

Borough of Doylestown

Environmental Advisory Council

Minutes of the meeting held Tuesday, December 20, 2022

Attendance: George Mullikin, PR West, Steve Nelson, Grant Alger, Joe Thompson (Penn State student, via Zoom), Brandi Robinson (Penn State faculty, via Zoom), Karyn Hyland (Borough Staff), Wendy Margolis (Borough Council), Dennis Livrone (Borough Council), Jim Baldassare (Doylestown Township EAC, via Zoom)

Kristin Winters viewed the meeting recording.

- 1) **Call to order:** George M. called the meeting to order at 5:35 pm.
- 2) **Approval of minutes (November 15, 2022):** The minutes were approved by common consent.
- 3) **LCAP Inventory Results**
 - a) Joe Thompson (Penn State student) and his instructor Brandi Robinson joined the meeting via Zoom.
 - b) Joe T. introduced himself, the LCAP program, and the LCAP Inventory results to the group. *See slides, inventory report, and reference sheet PDFs attached to these minutes for the information provided during the presentation.*
 - c) Wendi M. asked Joe T. if he has thoughts on why the Borough may have higher emissions than its neighbors. Joe T. suggested that perhaps the Borough's role as the County seat may lead to higher transportation emissions into and out of the Borough. Also, the higher residential emissions numbers may be related to the fact that many of the Borough homes are much older than the homes in many other parts of the County. Homes may need to be retrofitted to be more energy efficient.
 - d) Karyn H. asked if the numbers were calculated per capita. Brandi R. clarified that the inventory only captures Scope 1 emissions (within the boundary of the Borough) and Scope 2 emissions (generated outside the boundary but for use in the Borough). Some of the numbers can be broken down further to capture per capita data. The transportation information may capture some emissions that take place outside of the Borough but cross the boundary into the Borough; this applies to trash as well. Karyn H. asked if this means that the Borough may have higher numbers because it has a lot of visitors; Brandi R. confirmed this - that the Borough's numbers may be higher because it has a lot of people that travel into the Borough during the day, while other communities may lose population during the day and have lower numbers. Larger municipalities like the County may have more balanced numbers.
 - e) Wendy M. asked if the numbers can capture the impact of gas-powered landscape equipment. Brandi R. said this could be piloted on a small scale to capture the municipal equipment, but it would be difficult to capture residential use beyond just an estimate. Joe T. said that the emissions data were provided as a total and then were broken down into an estimate for the Borough; this was DVRC data.

- f) One big difference between the Borough and Township was commercial/industrial data; the Township has fewer commercial/industrial entities, so the numbers are lower.
- g) Brandi R. noted that in terms of planning for goals, we should not just think about the biggest sources of emissions, but the sources that are most visible to residents and would attract attention. This would help build momentum for bigger projects down the road.
- h) Steve N. asked how the model accounts for municipal or residential use of renewable energy. Joe T. said this is utility data and more specific info about renewable energy cannot be pulled out. Brandi R. noted that it's easier to carve out this data if you review just the municipal data; there is not a good way to capture residential data in PA at this time. That's a limitation of this data. It's also difficult to capture renewable energy generation that occurs in a community. Brandi R. said they are looking at reviewing permits or similar sources that could help provide this information. The data is out there but right now it's difficult to access. Perhaps it would be helpful to solicit info from the renewable energy sources, but there isn't a good route for this yet.
- i) Brandi R. noted that it's important to recognize that this is an imperfect estimate, but it can serve as a starting point for implementation of activities to decrease emissions. As time goes on and we get better data it can be updated.
- j) PR W. asked if there are reference sources we can use to compare ourselves to other municipalities. Brandi R. said she can help us look at data from the other municipalities in this year's cohort. Our next task is to establish an emissions target.
- k) Another limitation to the data is that it doesn't capture data like manufacturing of goods that we use. This is a limitation of doing data on a local scale. More affluent communities may have higher emissions due to higher consumption.
- l) Karyn H. asked if we could look at data from previous years to compare ourselves to similar municipalities. Brandi R. will look into some of this data for us.
- m) Brandi R. noted that for the spring semester we will work with Joe T. to develop an action plan. This can take time. Soliciting community input adds to the completion time. We can also look at incorporating info into our comprehensive plan. It will be up to us to work with Joe T. and his instructors to determine what direction to take. They hope to set up regularly scheduled meetings to discuss relevant topics and provide opportunities for the current cohort to communicate with each other. A lot of the participants are in eastern and southeastern PA.
- n) The group discussed why 19 municipalities have implemented their action plans, compared to 440 who participated in the process. Brandi R. noted that she has seen that the spring semester is not enough time to implement a plan. Resources are being put in place to help municipalities continue the process after the spring semester, but this was not available for participants in early years. This will be helpful to us.
- o) George M. noted that a meeting hosted by the Township EAC will be held at the Doylestown Township building on Thursday, 1/5/23, at 6:30 pm to discuss the next steps and brainstorm ideas for how to move forward.
- p) The group thanked Joe T. and Brandi R. for the presentation, then they left the meeting.
- q) The group discussed that it may be difficult to set certain types of goals from the general information that can be captured in the inventory. (For instance, it doesn't capture renewable energy use.) We will need to keep this in mind as we set targets, but we can use this as a starting point. Jim B. left the meeting after this discussion.

