a fully developed award program with formal submissions and awards. Criteria for the awards and necessary rules can be created following models and examples, including: The *Chris Bedford Arts Festival & Sustainability Awards Program, Grassroots Awards, and Sustainable Morris-town Triple Bottom Line Awards*

Phasing

Intermediate. It may take up to a year to set up such a program.

Cost and Possible Funding Issues

Staff time to design the program and then time every year to choose winners. If a prize is awarded, such as a plaque, that cost must be figured in.

Possible Partners

Residents and community organizations would be needed to add input for nomination. The EAC or any future Cheltenham Sustainability implementation organization can manage the program.

6. Sponsor and encourage community involvement in improving parks and open spaces

Community volunteering in Township parks and open spaces encourages citizen ownership and helps offset the need for staff time. If citizens feel invested in the Township, then they are more likely to use the spaces, maintain them, and support the funding necessary for the parks and open space programs. Community involvement can be encouraged by the Township during the following projects

- A. The Wall Park playground project
- B. Riparian planting
- C. Park clean-ups
- D. Tree plantings
- E. Participation with Friends groups.
- F. Construction of a new foot bridge at Grove Park.
- G. Maintenance of High School Park, Ralph Morgan Park and Tookany Park.
- H. Citizen participation through a Master Plan Committee is a required part of the planning process. Citizen Committees could be formed for each park that does not yet have a Master Plan.

Phasing

Immediate

Cost and Possible Funding Issues

Volunteer help should save the Township money but the process is not free. Staff time must be devoted to acquiring the volunteers and then managing them. Liability and insurance issues should be understood before volunteer work begins. Many grants exist that require or encourage citizen participation in the proposed project. In each case, the effort involved in engaging the public must be weighed against the time and effort required to do so.

Possible Partners

The Township can elicit help from any organization within the Township, possibly focusing on environmental and student groups.

7. Increase communication, information, and transparency about municipal projects and actions

It is important that the community is aware of the decisions and subsequent actions the Township is undertaking. A more informed public makes for a better government process and a citizenry that feels more invested in its Township. The Township can:

- A. Continue to broadcast township meetings and publicize township activities in paper and on web.
- B. Expand the reach of electronic newsletter to reduce communication expenses.
- C. Use social media as communication tools (Pinterest, Facebook, Twitter, etc.) to reach more citizens.

Phasing

Work can be done immediately to update email list serves, while it may take longer to develop a social media strategy.

Cost and Possible Funding Issues

Staff time to develop and update the social media outreach along with production costs associated with the relevant technologies.

Possible Partners

The Township could work with academic institutions, or open data organizations, to help design, implement and maintain social media outreach.



1. Reduce the usage of GHG-producing land maintenance equipment

Powered land maintenance equipment such as mowers, tractors, weed whackers, etc. consume fuel and produce GHG emissions. The Township can continue to explore the possibility of finding more efficient and cost effective land maintenance equipment. The Township could also pursue opportunities to reduce the use of this equipment in Township-owned parks and open spaces. For example, altered mowing regimes can be used to allow for meadow growth. Along with the reduction of fuel usage and GHG emissions, the creation of meadows has value as a native habitat, improving water quality and decreasing soil erosion and stormwater run-off.

Phasing

An examination of parks and open spaces can begin immediately. Once areas have been designated “low mow,” the process of cultivating a meadow will take two to three mowing seasons to fully become a meadow.

Cost and Possible Funding Issues

Trying to define an exact cost savings from this Action Item is difficult because fuel costs vary and the amount of land allowed to turn to meadow is not yet determined. But, the savings will be apparent. For example, as of May 2012 the Berks County Parks Department has implemented a test run of their “new multi-year low mowing program.” Only 1 percent, about 9 acres, of county park lands will experience a change in mowing schedules. This will yield an 87% fuel cost savings and an 85% manpower savings for the 2012 year. The expected total savings for 2012 amount to \$41,475.58; though that does not include the cost for signage and resident education.

Possible Partners

The most important partner in this effort will be citizens who use the parks and open spaces. It is important to educate them about the value of meadows to reduce possible complaints. It is also an opportunity to educate the population about the species that may live in the meadow and their effect on the community, both positive and possi-

bly negative (such as the risks of Lyme Disease and West Nile Virus). Signage at the meadow areas may help educate the residents during their recreational experience.

2. Reduce the energy demands of Township buildings

Explore energy conservation strategies through the continued use of the DVRPC Energy Analysis Tool and through professional-level energy audits. The Township has been awarded a place in the DVRPC Circuit Rider Program Direct Technical Assistance Program. The benefits of this program will include:

- A. One-on-one assistance from DVRPC and Practical Energy Solutions that will:
 1. Evaluate energy use in municipal operations,
 2. Identify and prioritize cost-effective projects to reduce energy costs,
 3. Train staff on energy management best practices, and
 4. Provide assistance with implementing recommended projects, including purchasing and identifying sources of funding.
- B. Participation in workshops with other Direct Assistance Communities.
- C. Recognition as an energy efficiency leader.

The Township can take the experiences gained from the DVRPC Circuit Rider Program Direct Technical Assistance Program and apply these lessons to other municipal buildings to replicate the success.

The Township can also consider participating in demand response programs from PECO or with a private company.

Phasing

This work can begin immediately but will take years to accomplish and could be ongoing. Looking at energy conservation is not a project with a definitive timeline; it is more of a fundamental change in how the Township will do business.

Cost and Possible Funding Issues

The goal of energy conservation is to save money and resources while reducing the Township’s impact on the environment. The Circuit Rider program will help the township develop cost estimates and pay-back periods for each recommendation. Some recommendations will include larger capital expen-

ditures with long term payback, while other savings will include behavioral shifts and retrofits that have a payback within a year. Savings realized through the low-cost or no-cost measures can be used towards future, more capital-intensive, conservation measures.

Possible Partners

The Township will be partnering with DVRPC and Practical Energy Solutions. The Township may also want to consider coordinating with other municipalities in the Circuit Rider Program. Additionally, partnerships could be formed with state and regional agencies that work in energy conservation and with private citizens that have expertise in this area.

3. Develop a strategy to help promote and produce renewable energy

The Township can develop a strategy to make sustainable choices when purchasing energy, work towards renewable energy production, and promote the use of renewable energy in the Township. The strategy may include:

- A. Tracking energy usage. The Township could install Smart Meter technology, wireless metering and/or computer-controlled energy management to understand real time energy demands and to minimize electrical uses both in municipal buildings and residential properties.
- B. Exploring new energy providers if current supplier is not the most competitive.
- C. Exploring purchasing green energy for a portion, or all, of the Township’s energy needs. Explore the possibility of a consortium of Montgomery County municipalities buying renewable energy to reduce costs.
- D. Publicizing renewable energy purchases and its environmental benefits in an easily digestible way so that residents understand the benefits of renewable energy.
- E. Providing renewable energy and energy conservation incentives. The incentives may be provided through the Zoning Ordinance, removal of existing regulatory challenges and exploring possible financial incentives.
- F. Establishing a clearinghouse of renewable energy and energy conservation information for residents based on state, regional and federal websites. The information can highlight example

payback times, location assessment, installation and other related building permit and zoning rules.

- G. Maintaining a list of people and organizations within the Township with renewable energy expertise. Use as a resource guide for fellow citizens.

Phasing

This work can begin immediately but will take years to accomplish and could be an ongoing effort. Looking at energy purchasing and renewable energy production is not a project with a definitive timeline; it is more of a change in how the Township will do business.

Cost and Possible Funding Issues

A competitive energy purchasing strategy can produce cost savings for the Township, though energy from a renewable source may be more expensive than energy from traditional sources. Staff, and possibly consultant time, will be required to make these decisions.

Possible Partners

The EAC, Township organizations and institutions, local residents and any future Cheltenham Sustainability Implementation Organization. Additionally, the Township can work with established non-profits dedicated to promoting renewable energy.



Mobility

1. Continue to shift from conventional vehicles to electric, hybrid or renewable fuel vehicles

The use of conventional gas and diesel vehicles leads to greenhouse gas emissions and air pollution. The Township can work to reduce these pollution levels by replacing its fleet with electric, hybrid or alternative fuel vehicles. The external consequences of using alternative fuels, such as emissions and land consumption, should be taken into account when determining vehicle replacement strategies. A vehicle purchasing and use model can be established using the DVRPC Energy Analysis Tool.

Phasing

This work has already begun and could continue through each year’s budgeting process. As older

vehicles need replacing, hybrid or alternative fuel vehicles could be considered.

Cost and Possible Funding Issues

It is important to consider the type of vehicle needed and the average vehicle miles traveled when considering buying a hybrid or alternative fuel vehicle. It is also crucial to consider the cost of new fueling infrastructure and its regional availability. These factors will greatly influence the payback period for the increased cost of a hybrid or alternative fuel vehicle. The DVRPC Energy Analysis Tool can help Cheltenham consider these issues.

Possible Partners

The Township can look to state, regional and federal partners for decision-making tools and purchasing guidance.

2. Develop and implement a plan to connect greenways, safe roadways, sidewalks, and other paths to create a seamless car-free transportation system

Working to improve the ability of residents to travel throughout the Township without the use of their cars will create a healthier environment, healthier residents and a more vibrant community. Some project possibilities include:

- A. Assess and prioritize the 36 specific intersections within the Township that would make its Bike Route network. A map of the “Cheltenham Proposed Bike Routes Map” is found in the Sustainability Resource Section.
- B. Connect current bike routes to the regional trail system with installation of the proposed Cresheim Trail to the Pennypack Trail and other regional trails.
- C. Work to create safer intersections leading to rail stations.

Phasing

This can begin immediately and continue for the long term. Planning for these connections and future bike route additions can begin immediately. Initial bike route development can be achieved by painting lines on certain roads to designate a bike lane and by adding “Share the Road” signage and safety features. When construction is required, these types of projects are most feasibly implemented concurrent with road work or development. Plans

could be established immediately, but the actual building might not happen for years to come.

Cost and Possible Funding Issues

The cost of these projects can vary greatly depending on the project. Grant funding exists to help communities plan and implement pedestrian projects.

Possible Partners

The EAC is currently working on this issue as are other citizen groups and individual citizens in the Township. The Township can also partner with non-profits such as the Bicycle Coalition of Greater Philadelphia, Pennsylvania Environmental Council and the national Rails to Trails Conservancy.

