

**Radnor Township
Environmental Advisory Council
Annual Report
2011**

I. Introduction and Background

The Radnor Township Environmental Advisory Council (“EAC”) provides leadership and guidance on environmental and sustainability matters to Radnor Township staff, Board of Commissioners, and community members. In addition, the EAC serves an important role in providing local community environmental education through regular programming at its monthly televised meetings and through special programs and events such as the Sustainability Series. The EAC’s proactive approach to preserving and enhancing the environment in Radnor Township aligns with Radnor’s motto of “making a great place even better” and is reflected in its many sustainability initiatives. The EAC’s approach to enhancing sustainability and preserving the environment is to demonstrate leadership at the municipal level and to inspire action at the individual level.

The EAC is proud of its many accomplishments and is eager to continue to build upon its achievements. In 2011, the EAC developed a draft greenhouse gas action plan based upon its previously completed emissions inventory, presented three educational programs in the Sustainability Series, worked with Community Energy to become one of the first communities on the Main Line to host an electric vehicle charging station, implemented water conservation programming in connection with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (“EPA”) WaterSense Partner program, maintained and updated the Green Radnor section of the Township website, served as a clearinghouse for environmental/ sustainability information and event announcements, and provided environmental education and programming at its monthly meetings.

The Radnor EAC consists of seven at large voting members and up to four liaison members (one each from the Planning Commission, Board of Health, Parks and Recreation Board and Shade Tree Commission). In 2011, the seven at-large EAC members were: Chairperson Brenda Gotanda, Vice-Chairperson Josh Hilbert, Stephen Elliott, Robin Mann, Daniel Meier, Anne Poulin, and Sloan Walker. EAC liaison members in 2011 included: Skip Kunda, Planning Commission Representative, Genevieve Burns, Board of Health Representative (January - September) and Kelly Doyle, Board of Health Representative (October – December).

II. EAC Workgroups

The EAC was organized into several workgroups, each having responsibility to advance EAC initiatives between meetings and identify potential issues and agenda items related to their workgroup topic. These workgroups included: Climate Protection/GHG Action

Plan; Sustainability & WaterSense Partnership; Open Space; and Community Environmental Education.

III. EAC Activities in 2011

A. Climate Protection/GHG Action Plan

The EAC developed a draft Greenhouse Gas Action Plan for Radnor Township (“Plan”) as requested by the Board of Commissioners (“BOC”) pursuant to BOC Resolution 2007-24. The EAC developed the Plan based upon input received during meetings with various stakeholders in the Township, including Township staff, police, and school district representatives, as well as the EAC’s own research into action plans implemented by other municipalities in our region and across the nation. The EAC reviewed and discussed the proposed action items to be included in the Plan at multiple EAC meetings and invited the public to provide comments and suggestions. The EAC submitted the final draft Plan to the Township Manger on December 13, 2011 and requested review and comment from Township staff prior to the EAC submitting the Plan to the Board of Commissioners for approval.

B. Sustainability Series

The EAC continued to provide community education on sustainability topics through its Sustainability Series programming in 2011. The EAC launched the Sustainability Series program back in 2008 in collaboration with the Radnor Conservancy and the Radnor League of Women Voters. Through this partnership, we have provided Radnor and the region with an excellent series of programs and workshops to explain the sustainability concepts that we hear about in the news on a daily basis and to demonstrate more sustainable approaches to the everyday operation of business, government, and households. These programs have been very well received by the community, both the live program and telecast, as well as the video replays posted on the Radnor website.

In 2011, the following programs were presented as part of the Sustainability Series:

- Conservation Development: Lightening the Footprint of Growth

This program, held on January 31, 2011, provided information and insights on conservation development from the following panel of speakers:

- A Brief Overview of Radnor’s Development Zoning Ordinances
Matt Baumann, Radnor Director of Community Development
- Growing Greener: Zoning Options for Conservation Development
Ann Hutchinson, Natural Lands Trust
- Traymore – Successful Conservation Development in Delaware County
Chip Vaughan, Vaughan and Sautter Builders
- What’s in it for Radnor? The Municipal Point of View
Jim Wendelgass, West Vincent Township Manager

- We All Live Downstream

This program, held on June 23, 2011, consisted of an educational workshop on water conservation and stormwater management practices for households, businesses and municipalities -- including: native landscaping, rain gardens, rain barrels, sump pumps, stormwater basins, etc. The program was developed and presented by representatives of the Delaware County Conservation District and the Pennsylvania Resources Council, with funding provided by the PADEP Environmental Education Grant Program.

- Bringing Green Energy Home

This program, held on July 28, 2011, consisted of an educational workshop on energy efficiency, conservation, and renewable energy technologies for households, businesses and municipalities. The program was developed and presented by representatives of the Delaware County Conservation District and the Pennsylvania Resources Council, with funding provided by the PADEP Environmental Education Grant Program. Program attendees received a free CFL light bulb and were entered into a drawing to win a basic home energy audit worth \$250. The winner of the home energy audit subsequently shared the results of the audit at an EAC meeting later in the year.