4) Carry-Out Bag Ordinance

- a) Business signage and website
 - i) Karyn H. got a quote from Mind Your Design (MYD) that includes printable signage/poster, digital graphics, website, landing page, and collaboration on messaging. The quote is \$1,200; this does not include printing. It is a set fee and is not subject to an

hourly rate. Karyn H. noted this seems like a reasonable number. MYD does the Borough website.

- ii) George M. asked Joe Wallace for a quote. He can provide an 8.5"x11" poster for \$100.
 - iii) Steve N. made a motion to accept the MYD quote, Grant A. seconded, and the motion passed.
 - iv) PR W. then left the meeting for a prior commitment, after which the group briefly discussed moving the meetings for 2023 to 6:30 pm and agreed that this makes sense; George M. will check with members PR W. and Karen Graziano to make sure this works for them.
- b) Website
- i) Grant reviewed the work he has been doing for the website updates. This includes content for a separate plastics landing page.
 - ii) The plastics information will include a link to the ordinance, which was adopted by Borough Council yesterday.
 - iii) Information about the ordinance requirements and FAQ will be included on the website.
 - iv) MYD emphasizes avoiding paragraphs to hold the reader's attention. The group discussed who we are trying to reach, and decided background info for the plastics ordinance will still be accessible through a link, but will not be on the landing page. The landing page will highlight priorities, quick information, and what businesses need to know. Paul from MYD will help us arrange the info to reach our audience.
- c) Public announcements
- i) Karyn H. will start sending some info out to businesses, including new businesses.
- d) Reusable bags
- i) Karen G. is working on this; we need to decide on graphics.

5) Reports

- a) **Farmer's Market:** No report.
- b) **Outreach and Communication:** Discussed above (plastics).
- c) **Bird Town:** Since Kristin W. is leaving the EAC, we need someone to communicate with Bird Town. Grant A. may help with this. We will discuss it at the February meeting.
- d) **Comprehensive Plan:** Steve N. reported that the County Planning Commission presented Borough demographics data as well as the survey results (approximately 800 responses, about 10% of the Borough population). Sustainability and Conservation were relatively highly prioritized on the survey. The presentation is on the Borough website. Workshops are the next step starting in February.
- e) **Year-End Review:** George M. reviewed our objectives for the year and our progress toward them. We were on track with the work we completed regarding plastics and the comprehensive plan. We made some progress toward encouraging renewable energy sources, and will continue this work. We were on track with the final goal related to engagement, such as the Farmers Market and attending EAC summits. We will talk about our 2023 goals at the January meeting; the LCAP and comprehensive plan will be part of this.

6) Old/New Business:

- a) Dennis L. shared information with the group from the Sierra Club about how to petition the federal government regarding PFAS. This is an important topic our group can discuss.

7) Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned by common consent at 7:29 pm.

Next meeting: The next EAC meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, January 17, 2023 at 6:30 pm.