3. Encourage residents to walk and bike to township meetings, to school and throughout the Township

The Township can encourage walking and biking by creating promotional programs and by creating an environment that is conducive to pedestrian traffic. Some project possibilities include:

- A. Installing bike parking in downtown areas, at train stations, at schools and at municipal facilities. Where economically feasible, the Township could consider adding commuter facilities (i.e. showers and lockers) at these sites as well.
- B. Encouraging collaboration with the National Center for Safe Routes to School
- C. Partnering with the school district on “Safe Route to School Days” and “Walking School Bus” programs.
- D. Continuing to work with SEPTA to increase bike parking at train stations
- E. Implementing a bike-sharing program

Phasing

This could begin immediately and continue for the long term.

Cost and Possible Funding Issues

Some of these projects can be done with just staff time (such as promotion of programs and providing incentives). Others may require capital investments such as for commuter facilities. Grant funding exists and can be used to help communities plan and implement pedestrian projects.

Possible Partners

SEPTA and DVRPC are possible regional partners. The EAC is currently working on these issues as are other citizen groups in the Township.

4. **Maintain and improve upon the Greater Valley Forge Transportation Management Association (GVFTMA) Gold Sustainability Award**

The Township currently is a GVFTMA Gold Sustainability Award recipient for its outstanding achievement in implementing programs that provide and promote commuting alternatives for its employees and the community as a whole. The Township can maintain this status and work to achieve Platinum level. Details about the Sustainability Award program, and a video about Cheltenham Township, can be found on the GVFTMA website: <http://www.gvftma.com/sustainability/awards.php>.

Phasing

Achieving these award levels is attainable but could require a considerable amount of time to execute. The community would need sufficient time to design and plan how to execute the initiatives in addition to obtaining any necessary funding.

Cost and Possible Funding Issues

The cost to advance Sustainable Award levels varies depending on the activity and/or practices that are chosen.

Possible Partners

The GVFTMA.

5. **Train Township personnel on proper fleet use to help conserve fuel and reduce GHG emissions**

Education about proper fleet use is recommended to train municipal employees and fleet managers about how to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and complete necessary tasks more fuel-efficiently. Educational tools available to the Township include webinars, educational materials and trainings from regional and national organizations. A survey can also be undertaken to determine whether municipal vehicle use can be limited or replaced with bikes or walking. Vehicle telematics can also help to conserve fuel by tracking unauthorized personal uses of municipal vehicles. At a base level, this can include installing GPS navigation systems on fleet vehicles. To achieve greater efficiency, the Township can also

install wireless data communication, routing optimization and vehicle tracking software.

Phasing

Both training and installing software can be accomplished within weeks if needed.

Cost and Possible Funding Issues

Proper driving techniques and vehicle maintenance can reduce fleet fuel consumption by up to 30% on the highway and 5% around town. For Cheltenham, that could mean a savings up to \$24,000 just for employing proper driving techniques. Many of these techniques can be taught and re-enforced in house without the need to pay for trainings.

If not already installed, GPS and wireless software would be relatively inexpensive to purchase—\$349 to \$799— and can be implemented quickly compared with the option of purchasing new vehicles. The durability of the electronic equipment and associated maintenance issues should be considered as well.

Possible Partners

Partners could include PennDot, DVRPC, non-profit organizations, and private business that offer trainings, services and products.

6. **Work with SEPTA, DVRPC, and the community to promote better use of train and bus service in the Township**

The Township can pursue opportunities to work with SEPTA, DVRPC, private companies and the community to promote public transportation. The opportunities can include:

- A. Lobbying for more electric or hybrid transit vehicles and more efficient use of the transit service to reduce fuel consumption.
- B. Improving train/bus/trolley service – more comprehensive, increased frequency of service. Improved efficiency and reliability, improved safety throughout the region.
- C. Working with private and public partners to install more bus shelters and maintain rail stations (ex: work with Melrose Park Neighbors Association to beautify the Melrose Park station stop).
- D. Working with institutional and private partners to create an incentives program for public transit use. Encourage local companies to join already

established incentive programs like the GVFT-MA's Bike To Work Challenge.

- E. Providing comprehensive transit maps both in hard copy and on line.

Phasing

This can begin immediately and continue for the long term.

Cost and Possible Funding Issues

The Township could work with the possible partners in a support role. Supporting these partners will probably involve the use of staff time and resources. Lobbying, creating incentives programs, putting maps online can all be done by the Township. Most costs would be borne by the SEPTA and other public/private partners, but staff time and limited resources would be needed to promote greater use of public transit.

Possible Partners

SEPTA, DVRPC, private companies, the EAC and community.

7. Pass ordinances and install signage to reduce vehicle idling

Truck, bus, and car idling can be large sources of wasted fuel and GHG emissions. Every 30 minutes of idling consumes between 20-70% of a gallon of gas for an 8-cylinder engine. Every gallon of gas used produces about 19 pounds of carbon dioxide. The Township can work to reduce idling by:

- A. Participating in the national *Clean School Bus's National Idle Reduction Campaign*.
- B. Establishing no-idle zones at schools and other locations.
- C. Encouraging residents to avoid using a remote vehicle starter and to obey no-idle zones through education campaigns.
- D. Adopting auxiliary power systems in fleet vehicles, which provide heating, cooling, and electronic device power without running the vehicle's primary engine.

Phasing

The process of writing and adopting ordinance language can be done in a matter of months.

Cost and Possible Funding Issues

Reducing vehicle idling will save the Township in fuel costs. It will require staff time to draft an ordinance and there will be a cost to buy and install signage. Capital costs will also be required to adopt auxiliary power systems, but may be offset by reduced fuel consumption. The auto industry is introducing a feature that shuts down an engine at stops and automatically restarts it when the driver hits the gas pedal; the township could consider this and other technological advancements in the future.

Possible Partners

The Township could work with the GFVTMA and the EPA's Clean School Bus Program to create and implement strategies to reduce vehicle idling.



Waste Management

1. Examine ways to improve the efficiency and life span of trash trucks through the type of service provided.

The DVRPC Energy Analysis Tool suggests that refuse vehicles are the number two fuel consumers and GHG emitters in the Township fleet. A *Township analysis* of different waste pickup methods concluded that automated trucks will save the Township money and reduce GHG emissions while calling for no layoff of personnel.

Phasing

The budgeting process for the new vehicles can begin as soon as possible.

Cost and Possible Funding Issues

The finances for this change were determined by the Township and are as follows:

- a. 1st year Operating Budget Savings: \$209,889
(520 additional recycling tons projected in increased revenues)
- b. 1st year Capital Budget Costs: \$1,072,000
- c. 1st year Net Costs: \$862,111
- d. Program pays for itself in 5.4 years

Possible Partners

The EAC and other community groups are also working to reduce the Township's refuse production and GHG emissions while increasing the recycling rates.

These groups, along with the private businesses that would be supplying the trash trucks, could be partners in this decision.

2. Adopt a “green purchasing” policy

Cheltenham Township can implement a “green purchasing” policy. There are many things to consider when purchasing products. Sample green purchasing policies can be found on these websites: *Stop-Waste.org*, *Green Purchasing Institute*, *University of Pennsylvania*, *California Product Stewardship Council*. These include, but are not limited to:

- A. Reducing waste sources: Examples include electronic communication instead of printed, double sided printing, reusable dishes, rechargeable batteries, on demand printing of reports, refurbished products, etc.
- B. Purchasing post-consumer recycled goods, like paper, paper towels, toner, etc.
- C. Purchasing Energy Efficient and Water Saving Products: *Guides* are available online to help people and organizations choose products
- D. Buying Products with Third-Party Sustainability Certification
- E. Creating a life cycle analysis that examines where and how the product was produced, how far it must be shipped, secondary uses or the ability to be recycled

Phasing

Immediate. Policy creation can take one to three months.

Cost and Possible Funding Issues

Sustainable products can be more expensive than traditional items while others can be purchased at no additional cost or even save money immediately. The Township can evaluate potential savings over time to determine whether the product will pay for itself. It can choose to set a specific cap for the increased cost that the Township may spend for a green product over a standard product. This enables, but sets limits on, the purchase of slightly higher cost green items. A common tactic uses funds saved from a cheaper alternative to purchase more expensive products. For instance, the Township could use funds from energy savings to purchase nontoxic cleaners that protect the health of employees.

Possible Partners

The Township can seek guidance from the EAC when considering purchasing green products. DVRPC is also a resource for examining the possibilities of collaborative purchasing among municipalities of sustainable items.

3. Adopt and enforce no litterbug and dog waste laws

Citizens’ neglect of proper garbage and animal waste disposal can pollute the Township’s natural resources. The Township can institute an anti-littering signage campaign in high-priority locations. Waste cans and pickup can be provided at parks where owners frequently take their dogs. The Township can also adopt and enforce littering and dog waste laws to help curb this issue. Existing anti littering and water quality protection programs developed by environmental groups such as the *Pennsylvania Resources Council* or *PA Department of Environmental Protection* could be used to promote the township’s efforts.

Phasing

Immediate. Policy creation can take one to three months. Creating and installing signage and waste cans will cost money, but may not be very expensive. Trash routes may also have to be modified to allow for pickup at new sites.

Cost and Possible Funding Issues

It would take staff and the solicitor time to create the laws and identify areas with higher improper garbage disposal. Police would need to take the time to enforce the laws but there would be a generation of revenue from the fines.

Possible Partners

The EAC could be a valuable resource for public education about these laws.

4. Continue to explore best management practices for recycling and waste management

The comparison of recycled waste in November, 2010 versus November, 2011 showed a 3 percent increase to a 27 percent recycling rate. This rate is expected to rise when, in 2013, the Township institutes an automated recycling system. As the township embraces sustainability, it can explore incorporating current best management practices for recycling and waste management. These practices include, but are not limited to:

- A. Pay-As-You-Throw (unit pricing or variable rate pricing) – Residents are charged for the collection of municipal solid waste – ordinary household trash – based on the amount they throw away. This creates a direct economic incentive to recycle more and to generate less waste. Units of measurement could include pounds of trash or size and number of standardized cans or bags. For example, in *Longmont, CO*, residential customers have a two-tier weekly pricing system depending on the size of the container.
- B. Recycling Rewards Programs – Residential recycling can be incentivized with a rewards program. Residents accrue points with each pound of waste they recycle. These points can then be redeemed for gift cards, gift certificates, discounts and more. *Philadelphia* has an established relationship with RecycleBank which has proven to increase recycling rates
- C. Composting – Mandatory or volunteer based programs can divert food scraps from landfills by creating a pickup or drop-off system for residential compostable waste. The Township currently has an established *leaf and garden debris collection program* that composts leaves and makes the resulting compost publically available.