In addition, in 2011, the EAC organized the first Sustainability Series program to be presented in 2012, entitled Electric Cars & Their Infrastructure: How's This All Going to Work? This program will be held on January 26, 2012 from 7 to 9 pm at the Radnor Township Municipal Building, with an electric vehicle display/demo beginning at 6:15 pm. The program will include information on electric cars, their energy source, the electric grid and the new public electric vehicle charging stations for Radnor. Speakers will include:

- Jay Carlis, Vice President, Community Energy
- Scott Baker, PJM Interconnection
- Brad A. Molotsky, Brandywine Realty Trust
- John Bettinger, Thomas Chevrolet

Prior topics in the Sustainability Series have included the following:

- Discovering Your Carbon Footprint & How to Tread More Lightly
- Greening Your Own Home: What Residents Can Do
- Alternative, Renewable Energy Sources
- Green Building 101

C. Electric Vehicle Charging Station

On December 5, 2011, a ribbon cutting ceremony was held to commemorate the grand opening of Radnor Township's first public electric vehicle (EV) charging station.

The public EV charging station is the first of its kind on the Main Line. The EAC worked closely with the Township staff and Commissioners in 2010 and 2011 to secure Radnor's participation in the EV charging station pilot program launched by Community Energy with grant funding from the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection. The Township has designated a green parking spot in downtown Wayne near the train station to host the charging station. Community Energy, a local renewable energy company, owns and operates the station, providing renewable energy to promote and support electric vehicle use along the Main Line. This small step in Radnor Township's continued leadership on environmental issues represents a huge leap in the sustainability journey of our community, our region and our state. The EAC will host an educational program on January 26, 2012 on electric vehicles as part of its ongoing Sustainability Series. Link to event announcement here: http://www.radnor.com/egov/docs/1322508477_241394.pdf



Above is a photo from the Grand Opening and Ribbon Cutting Ceremony for the new EV Charging Station in Wayne. Pictured left to right are: EAC Member Sloan Walker (and owner of Chevy Volt being charged); Radnor Township Commissioner Elaine Schaefer, Community Energy Vice President Jay Carlis; and EAC Chairperson Brenda Gotanda

D. WaterSense Partnership

At the EAC's recommendation, Radnor Township became a "Promotional Partner" in the United States Environmental Protection Agency ("EPA") WaterSense Program in 2010. EPA's WaterSense Program promotes water efficiency and conservation through public education and water-efficient WaterSense labeled products/programs. The EAC

implemented the program in 2011 by posting WaterSense educational material on the Radnor website, placing materials in the lobby of the Township building, and providing water saving tips and conservation ideas at its monthly EAC meetings.

E. Trash, Recycling and Yard Waste Collection

The EAC sought, and provided to the public, updates on the trash, recycling, and yard waste collection programs in the Township, with the goal to increase recycling and decrease waste generation in our community. The EAC announced household hazardous waste collection days, National Take Back Day, a Lawn Mower Trade-In event, composting workshops, and an electronic waste recycling event. In addition, the EAC participated in the October 22 electronic waste recycling event in Radnor.

F. Green Building and Alternative Energy

The EAC investigated various programs and initiatives to promote green building in our community and discussed these at its meetings. In addition, the EAC posted green building information and resources on Radnor's website. The EAC also provided support to a Commissioner's proposal to investigate options for the installation of solar panels on Sulpizio Gym to offset costs of needed repairs to the facility.

G. Announcements and Information

The EAC regularly provided announcements and information at its meetings regarding upcoming environmental programs and events, as well as current issues that may be of interest to the Radnor community.

H. Radnor Green Website

The EAC developed the Radnor Green section of the Township's website in 2009 in order to provide a single point of entry for citizens interested in environmental and sustainability related information. During 2011, the EAC continued to add information and update the website to keep the information current.

I. Open Space

The EAC participated in Radnor's Open Space Committee and in the Comprehensive Plan Implementation Committee's Subcommittee on Parks and Open Space.

J. Community Environmental Education & Schools

The EAC provided regular updates on environmental and sustainability topics at its monthly meetings. Educational presentations at EAC meetings included the following topics:

- Wayne Elementary School environmental activities
- Residential Geothermal HVAC system installation and operation

- Energy@Home (A PA Home Energy video sponsored by the U.S. EPA and others to assist Pennsylvania consumers in reducing home energy use)
- Audubon Society Bird Town Program
- Energy choice in Pennsylvania and green power purchasing
- EPA's Green Power Partnership & Green Communities Program
- Home energy audits

K. EAC Network

The EAC monitored the Pennsylvania Environmental Council ("PEC") EAC network postings and shared information and events of potential public interest with the Radnor community. In addition, a Radnor EAC member attended PEC's annual EAC conference and reported back to the EAC on presentations given at the conference concerning stormwater and impaired streams.

IV. EAC Liaison Members

The designated representatives to the EAC from Radnor's Planning Commission and Board of Health regularly participated in EAC meetings, sharing information and ideas on cross-cutting topics and issues.