Phasing

Immediate to long term. The Township can always explore new avenues to reduce waste generation, increase recycling, and save money.

Cost and Possible Funding Issues

Many alternative waste management systems can save the Township money. As an example, on average, communities that implement pay-as-you-throw programs report a 15-28% reduction in the amount of waste disposed. It is important to weigh these savings against any additional required investments that both the township and residents would need to make (ex: changes in staff time, new trash trucks, new standardized trash cans).

Possible Partners

The EAC could be a valuable resource for their waste management knowledge and their ability to do public outreach about any possible changes.



Water Management

1. Restore streambanks through naturalization

The Township has completed several successful streambank stabilization projects in the Tookany Creek watershed. Using the experience gained from these projects, the Township can continue to identify degraded streambank areas to stabilize, and determine what sections of stream corridor are appropriate for naturalization. The Township can use the Riparian Buffer Assessment map found in the Sustainability Resources Section to help prioritize possible project areas.

Phasing

Stream bank naturalization projects usually happen when one of the following occurs:

- A. Grant funding is acquired for a specific project. Priority areas could be designated as soon as possible to make applying for these grants an easier process.
- B. New trails, new developments, or road work are undertaken by the community. The Township can pursue these opportunities when they arise.

Cost and Possible Funding Issues

Stream bank restoration projects can be quite expensive. Fortunately, funding sources do exist. Grants may become available through a number of sources that may help pay for these projects.

Possible Partners

The Township can work with the EAC, the Tookany/Tacony-Frankford Watershed Partnership, Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection (PADEP), the Philadelphia Water Department and partners from previous projects to plan and complete these projects.

2. Implement the Stormwater Management Program required for the PAG-13 Permit.

The Township was required by the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection (PADEP) to develop, implement and enforce a Stormwater Management Program under its existing PAG-13 permit. The Township should continue to implement their Stormwater Management Program in the most sustainable manner possible.

Phasing

The Stormwater Management Program must be implemented within the first five-year permit term

Cost and Possible Funding Issues

The cost of this program falls on the Township. Grants may become available through a number of sources that may help pay for this program, though the Township cannot rely just on these opportunities. Partnering with other Townships or with non-profit organizations may reduce some of the financial burden when trying to implement The Stormwater Management Program.

Possible Partners

The Township could work closely with the EAC, Economic Development Task Force, the Tookany/Tacony-Frankford Watershed Partnership, the Philadelphia Water Department, other municipalities, and with the County to help accomplish its Stormwater Management Program.

3. Promote BMPs on private and public properties including:

Best Management Practices for rainwater and stormwater include a variety of green infrastructure tools. Extensive research has already been undertaken by the Township, and recommendations for water and land management can be found in the *2006 Open Space Plan, Tookany/Tacony-Creek Integrated Watershed Management Plan*, and in the *Flood Damage Reduction Study* done in conjunction with the Army Corps of Engineers. These practices use natural systems to divert water and prevent it from becoming runoff via infiltration, evapotranspiration, and filtration. Some potential projects that the Township can use as green infrastructure models include, but are not limited to:

- A. Creating a vegetated swale on municipal lands behind Greenwood Ave
- B. Creating vegetated swales and infiltration basins at Caroll Brook Park
- C. Removing berms and naturalizing basins during Phase III of the High School Park construction.
- D. Restoration of the site adjacent to the bird sanctuary at Rices Mill and Glenside Avenue.
- E. Removing the dam beyond the Public Works facility on Shoemaker Rd to help alleviate flooding and restore the watershed

The Township could also explore options to convert impervious surfaces on public and private land into more natural pervious or semi-pervious landscapes. The township could also look into “daylighting” creeks and restoring natural streambeds. Exploring a partnership with the Philadelphia Horticultural Society to create a “Best of Cheltenham” residential stormwater management award would also promote BMPs throughout the Township.

Phasing

Immediate to long term. Establishing BMPs will help the community come into compliance with the Stormwater Management Program. The Township can more quickly identify the most appropriate sites for managing stormwater. However, these projects may take an extended period of time to complete.

Cost and Possible Funding Issues

The cost of implementing BMPs on municipal public property falls on the Township, while private land-owners would have to independently fund projects. The Township may want to consider subsidizing projects on private land to encourage watershed restoration. Grants may become available through a number of sources, such as the PWD or the PADEP. Partnering with other Townships or with non-profit organizations may reduce some of the financial burden when trying to accomplish certain BMPs.

Possible Partners

The Township could work closely with the EAC, the Tookany/Tacony-Frankford Watershed Partnership, the Philadelphia Water Department, other municipalities, and with the County to help accomplish their Stormwater Management Program.



Ecological Stewardship

1. Strengthen the township’s tree preservation and landscape standards

The Township can work to strengthen the tree preservation and landscape standards found in the Township’s Subdivision and Land Development Ordinance to make them more sustainable. The Township can also consider adopting an ordinance restricting the use of certain fertilizers, herbicides or pesticides that could pollute the Township’s waterways if not applied correctly.

Phasing

This work can begin immediately.

Cost and Possible Funding Issues

Staff time for ordinance work.

Possible Partners

The Montgomery County Planning Commission can write and review tree preservation and landscape ordinances. The Pennsylvania Horticultural Society and Extension Agencies are also available for consultation.

2. Continue to work to naturalize municipal owned lands

Extensive use of parks and open space, as well as grading and facilities development to provide for recreation, has degraded the natural features of parts of the Township's lands. The Township can focus on naturalizing some municipal owned land to increase native habitat, support a healthy watershed, protect soil quality and manage stormwater run-off. To do this the Township can:

- A. Changing mowing patterns to create meadows (as noted in Energy Action Item #1)
- B. Replanting trees and underbrush with native species and protect the plantings from deer, geese and other damaging wildlife
- C. Reintroducing native wetland plants, especially if and when state and federal sponsored projects create or restore wetlands
- D. Controlling invasive species
- E. Managing streambank restoration projects
- F. Encouraging the use of trails to maintain more natural areas
- G. Planting fruit and nut trees as part of a local harvested food initiative

The Township has worked towards many these tasks as it developed and implemented the master plan for High School Park. It will continue to do so in 2013 by developing the master plan for Curtis Arboretum. Naturalization of Township Parks can continue over time through development of master plans for our other parks, and fundraising through Pennsylvania's Department of Conservation and Natural Resources.

Phasing

An examination of parks and open spaces can begin immediately to identify degraded areas. Plans for park and open space management can be established to identify projects according to priority. Encouraging residents to change use patterns can also begin immediately. Changing mowing schedules, replanting and removing invasive species will need to be done annually. Larger stream bank restoration projects can be done when funding becomes available or during a larger infrastructure program.

Cost and Possible Funding Issues

Mowing less will save fuel and require less employee time. Plantings and invasive removal will be time consuming, but can be done with the help of volunteers. Capital costs will be minimal, and may be offset by grants or donations from planting programs. Restoration efforts will be costly, though some grants can be obtained. Naturalizing efforts can reduce stormwater compliance issues, thereby offsetting some potential capital or penalty costs.

Possible Partners

The most important partner in this effort will be citizens who use the parks and open spaces. It is important to educate them about the value of meadows, native versus invasive species, and streambank restoration. Education efforts could also focus on encouraging the proper use of these natural and open spaces either through a campaign online or through signage. The Township can partner with PADEP, PHS, PWD, and community groups for capital help and for volunteer labor.

3. Explore ways to reduce invasive species

Invasive species dominate many green spaces in the community. The Township currently invests \$15,000-\$20,000 yearly in an invasive species removal program. Difficulties persist with these removal strategies. In some cases, the invasives are stabilizing the landscape or protecting wetlands, making removal a double edged sword. Also, without yearly treatment, or without replacement plants, the invasive species will inevitably return. Therefore management strategies are only effective if capital investments can be made in annual treatments, replacement species and in monitoring.

Phasing

This work is currently done on an annual basis and could continue.

Cost and Possible Funding Issues

The Township could explore grant opportunities to supplement the investments they currently make.

Possible Partners

The Township can partner with PADEP, PHS, PWD, and community groups for planning purposes, funding opportunities and possibly for volunteer labor.

4. Develop a comprehensive Sustainable Urban Forest Management Plan

To strengthen the community’s commitment to tree preservation and landscape management, the Township can develop a comprehensive “Sustainable Urban Forest Management Plan” to help protect the community’s tree canopy, including trees on public property (street, park, township facilities) as well as private property (residential, commercial, institutional). The plan can address such topics as tree inventory, assessment, maintenance, removal, replacement, stewardship, preservation, and other elements of maintaining a healthy tree canopy.

Phasing

The Township can begin immediately by working with the Shade Tree Commission to begin the planning process. Within the next year the Township can begin a tree inventory and the comprehensive forest management plan could be done within a two year timeframe.

Cost and Possible Funding Issues

The Shade Tree Commission is an existing volunteer organization, but there would be a cost for a consultant to organize the inventory and develop the plan.

Possible Partners

Possible partners include the Montgomery County Planning Commission, DVRPC, PHS, The Penn State Extension and DCNR.

5. Continue monitoring and replacing trees on public land

The Township currently maintains a list of those trees removed from parkland, and has a waiting list of residents desiring street trees. Continued

monitoring and recording will allow Cheltenham to maintain and enhance its urban tree canopy. This work can be done in conjunction with community organizations, such as Tree Tenders. Current collaborations with local nurseries, contractors, and the Pennsylvania Horticultural Society can also be maintained to further the sustainability goals

Phasing

A plan can be developed that prioritizes areas throughout the Township that would most benefit from tree plantings. The plantings with the most impact could occur when funding becomes available.

Cost and Possible Funding Issues

Most often, these types of projects occur when grant funding becomes available. This grant funding is available on a regular basis from state, local and regional sources. The Township has done a tremendous job in pursuing these opportunities and leveraging those with donations from private businesses. The Township can continue to pursue these funding opportunities and nurture the relationship it has with the private sector.

Possible Partners

The EAC, community organization, private businesses, PADEP, PHS and DVRPC are possible partners.

6. Expand range of tree planting projects on municipal lands to provide models for similar development by the community on private lands.

The introduction of naturalized features along developed municipal lands such as streets, and parking lots, would not only improve their appearance, but also reduce stormwater run-off. The US Forest Service states that every mature tree crown intercepts 1,000 gallons of rainfall per year. Cheltenham Township has approved a watershed plan that references the TTF Consolidated Watershed Plan. This plan recommends that every municipality in the watershed achieve a 5% increase of tree canopy coverage.

To set an example for the whole community to accomplish this goal, the Township can:

- A. Continue and fully fund a program to provide tree saplings for residential yard planting once a year and free of charge.
- B. Develop a street tree planting program in collaboration with civic groups, such as Tree Tenders, and provide sidewalk removal services

free of charge to create tree wells for township approved planting projects.

- C. Seek funding to develop projects to install tree trenches and/or pocket rain gardens in municipal parking lots.

Phasing

Some of these actions are already taking place, while others will take time to develop or will require a funding opportunity to begin.

Cost and Possible Funding Issues

As with Action Item #5, most often these type of projects occur when grant funding become available. This grant funding is available on a regular basis from state, local and regional sources. The Township has done a tremendous job in pursuing these opportunities and leveraging those with donations from private businesses. The Township could continue to pursue these funding opportunities and nurture the relationship they have with the private sector.

Possible Partners

The EAC, community organization, private businesses, PADEP, PHS and DVRPC are possible partners.



Healthy Living For All

1. Consider participating in the Let's Move Cities and Towns" program

Childhood obesity rates in America have tripled in the past three decades to nearly thirty percent. Let's Move is a comprehensive initiative, launched by Michelle Obama, the current First Lady, aimed at solving this challenging societal problem through participation by families, schools, health care professionals, private sector companies, and all levels of government. Local leaders can participate in the program through the Let's Move! Cities, Towns and Counties (LMCTC) Initiative, which provides tools, resources and a framework for battling childhood obesity in communities.

Phasing

Immediate to Long Term. The first step is for local officials to commit to the five goals outlined by LMCTC, which include: Start Early, Start Smart; My Plate, Your Place; Smart Servings for Students; Model Food

Service; and Active Kids at Play. After completing a short survey, the National League of Cities will develop technical assistance opportunities specific to the township. These will most likely be longer term projects.

Cost and Possible Funding Issues

Each goal requires a different level of funding commitment. None of the goals necessitate capital expenditures, however, they all require substantial time investments from private and public partners to incorporate new programs, gather data, examine purchasing systems, and create marketing campaigns among other commitments.

Possible Partners

A wide variety of partners will need to be involved. These will include: USDA regional offices, local Head Start chapters, child care resources, the pediatric medical community, the Cheltenham School District, vendors, Parks and Recreation Departments, teachers, community members, and local colleges and Universities.

2. Promote local foods through community gardens and farmers markets

Local food production reduces the need for fossil fuels for transportation, encourages healthy eating habits, discourages the use of pesticides and fertilizers, and connects residents to where their food comes from. To encourage the purchase and consumption of local food, the Township can:

- A. Explore creating incentives for local food production and consumption of regional public food sources within 100 miles of the Township
- B. Create and promote dedicated areas for community gardens, most likely within already established public parks and open spaces.
- C. Determine the most suitable locations for new gardens depending on local economy, resident interest, and access to fresh fruits and vegetable.
- D. Work with local extension agencies, community organizations and schools, and local food experts to provide the knowledge needed to grow, store and preserve produce grown at home.
- E. Continue to encourage farmers markets and co-ops.

- F. Encourage local foods education in the school system by converting under-used school properties to small gardens.

Phasing

Immediate. The Township can map out established community gardens and identify where the need and the land exists for future ones. An education program with classes might take a few months to establish, but online information can be compiled and made readily accessible immediately.

Cost and Possible Funding Issues

Staff will be needed to map out community garden locations and to create and potentially staff classes. Support may be given to startup gardens and co-ops in the form of small grants or low interest loans. Grants and collaborations can help offset some of these costs. Payback will be seen mostly by the residents using the gardens, farmers markets, and co-ops.

Possible Partners

The township can partner with existing neighborhood organizations and non-profits that currently work in the community.

3. Create neighborhood parks and open space within easy walking distance of every neighborhood

The Township has already established an extensive network of parks and open space. However, the residents of Laverock do not have easy access to green space. The Township can determine parcels within the Laverock community that can be acquired and turned into a park or open space. This may involve working in conjunction with Springfield to preserve parcels near the township boundary. Opportunities may also arise as development or redevelopment is proposed. Of particular importance is the maintenance or creation of open spaces around creeks or restored wetlands. The Township can also continue promoting the Cresheim Trail, which would provide a greenway near the Laverock community. Additionally, the Township could ensure that the existing parks are protected and maintained both through zoning changes or conservation easements, and through the establishment of management plans.

Phasing

Immediate-to-Long Term – The Township needs to map out priority locations for future open space

and natural areas near Laverock and throughout the community. Acquiring appropriate parcels and turning them into green spaces will be a long-term goal dependent on funding and availability.

Cost and Possible Funding Issues

Acquiring new parcels will be a large capital expense as open land is scarce in the community. The Township can also identify under-used municipal properties that could be turned into a park or open space with some capital investment.

Possible Partners

The Township would need to work with residents and community groups to identify where the need is for more green space. It might also be prudent to work with developers to identify and acquire the appropriate lots.

4. Provide easy access from every neighborhood (preferably walkable and/or bikable) to key services such as post office, banks, shops, libraries, schools, etc

Specific populations within each neighborhood may not have easy access to cars or public transit. It is therefore critical for the Township to make key municipal services available via walking and/or biking. To do this, the Township can adopt a comprehensive map showing the location of bike trails, easily bikeable streets and municipal services. Another comprehensive map could identify the current location of key services and the populations that can access them via walking and biking. The Township can use these maps to identify safe streets and intersections to make walking to these facilities easier. Finally, the Township can develop a thorough understanding of where the highest density of non-drivers are in the community to determine whether key services can be relocated, whether new locations can be added, or whether new bike lanes or public transit routes can be established. The Township can also continue to encourage the Senior Citizen Shared Ride Program.

Phasing

Work on the planning aspects of this action item can begin immediately.

Cost and Possible Funding Issues

Staff time will be required to manage the planning process and any projects would require capital dollars. These types of projects are most feasibly

implemented concurrent with road work or development. Plans could be established immediately, but the actual building might not happen for years to come.

Possible Partners

The EAC is currently working on this issue as are other citizen groups in the Township.

5. Develop partnerships with the school districts, universities, hospitals and other organizations to promote healthy lifestyle choices

Public institutions and specialized private organizations frequently have the ability to reach a wide network of people. The Township could create official partnerships with these organizations to promote healthy lifestyles. This can include tabling at events, specific web content, joint events, wellness screenings, etc.

Phasing

Immediate

Cost and Possible Funding Issues

Production of materials to distribute, including handouts, posters, banners, etc. There will also be a cost in compensation for staff time to coordinate collaborations, create online content and to attend events.

Possible Partners

The EAC, Township organizations and institutions, the Pennsylvania Department of Health and any future Cheltenham Sustainability Implementation Organization.



Local Economy

1. Promote sustainable action items outlined in the 2002 Community Revitalization Plan and the subsequent 2009 Update

Cheltenham Township has the opportunity to invest in nurturing its local economy while abiding by the sustainability criteria of the Natural Steps method. In fact, creating a vibrant local economy is a foundation of sustainability. **The Township has identified four goals in sustainable economic development: attracting and maintaining local businesses including cottage industries, using resources more**

efficiently, promoting sustainable living in Cheltenham, and creating downtown hubs that are pedestrian and bike friendly. The Township can continue to work towards these goals by supporting and encouraging some of the projects proposed in the 2002 Community Revitalization Plan and the subsequent Plan Update in 2009. For example:

- A. Gateway and streetscape improvements to intersection of Penrose and Cheltenham Avenues: Creating a gateway entrance into Cheltenham Township that takes into account pedestrian mobility, stormwater management BMPs, and community signage will encourage local economic growth while incorporating other sustainability principles.
- B. Community Garden ownership: See Healthy Living for All Action Item #1
- C. Tyler Campus re-use, and more specifically, Beech Hall re-use: When Temple's Tyler School of Art relocated, the campus became available for occupancy by another institutional entity. The campus itself contains open space and an already established building infrastructure. Encouraging tenure by another organization would help boost the local economy and would provide a great model for reuse. The Township could also initially focus on filling Beech Hall dormitory with a new business.
- D. Street Tree Management throughout LaMott: See Ecological Stewardship Action Item #1

Phasing

The phasing for these action items can be found in their respective plans.

Cost and Possible Funding Issues

The cost and possible funding issues for these action items can be found in their respective plans.

Possible Partners

The Township could continue to support the work of the Cheltenham Township Economic Development Task Force and its associated partners.

2. Work towards establishing green economic initiatives

In order for the township to attract and maintain local businesses, use resources more efficiently, promote sustainable living in Cheltenham, and create downtown hubs, it can examine established green

economic initiatives. These initiatives are created to foster green business and development and to help the community become a hub of sustainable activity. Some examples instituted by communities include, but are not limited to:

- A. Providing funding for technology to help entrepreneurs and startups
- B. Surveying businesses to understand what is needed to support and attract new businesses. Surveys can also be used to understand what green businesses are currently located in the community.
- C. Encouraging actions to stop the outflow of local dollars, support existing businesses, encourage new local enterprises, and recruit new businesses.

Phasing

Planning for these initiatives can begin immediately. Future plans can build upon an already existing cottage industry. Other large economic projects may not be feasible until some point in the future.

Cost and Possible Funding Issues

For any of these initiatives it is hoped that the costs associated with planning, administration and any possible loss of tax revenue can be regained through the retention and growth of the business sector so that these initiatives lead to a net gain for the Township.

Possible Partners

The Township could continue to support the work of the Cheltenham Township Economic Development Task Force and its associated partners.

retrofits and new construction projects on municipal properties. The Township can look to a number of sustainable building programs, such as LEED, Energy Star, Green Globes, etc., for guidance on construction standards.

Phasing

The preparation for building sustainably can begin immediately but opportunities to take action may not arise for years. The Township can begin to prepare a system that will ensure sustainable designs so that when a municipal construction opportunity occurs, the Township is ready to proceed in the most sustainable manner possible.

Cost and Possible Funding Issues

It is commonly accepted that building in a sustainable manner does add costs to the initial construction. These costs can be limited through smart planning and many of the initial costs can be recovered through energy savings, greater tenant productivity and healthier tenants.

Possible Partners

The EAC is currently working on this issue as are other county, state and regional organizations that could be a resource. The EAC and any other township sustainability stakeholders can be brought on board at the inception of municipal retrofits and new construction.

2. Ensure codes and land development ordinances are aligned with sustainability goals.

The Township’s regulatory control over development can play an important role in sustainable development. The codes and ordinances can spur sustainability in many ways, such as removing roadblocks to good design, requiring sustainable practices whenever possible and incentivizing sustainable practices. The Montgomery County Planning Commission is working with the Township to review its zoning ordinance, SALDO, and stormwater ordinance and make recommendations on changes/additions to existing ordinance language to increase environmental protection, energy efficiency, and/or resource management during the development process. The EPA’s Local Government Green Building Toolkit (<http://epa.gov/region4/recycle/green-building-toolkit.pdf>) can be used to evaluate roadblocks to green and sustainable codes. From the planning process, a number of ordinance issues were high-



Sustainable Development

1. Explore sustainable designs for all retrofits and new construction on municipal properties

While Energy Goal Action Item #2 focuses on energy conservation, building sustainably can encompass many more issues. Sustainable buildings should be accessible by everyone. They should also create a healthy, safe, and productive environment for occupants and visitors while minimizing their impact on the environment. The Township can develop sustainable building standards that will guide all

lighted that the sustainability review can address. These include, but are not limited to:

- A. Adopt, and modify as needed, the Montgomery County Model Floodplain Ordinance to ensure compliance with FEMA requirements and to protect the floodplain
- B. Attempt to reduce impervious pavement and stormwater runoff and attempt to increase use of permeable pavement by ensuring that impervious coverage limits are present in the draft zoning ordinance
- C. Explore requiring the use of pervious concrete in the construction of sidewalks and pervious paving in parking stalls of all new residential developments
- D. Explore zoning for solar access and orientation
- E. Explore providing incentives for sustainable construction that maximizes energy efficiency and reduces environmental impacts (LEED, Energy Star, etc.)
- F. Explore adopting the most sustainable and up-to-date version of the International Construction Code
- G. Encourage residential and mixed-use developments around train stations and transit lines
- H. Explore infrastructure for electric and liquid natural gas vehicles with assistance from DVRPC and other transportation organizations.
- I. Attempt to identify private properties in the township that are paved to provide parking but do not serve this function. Determine measures that the township could take to incentivize the restoration of these lands to pervious earth covered by vegetation.

Phasing

The Montgomery County Planning Commission is currently working with the Township to review and edit the Zoning Ordinance. The Subdivision and Land Development Ordinance review and editing process will begin when that has finished.

Cost and Possible Funding Issues

The review and editing process are part of Cheltenham's Planning Assistance contract and will not have any additional cost to the Township.

Possible Partners

The Montgomery County Planning Commission works closely with the Township, the EAC and all over stakeholders during the process.



Monitoring

1. Develop a process so that the EAC plays an advisory, oversight and monitoring role in the Municipal Action Plan's Action Items

The EAC's sustainability monitoring roles would be carried out by the following EAC committees:

- Water Management and Ecological Stewardship
- Sustainable Development, Energy, Mobility, & Waste Reduction
- School Board Liaison
- Communications for Community Engagement, Healthy Living and Progress Monitoring

The EAC would assume the following roles and use the following methods of operation.

- A. Monitoring and Reporting the Activities of Township Government
 1. The Communications Committee would develop articles about government and community sustainability projects and progress to be posted on the Sustainable Cheltenham website. Assistance for this committee would include:
 - a. Monthly updates of government sustainability activities provided at the EAC meeting by the township's Director of Communications, who serves as the EAC's advisor.
 - b. Technical assistance from the Montgomery County Planning Commission staff in posting articles on the Sustainable Cheltenham website and from the Communications Director by linking them to the Township website.
 2. Each of the other EAC committees would assume their own part in annual narrative reporting of the township government's prior year Sustainability MAP projects and accomplishments, and following year's MAP projects plans. However, the EAC would

not be responsible to provide any portions of the report for which we did not receive performance data from the town department directors, including relevant statistics on their consumption and green practices. According to the township manager, these reports by department directors would be due in August as part of the submission of department budget proposals to him. To facilitate this process, the EAC Communications Committee would develop a MAP performance reporting matrix chart, identifying which departments are responsible for accomplishing and reporting on progress for each action step in the MAP.

B. Communication and Promotion of Community-Wide Sustainability Initiatives

EAC committees would interact with community groups and businesses to motivate the accomplishment and reporting of any projects that work towards the accomplishment of Sustainable Cheltenham goals using any of the methods approved in the plan. Each EAC committee could promote only one or two methods in any given year, to insure that substantial progress will be made that year.

Promotion of community projects could be done through:

1. Community Forums In 2013 the EAC has planned community forums that focus on:
 - a. Energy issues: These will be presented in collaboration with the Energyworks residential conservation program to provide client orientation, and will be hosted by school PTO groups.
 - b. Watershed and stormwater management issues: These will be presented in collaboration with the TTF Watershed Partnership at township civic group meetings.

A variety of forums could be planned for the following years.

2. Publications. Monthly recognition and publicity about community sustainability initiatives could be provided in the EAC newsletter, currently distributed to over 1,000 township residents.

3. Awards. An annual awards contest could be designed to motivate reporting by community organizations and businesses about their sustainability accomplishments. The EAC committees would serve as awardee selection groups and award event organizers and promoters.

Phasing

The EAC could begin its role immediately.

Cost and Possible Funding Issues

The EAC could incorporate these duties as part of their normal agenda. The EAC may want to organize their internal structure to accommodate this new role. Staff time would be necessary on a regular basis to provide the EAC with the information it requires. Funding for the annual report can come from the same sources that fund all other EAC activities.

Possible Partners

The EAC and Township government would work closely together.

INPUT FROM STAKEHOLDERS



The material in the appendix contains comments gathered during the public process and is not an official part of the Sustainability Plan. These comments were made by Sustainability Committee members throughout various stages of the planning process. Many of these comments were integrated into the Cheltenham Sustainability Plan, while some did not. Some of these comments were not able to be integrated into the plan due to the municipal focus of the plan and these comments would be more appropriate for a community-wide sustainability plan. But, the comments are interesting and will be valuable for later Cheltenham community planning efforts. Instead of losing these valuable ideas, we have included them in this appendix. The public is encouraged to use these ideas as a foundation for more sustainability work in the Township.

Responses to the Questionnaire Distributed at the June 29, 2011 Kick-Off Mtg.

Environment

Open Space & Recreation

- Integrate green spaces into fabric of community
- Green spaces for everyone – kids, adults, sports, walkers, dogs, bikers, wheelchair users
- Foster recreational uses on Township waterways; daylight creek where possible; allow for canoeing, kayaking, swimming
- “Friends of” groups to maintain, clean up and raise funds for parks; involve community in improving and maintaining parks and open spaces (e.g. Wall Park community build project, riparian buffer plantings, native gardens, community gardens, etc.)

Growing Food, Trees, & other Living Things

- Residential farming/food production
- Community food production – use parks and open spaces for fruit and nut trees, gardens, bees, grazing
- Native gardening; replace turfgrass lawns with native meadows and gardens
- Education, workshops on sustainable gardening
- Gardening programs in schools
- Tree planting programs; require permit to remove trees
- Bee keeping, poultry raising, small livestock
- Allow for small-scale commercial farming in the township

Clean Air & Water

- Adopt policies that protect the natural environment in Cheltenham (support healthy watershed, clean water, stream buffers, soil protection, tree protection)
- Encourage or require use of porous pavement
- Streamside-living education
- Mark storm sewers “No Dumping - Drains to Stream!”
- Reduce use of fertilizers and pesticides
- Reduce use of harmful chemicals in homes and businesses
- Public spaces dedicated to stormwater management
- Improve sewer infrastructure
- Stream restoration, “daylighting,” planting, reduce erosion
- Healthy habitats for all types of native species (frogs, fish, birds, turtles, mammals, etc.)
- (Adopt and) Enforce no litterbug and dog waste laws

Energy

Overall Goals

- Reduce Energy Consumption – Net Zero Emissions Aspiration
- Shift energy use to renewable sources
- Create energy independence
- Set aggressive energy reduction goals
- Create on-going group of local energy experts (“think-tank”) to help Township and community evaluate and reach reduction targets

Renewable Energy

- Explore locally-sourced energy (bio-fuels, ethanol, etc.,) made in the Township
- Explore District energy for the Township
- Support innovation and new technologies; be a showcase community for pilot programs
- Promote Solar Thermal (not just Solar PV), for home hot water heating
- Incentives for solar panels, solar thermal, and micro wind turbines
- “get Cheltenham off dirty coal”
- Township take a stance against coal and natural gas (no fracking)

Energy Efficiency/Reduction

- Township buildings “set the bar” with use of alternative energies / energy use reductions; Energy-efficient township-owned buildings and vehicles
- Township partner to provide alternative energy and energy reduction incentives
- Promote Energy Star initiatives
- Home energy audit programs, low-interest loans for projects (ECA, e.g.)
- Reduce Energy Use by 15% across the Township
- Ban electronic billboard – huge energy wasters!
- Turn off streetlights when not needed
- Incentives for alternatives to gas-powered lawn mowers; green lawn services
- Green roofs to reduce heat island effect and reduce storm run-off

Economy

Overall Goals

- Support a culture of local businesses to make us a self-sustaining community
- Create jobs and income close to home
- Save tax dollars by using resources more efficiently
- Keep taxes low/competitive with surrounding communities

Local Business & Industry

- “Shop Local” as a way of life
- Local businesses practice sustainable consumption and energy use
- Increase availability of Farmers’ Market goods (year-round, daily access to local, fresh foods); local groceries (walkable) in every neighborhood
- Program to evaluate and award achievement for businesses’ sustainability efforts
- Foster sustainable/ green businesses and technologies
- Local currency; bartering programs
- Support BID development in downtowns
- Fill vacancies in downtowns before adding to commercial building stock

Tax Structure

- Decrease taxes to maintain property values, compete for homebuyers, and keep Cheltenham affordable
- Tax breaks/incentives for local businesses
- Conserve resources in all aspects of government

Community & Society

Overall Goals

- Work together as a unified Cheltenham, not just individual neighborhoods
- Engage the whole community in making changes
- Enhance the quality of life in Cheltenham
- Be a resilient community in the face of peak oil and climate change

Education

- Require environmental education component to graduate from high school
- Integrate sustainability into schools' curriculum and practices
- Teach kids to grow their own food; alternative to after-school sports
- Weekly outdoor education and more time outside, all grades K-12

Engagement & Equity

- Education, workshops on living sustainably
- Incentives, grants to make energy-efficient upgrades and sustainability affordable to all
- Strategic partnerships with companies to help people of all incomes
- Program to evaluate and award achievement for households' and neighborhoods sustainability efforts
- Community gardens & Agricultural co-ops
- Food-sharing programs, neighborhood potluck meals
- Support innovation, creativity, and new ideas
- More citizen involvement in all Township meetings and planning
- Support our libraries
- More community events

Healthy Living for All

- Continue to foster sports, recreation, community park & rec programs, healthy living programs, and other initiatives to keep Cheltenham citizens healthy
- Find ways to provide affordable health care and insurance for all
- Foster programs that allow residents to age in place (home health care, seniors housing, shuttle bus services, neighborhood access to food and services)
- Ensure access to fresh foods and healthy environments
- Neighborhood medical clinics – convenient access to medical care for all, including alternative health
- Make parks, trails, sidewalks, and recreation accessible to all

Mobility/ Transportation

Overall Goals

- Safe and convenient to walk and bike EVERYWHERE
- Integrate green spaces into fabric of community, as part of transportation system
- Reduce vehicle miles traveled, traffic on our roadways, and greenhouse gases

Biking & Walking

- More / better-designed crosswalks at key intersections
- Total integration of biking into the street network and off-road trail system
- Bike-sharing program
- Bike parking/racks in downtowns, at train stations, at schools, etc.
- Encourage bike commuting (provide lockers, showers)
- Urban Hike Program; Promote walking
- Safe Routes to School funding
- Connect to Regional trail system
- Programs to encourage car-pooling and walker-stops (like bus stops for walkers) for school families; encourage walking to school
- Build walking/biking bridges (and underpasses) at key crossings in the Township (e.g. across Church Rd. at Curtis Arboretum)

Transit (bus, shuttles, rail)

- More bus shelters (Cedarbrook Mall!)
- Lobby for more electric transit, more and better train/bus/trolley service, more connections in the region, not just the spokes to Center City
- Continue to provide and expand local shuttle bus services
- More commuter parking at train stations
- Support businesses around train stations

Reduce Vehicle Miles Traveled & GHG Emissions

- Traffic-calming measures and “road diets”
- Electric car infrastructure
- Prefer people-power over motor-power (even electric)
- Community car-pooling, ride-sharing, hitch-hiking, “slugging”
- HOV incentives for commuters
- Car-share programs (zip-car)
- Electric car infrastructure

Land Use, Buildings, & Development

Overall Goals

- Revise codes to promote more walking (pedestrian-friendly development)
- Incentives to build green new construction (LEED, Energy Star, etc.)

Green Building

- Incentives to build green new construction (LEED, Energy Star, etc.)
- Adopt International Green Construction Code
- Preserve large estates and undeveloped parcels for community open space uses
- Restore and re-purpose historical buildings

Sustainable Land Use

- Ensure land development ordinances are in line with sustainability goals
- Every neighborhood should have easy access (preferably walkable and/or bikable) to key services such as post office, banks, shops, libraries, schools
- Downtowns need more development, more busi-

nesses, need to be more of a “hub” and more pedestrian-friendly

- Encourage development around train stations
- Require sidewalks on every street
- Allow commercial and mixed-use throughout the township (“mini” Main Streets, corner stores, local food markets in every neighborhood)
- “Cheltenham will continue to be a vibrant suburban community.”
- Redevelop or un-pave paved areas; reduce unused parking lots
- Require “green” parking lot design – lots of trees, planting islands, walkways, pervious paving when possible
- Require green stormwater infrastructure in new development
- Allow for smaller lot sizes, “granny flats,” denser development
- Community involvement in development processes
- Require new developments to be integrated into the existing community, walkable, and developers must provide community services and infrastructure

Waste Management

Overall Goals

- Reduce Waste – Zero Waste Aspiration
- Re-use and Recycle more

Reduce Trash

- Composting services for homes and businesses
- Encourage home composting, school lunch composting
- Zero waste schools – particularly lunches, snacks
- Trash fees per use (monetary incentive to reduce waste)

Reduce Wastewater and Storm Run-off into Streams

- Rainwater harvesting incentives, education, and strategies
- Programs to use grey water
- Sewer fees / credits (monetary incentives) for lower water usage

Re-Use and Recycle

- Encourage community resource sharing and re-use (up-cycling, free-cycling,etc.)
- Recycling bins everywhere – parks, downtowns, train stations
- Enhanced recycling services
- Encourage greater percentage participation in recycling (incentives)
- Make it easier to recycle and safely dispose of common hazardous items such as batteries, electronics, cleaning supplies, pharmaceuticals, etc. (not just a few Saturdays); use as Township income source
- More public education about single-stream recycling

SWOT Analysis

Cheltenham Township Sustainability Plan

In small groups, based on your understanding and experience of living and/or working in Cheltenham, and on the Community Profile presented tonight, discuss and identify the community’s STRENGTHS, WEAKNESSES, OPPORTUNITIES, and THREATS to being sustainable. Take 30 minutes to discuss and record a group list. At 9:00, each group will send a scribe to write the group’s list on the big sheets hanging on the walls. If you have an idea that is the same as another group’s, place a check next to it on the big sheet of paper rather than re-stating it.

Strengths

- Unique community assets and strengths (e.g. extensive open space network)
- Lots of active community groups
- Five local train stations
- Proximity to Philadelphia
- Diversity (socio-economic, racial, religious, cultural)
- Historic properties and preservation efforts
- Extensive linear greenway system
- Spaces for gardens
- Educated populace
- Good public schools
- Lots of long-time residents

- People willing to share expertise
- Variety of housing; affordable housing options
- Commitment to arts
- Local climate is temperate, has four distinct seasons
- Creeks
- Traditional, walkable development patterns
- Healthy old trees
- Universities and colleges = incubators
- Accessibility (good public transportation)
- Active government, receives lots of grant funding for needed projects
- Five local business districts
- Regulations allow people to farm, raise fowl, etc.

Weaknesses

- Things the Township and community need to work on improving
- (e.g. sewer and stormwater management infrastructure)
- High taxes
- Traffic
- Sidewalk gaps
- Lack of redevelopment/developable areas
- Aging infrastructure
- Sewer problems
- Flooding and run-off problems
- Major roads divide neighborhoods and cut off access for bikes, pedestrians
- Lack of safe/usable bikeways
- Perception of high crime in some areas
- Not easily accessible to region by car
- Lack of farmland
- Lack of tax ratables
- Tookany Creek

Lack of understanding of the problems
 Media downplay of major environmental problems
 Lack of understanding of energy and climate realities
 Expectations that don't match reality
 High taxes
 Dependence on fossil fuel
 Climate CHAOS
 Economy
 Run-off (downstream effects)
 Aging sewers
 Regulation and de-regulation
 Short-term thinking
 Old electrical infrastructure
 Competition for limited grants/loans
 Pollution from pass-through traffic and other external forces
 Corruption in politics and business

Ideas Suggested by the Committee from the Summer of 2011 to January 2012

1. COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT: Engage and educate all Cheltenham citizens, students, and stakeholders to unite behind a shared set of goals to build a sustainable future.

Potential Objectives/Action Items:

- Hold regular educational workshops on living sustainably
- Program to evaluate and award achievement for households' and neighborhoods' sustainability efforts
- Require environmental education component at high school
- Integrate sustainability into schools' curriculum and practices
- More community involvement in improving our parks, open spaces (e.g. Wall Park playground project, riparian planting, etc.)

- More citizen involvement in all Township meetings and planning
 - Increase communication, information, and transparency about municipal projects and actions – broadcast township meetings, publicize township activities in paper, on web
 - Engage and educate residents about government functions and living sustainably.
 - Align rules, regulations, policies, and incentive programs to support all of the community sustainability goals outlined herein.
 - Support the creation or existence of an organization that will promote the sustainability goals outlined above and holistically work toward their implementation.
2. ENERGY: Strive to reduce energy demand, reduce emissions, and offset 100% of the community's energy consumption with equal investments in renewable energy sources within the community and the region.

Potential Objectives/Action Items:

- Reduce/eliminate dependence on fossil fuels
- Reduce Energy Use by 15% across the Township by 2020
- Shift energy use (away from coal and natural gas) to renewable sources (solar, geothermal, solar thermal, wind, etc).
- Net zero green house gas emissions aspiration
- Promote locally-sourced energy (bio-fuels, ethanol, solar, wind, geothermal, etc., made in the Township)
- Promote Solar Thermal (not just Solar PV) for home hot water heating especially
- Incentives for solar panels, solar thermal, and micro wind turbines
- Township buildings use alternative energies / energy use reductions
- Township partner to provide alternative energy and energy reduction incentives and clearing-house of information for residents
- Promote Energy Star initiatives
- Home energy audit programs, low-interest loans for projects (ECA, Keystone HELP, e.g.)
- Township take a stance against coal and natural gas (anti-fracking)

- Township government to be a leader in the region and provide incentives to residents, businesses and property owners.
 - Reduce “heat island” effect by changing roof and paved area composition.
 - Become energy producers rather than energy users
3. **MOBILITY:** Reduce vehicular travel and emissions, increase use of alternative modes of transportation, and make it desirable and convenient to walk and bike throughout the township and region.
- Potential Objectives/Action Items:**
- Safe and convenient to walk and bike EVERYWHERE.
 - Integrate green spaces into fabric of community and as part of transportation system, where feasible.
 - Reduce vehicle miles traveled and greenhouse gas emissions and fine particulates.
 - Increase use of public transportation.
 - Alternate energy fleet development.
 - Increase modes of transportation.
 - Linear greenways/foot powered transport.
 - Electric car charging stations and car sharing
 - Revert parking areas back to greenspace.
 - More / better-designed crosswalks at key intersections
 - Total integration of biking into the street network and off-road trail system
 - Bike-sharing program
 - Bike parking in downtowns, at train stations, at schools
 - Encourage bike commuting
 - Urban Hike Program
 - Promote walking
 - Programs to encourage car-pooling and walker-stops (like bus stops for walkers) for school families
 - Safe Routes to School funding programs
 - Community car-pooling programs for commuters, HOV incentives
 - Car-sharing and commute-sharing
- Electric car infrastructure; electric car-sharing
 - Connect to Regional trail system
 - More bus shelters (Cedarbrook Mall!!!)
 - Lobby for more electric transit, more and better train/bus/trolley service
 - Decrease car miles traveled and car traffic on our roadways
 - Continue to provide and expand local shuttle bus services
4. **WASTE REDUCTION:** Aggressively reduce solid and hazardous waste and maximize the use of waste products as a resource.
- Potential Objectives/Action Items:**
- Reduce Waste – Zero Waste Aspiration
 - Pay-as-you-throw waste collection
 - Increase recycling rates, increase what can be recycled
 - Increase re-use and sharing of resources/consumer goods.
 - Increase home composting and community-wide composting.
 - Reduce wastewater flows and stormwater runoff.
 - Encourage “freecycling” programs
 - Make it easier to recycle and safely dispose of common hazardous items such as batteries, electronics, cleaning supplies, pharmaceuticals, etc. (not just a few Saturdays)
 - Recycling bins everywhere – parks, downtowns, train stations
 - Improve sewer infrastructure
 - (Adopt and) Enforce no litterbug and dog waste laws
 - Encourage community resource sharing and re-use (up-cycling, “free sales,”etc.)
 - Create a green purchasing policy to guide municipal procurement and operations
5. **GREEN INFRASTRUCTURE:** Reduce stormwater runoff and wastewater flows, and maximize the utility of rainwater as a resource.
- Potential Objectives/Action Items:**
- Rainwater harvesting incentives, education, and strategies

- Programs to use grey water
 - Sewer fees / credits (monetary incentives) for lower water usage
 - Build rainwater infiltration facilities into Township roadways
 - Promote rain gardens and other BMPs on private property to keep rain out of storm sewer system
 - Targeted tree planting program and education about importance of trees
 - Sewer fees and credits for lower usage
 - Public spaces dedicated to stormwater management
 - Encourage use of porous pavement
6. **ECOLOGICAL STEWARDSHIP:** Protect and improve the overall health and ecological diversity of the Township's habitats, waterways, and soils, both on public and private lands.
- Potential Objectives/Action Items:**
- Native species planting, removal of invasive species
 - Work to ensure clean air and water with monitoring, regulations, enforcement
 - Adopt policies that protect the natural environment in Cheltenham (support healthy watershed, clean water, stream buffers, soil protection, tree protection)
 - Reduce use of fertilizers and pesticides
 - Reduce use of harmful chemicals in homes and businesses
 - Promote clean indoor and outdoor air quality
7. **HEALTHY LIVING FOR ALL:** Promote healthy living in Cheltenham by ensuring equitable access to recreation, natural areas, car-free transportation, fresh local foods, health care services, clean air, and clean water.
- Potential Objectives/Action Items:**
- Township provide space for community gardens & agricultural co-ops
 - Food-sharing programs, neighborhood potluck meals
 - Neighborhood medical clinics – convenient access to medical care for all
 - Neighborhood parks and open space (both passive and active greenspaces) within easy walking distance of every neighborhood
 - Walkshare for school kids – encourage/promote walking & biking to school
 - Access to fresh foods in all neighborhoods
 - Green spaces for everyone – kids, adults, sports, walkers, dogs, bikers
 - Incentives, grants to make sustainability affordable for all
 - Education, workshops on sustainable gardening, permaculture
 - Gardening programs in schools
 - Promote use of, knowledge about, and access to alternative medicine and therapies
 - Every neighborhood should have easy access (preferably walkable and/or bikable) to key services such as post office, banks, shops, libraries, schools
8. **LOCAL ECONOMY:** Promote and support local and regional agriculture, artisans, institutions, industry, and business by strengthening connections to, and markets for, local goods and services.
- Potential Objectives/Action Items:**
- “Shop Local” as a way of life
 - Attract and maintain local businesses.
 - Support a culture of local businesses to make us a self-sustaining community.
 - Local businesses practice sustainable consumption and energy use
 - Increase availability of Farmers’ Market goods (year-round, daily access to local, fresh foods)
 - Program to evaluate and award achievement for businesses’ sustainability efforts
 - Walkable grocery stores in every neighborhood
 - Create jobs and income close to home.
 - Save tax dollars by using resources more efficiently.
 - Business district cooperatives to promote purchasing power.
 - Eliminate plastic bags in the Township.
 - Promote the township as a good place to purchase property – “living sustainably in Cheltenham”

- Downtowns need more development, more businesses, need to be more of a “hub” and more pedestrian-friendly
9. SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT: Ensure that all land use, zoning, and development policies and regulations support the community’s sustainability goals.
- Potential Objectives/Action Items:**
- Provide incentives for clean, renewable, sustainable construction that maximizes energy efficiency and reduces environmental impacts.
 - Align codes with goals that promote walking, support transit, reduce environmental impacts of development, promote healthy living and support aging in place.
 - Reduce paving and reduce stormwater and run-off throughout the Township.
 - Ensure that land development ordinances are aligned with these sustainability goals including local food production when crafting ordinances.
 - Reclamation of floodplain areas
 - No variances to allow for construction in 50 year floodplain.
 - Adopt ICC Codes (if not already adopted)
 - Zone for solar access and orientation (for active and passive solar gain)
 - Increase use of permeable pavements vs. impervious and other stormwater BMP’s
 - Encourage large residential and mixed-use developments around train stations and transit lines.
 - Preserve large estates and undeveloped parcels for community open space uses
 - Revise codes to promote more walking (pedestrian-friendly development)
 - Require sidewalks on every street
 - Incentives to build green new construction (LEED, Energy Star, etc.)
 - Community building programs

Community Engagement
Engage and educate all Cheltenham residents and stakeholders to unite behind a shared set of goals to build a sustainable future

Objectives
Pick **2** top priorities and place a sticker in the box next to your choice.

- Financial incentives & award programs
- Encourage institutions, businesses, to do their own planning
- Educate everyone to make sustainable choices
- Teach children to live sustainably
- Ongoing citizen involvement to implement the Community Sustainability Plan

Your Ideas and Input
Use post-its to add your thoughts in the box to the right

Your idea here

Cheltenham Commission meeting for all residents make these available to them

Check with the...

TEAM



Waste Reduction

Minimize solid and hazardous waste disposal, and maximize the re-use of waste products as a resource

Objectives

Pick **2** top priorities and place a sticker in the box next to your choice.

Safely recycle hazardous waste (batteries, electronics, chemicals, etc.)



Increase composting at home and throughout the community



Minimize waste from households, schools, etc. and maximize recycling



Promote community resource sharing and re-use (up-cycling, "free stores," etc.)



Promote "green" purchasing practices



Your Ideas and Input

Use post-its to add your thoughts in the box to the right



Sustainable Development

Promote building, site development, and landscaping that respects the natural environment and maximizes clean and efficient use of resources, and ensure that all permitting, codes, and regulations support the community's sustainability goals

Objectives

Pick **2** top priorities and place a sticker in the box next to your choice.

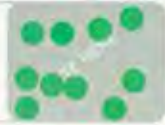
Incentives for clean, renewable, sustainable development that maximizes energy efficiency and reduces environmental impacts



Encourage low-impact development practices



Promote energy-efficient, renewable, and clean remodeling



Align Township codes and policies with sustainability goals

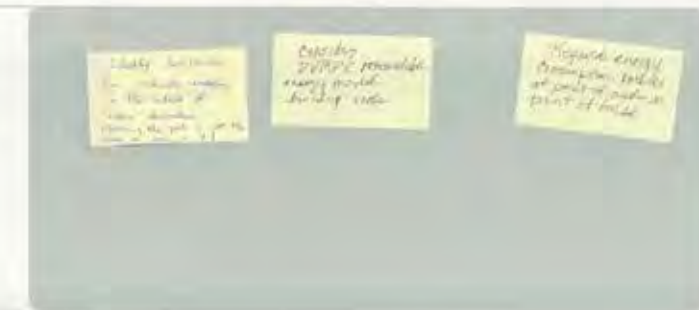



Promote walkable and transit-oriented development



Your Ideas and Input

Use post-its to add your thoughts in the box to the right






Ecological Stewardship


Protect and improve the overall health and ecological diversity of the Township's habitats, waterways, and soils, both on public and private lands

Objectives
Pick **2** top priorities and place a sticker in the box next to your choice.


Ensure clean and healthy indoor and outdoor air quality




Native species planting, removal of invasive species




Reduce use of harmful chemicals, fertilizers, and pesticides indoors and out




Promote gardening for food, beauty, and ecosystem enhancement




Increase tree cover



Your Ideas and Input
Use post-its to add your thoughts in the box to the right






Water Management


Minimize stormwater hazards, reduce wastewater flows, increase natural absorption of rainwater, and maximize the utility of rainwater as a resource

Objectives
Pick **2** top priorities and place a sticker in the box next to your choice.


Promote use of rain barrels and other re-use of rainwater




Reduce impervious areas and increase support for porous pavement




Minimize wastewater (toilets, washing machines, dish washing, etc.)




Restore floodplains, wetlands, riparian plantings, and other natural ways to absorb rainwater



Ensure clean and healthy streams



Your Ideas and Input
Use post-its to add your thoughts in the box to the right





Local Economy

Encourage and support local and regional agriculture, artisans, businesses, institutions, and industry by strengthening connections to, and markets for, local goods and services

Objectives
Pick **2** top priorities and place a sticker in the box next to your choice.

Attract and maintain local businesses, for tax revenue, jobs, and goods close to home

Walkable grocery stores / food outlets in every neighborhood

"Shop Local" as a way of life

Award achievement for businesses' sustainability efforts

Cooperatives to maximize purchasing power

Your Ideas and Input
Use post-its to add your thoughts in the box to the right



Healthy Living For All

Promote healthy living in Cheltenham through equitable, affordable, and safe access to information, education, recreation, natural areas, car-free transportation, fresh local foods, health care services, clean air, and clean water

Objectives
Pick **2** top priorities and place a sticker in the box next to your choice.

Convenient, affordable access to medical care for all

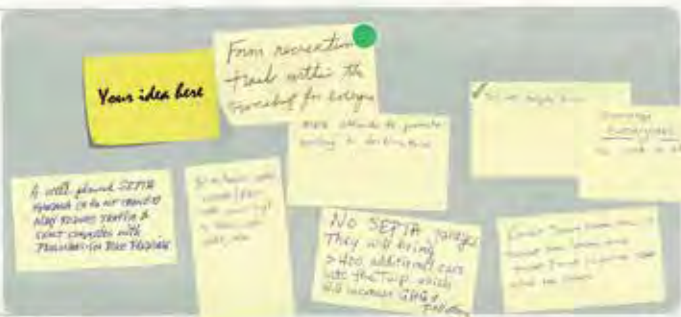
Ensure clean air and water

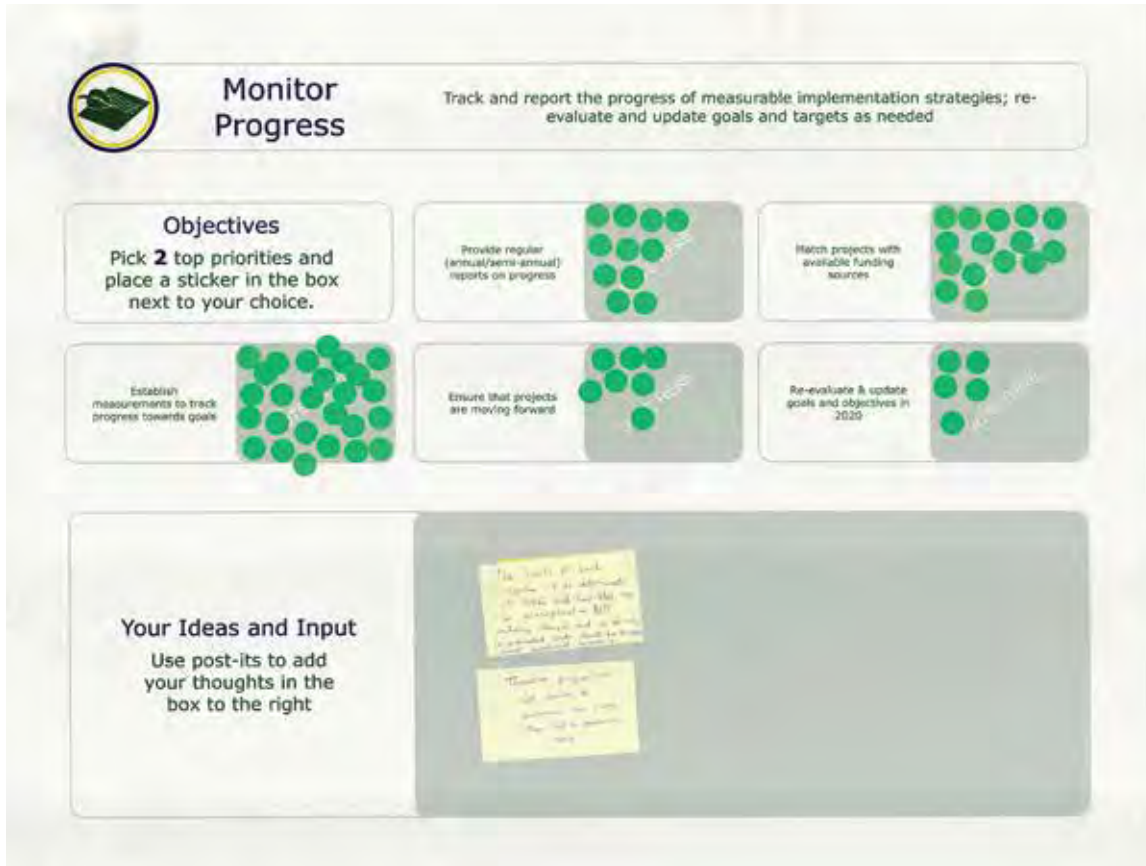
Access to fresh and healthy foods through home-growing, farmers, markets, schools, & community gardens

Encourage kids to walk & bike to schools, parks, libraries

Green spaces for everyone - kids, adults, sports, walkers, dogs, bikers

Your Ideas and Input
Use post-its to add your thoughts in the box to the right





Draft Comments that were not directly incorporated into the Final Draft

Community Engagement

“For discussion: reduce local income taxes, and institute local taxes on: car ownership/leasing, powered lawn equipment, impervious surfaces, waste by weight

Tax relief for: local food production, local sustainable business & cottage industries, using 100% clean renewable energy for electricity, energy conservation measures for homes & businesses, walking, biking and transit.”

“Suggestion: Lawn/Landscape services must register with township and only use earth-friendly substances on Cheltenham properties—qualified green landscape/garden services can be recommended by the township.”

Energy

“I found that the “most competitive” (economically) electricity supplier gave out air miles too and within the season had increased their rates to be one the most expensive: Energy Plus. I recommend Energy Coop because the customers are the owners of the company, one can get 100% clean renewable energy (wind, solar,

small hydro) and it is locally/regionally sourced. The cost is about 2 cents more per kWh compared to PECO’s conventional energy: coal, nuclear. Of course, municipalities are in a different fee structure than households.”

Mobility

“All liquid fuels including “alternative fuels” emit greenhouse gases and they vie with food for land. Liquid fuels are not a sustainable alternative they pit the 2 billion poor who need food against the 800,000 car owners who want fuel. We need to promote and produce solar energy to re-charge electric vehicles.”

“Can more of the Police Force use bikes?

Can police have neighborhood beats and be out and about by foot and bike within neighborhood for the day?

Can cruising be reduced? Do police idle their cars for A/C, communications, hanging out?

Will energy consumption be reduced with the automatic recycling/refuse trucks?

Why is the “Highway” category so high in energy consumption?

Would road repair be more efficient if it were subcontracted?"

"It may be possible to connect the greenways by offering private property owners a property tax break for allowing public access and an ecologically valid trail through their property...similar to the public walking trails through fields in the UK"

"It is good to see that we have all those bus stops in Cheltenham. If we had four more roads covered: New 2nd St., Washington Ln. & Waverly at the far end of the township, and the whole length of Church Rd. every household would be within ¼ mile of a bus stop. [A local advocate] rightfully advocates for bus shelters so people can get out of the elements while waiting for the bus."

"The citizens along and to either side of New 2nd St., Washington Ln., Waverly and Church Rd. have no transit options. At the very least, we need bike lanes and safe pedestrian walkways on: New 2nd St., Washington Ln. and Waverly and safe crossings of Church Rd. every ¼ mile or so."

"The few roads in Cheltenham Township that are wide enough to have HOV lanes (e.g. Limekiln Pike, Easton in places, Washington Ln.) would far better serve the township if they had bike lanes instead—we're depending on it for the safety of cyclists and pedestrians. Rte 309 might be a good candidate for a HOV lane."

Waste Management

"Imagine if a family grew and bought mostly local food, composted and purchased mostly local goods avoiding disposables & packaging, they might use the proposed smallest trashcan size (35 gallons) only once a season! (no food scraps or pet waste). If a family like that could get a significant break on trash tax, there would be more families that would follow suit."

"Recycle Bank is not so highly evolved. The idea is to reduce trash to almost nothing and then reduce your recycling because of reuse, repurposing and upcycling and wise local infrequent purchasing. Points for more stuff so you can do more and more recycling encourages materialism and the "thing-glut"

Water Management

"Tie impervious surfaces to property tax: if earth and water absorbing plantings are gained, property tax goes down. If impervious surfaces are added property tax goes up. On properties that are already optimizing best water management practices, the property tax goes down. On properties with excessive impervious surfaces

and bad water management practices, (e.g. Jenkintown Train Station) property tax or penalties go up. Water "sheets" off of lawns—convert to gardens."

"Convert the old school bus lot at the corner of Glenside Ave & Rices Mill Road to a wetland so that it can absorb floodwaters from upstream."

Ecological Stewardship

"Suggestion: Lawn/Landscape services must register with township and only use earth-friendly substances on Cheltenham properties—qualified green landscape/garden services can be recommended by the township."

"Tax incentives for citizen households & businesses particularly along our creeks & throughout the township who take a workshop and naturalize their properties."

"In some cases, the removal & replacement of an old large tree makes sense.

If the huge tree endangers the house in high winds (which are on the increase) the owner would be well advised to replace the tree with a smaller tree with a low canopy. If the replacement resulted in one or all three:
1. a productive fruit or nut tree
2. an opened-up sunny area for a vegetable garden
3. an opened-up south facing roof for solar panels, then the property tax could be reduced."

"The households who have food gardens and compost bins could get a reduction in trash removal tax because mulching/composting recycles all organic matter (yard waste, food scraps, leaves, even dryer lint) except milk & meat products. The more home-grown produce the less packaging, chemicals, disposables and other smag that's thrown into the trash."

Healthy Living For All

"Neighborhood Health Care/First Aid Clinics model, Virginia Beach, VA www.patientfirst.com Providing BOTH services and information.

Covering Cheltenham Twp with Neighborhood Health Care/First Aid Clinics:

There are five SEPTA train stations each with ½ mile radius around them depicted on the "Possible Bike & Mobility Plans Map". A Neighborhood Health Clinic could be placed in each train station and we could serve the rest of the township neighborhoods by putting clinics in other public buildings, going from right to left on the rectangle that is our township, each location with ½ mile radius drawn around them:

Cheltenham Train Station
Elkins Park School
The Township Municipal Building
La Mott Community Center
Cheltenham School District Administration Building
Wyncote Elementary School
Arcadia University
North Hills Train Station
Westminster Theological Seminary”

Local Economy

“local economy in “cottage industries” in our township. On our street alone there is a masonry contractor, general contractor, book & manuscript seller, handyman, on-line apparel accessories sales, storyteller & watercolor & oils painter/teacher. The Turtle Artisans Tour in Cheltenham revealed 20 different working studios in our township. In an oil crisis, some of these folks could manufacture house wares locally. Perhaps this map (“Work from Home” map) should show the cottage industries in our township—it may inspire more and even greater variety.”

“Creating a local currency (\$95 can buy 100 chelts), chelts are accepted by local merchants and citizen exchanges (\$1=1chelt). This encourages local merchant patronage and cottage industry exchanges and the money stays within the community and stimulates our local economy. Mt. Airy is working on a local currency.”

“A time bank can help facilitate goods and services exchanges among citizens who have skills to share and more time than money. This makes for satisfying provision and a happy alternative for our townspeople particularly in tough economic times. Good model: www.timebankmedia.org”

“Gift Economy: Skills and time and goodwill are exchanged among neighbors in a tight neighborhood. e.g. cooperative gardens & projects, tool lending, pot lucks & recipe swapping, meal sharing and shared bereavement & celebration.”

Montgomery County Board of Commissioners

Joshua D. Shapiro, *Chair*

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Montgomery County Planning Commission

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