

**Radnor Township  
Environmental Advisory Council  
Annual Report**

**2012**

I. Introduction

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 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 2012, 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 2012 included: Skip Kunda (Planning Commission Representative), Kelly Doyle (Board of Health Representative) and Chris Campbell (Parks and Recreation Representative).

In 2012, the EAC was honored with a Green Award from Main Line Today magazine and recognized as an “Environmental Champion” for its environmental stewardship.

The EAC is proud of its many accomplishments and is eager to continue to build upon its achievements. In 2012 the EAC presented its Greenhouse Gas Action Plan to the Radnor Board of Commissioners and helped to launch Radnor’s municipal Green Team. In addition, it hosted two educational programs in the Sustainability Series, one promoting low-emission electric vehicles (and use of the public charging station in downtown Wayne) and the other addressing stormwater management strategies. The EAC implemented the EPA WaterSense Partnership program for Radnor Township, developed a Sustainable Parks Policy recommendation, continued to promote recycling in our community, 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.

## 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; Stormwater; Open Space; and Community Environmental Education.

## III. EAC Activities in 2012

### A. GHG Action Plan & Green Team

In 2007, Radnor Township endorsed the U.S. Mayors' Climate Protection Agreement, which calls upon cities to reduce their emissions of greenhouse gases. The Radnor Township Board of Commissioners directed the EAC to prepare an inventory of Radnor's greenhouse gas emissions and to propose an action plan to reduce Radnor's greenhouse gas emissions and rising energy costs.

The EAC worked with Township staff and the community to prepare both an emissions inventory and a Greenhouse Gas Action Plan for Radnor Township. The final Greenhouse Gas Action Plan (April 2012) was presented to the Radnor Township Board of Commissioners in August 2012. The Greenhouse Gas Action Plan contains 15 proposed actions that present potential opportunities for the Township to decrease emissions, improve operational efficiencies, reduce costs, and provide environmental leadership in the community. On August 20, 2012, the Radnor Township Board of Commissioners passed Resolution 2012-90 supporting the Greenhouse Gas Action Plan and the formation of a Radnor Green Team.

As recommended in the GHG Action Plan, the Township Manager has established a municipal Radnor Green Team consisting of Township staff and supported by the EAC. The goal of the Green Team is to develop and implement energy efficiency and sustainability policies and priorities for the Township and to further evaluate and implement, as appropriate, other recommendations of the GHG Action Plan.

### B. Sustainability Series

In 2012, the EAC continued to provide community education on sustainability topics through its Sustainability Series programming. The EAC launched the Sustainability Series program 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 and to demonstrate more sustainable approaches to the everyday operation of business, government, and households. These programs are presented live, with simultaneous telecast, and video replays are posted on the Radnor website.

In 2012, the following programs were presented as part of the Sustainability Series:

- Electric Cars & Their Infrastructure: How's This All Going to Work?

This program, held on January 26, 2012, brought information to the community on electric cars, their energy source, the electric grid and the new public electric vehicle charging stations in Radnor. In addition, electric vehicles were on hand for demo/display and for audience members to take a test drive. The speakers included the following:

- Jay Carlis, Community Energy
- Scott Baker, PJM Interconnection
- Brad A. Molotsky, Brandywine Realty Trust
- Amy Ercolani, Thomas Chevrolet

- Stormwater Management: What We Can All Do

This program, held on November 29, 2012, provided the latest updates and further education on the important issue of stormwater control in our Radnor community. As the Township considers various solutions to this difficult issue, this program helped to provide focus on what individual property owners and citizens can do to help. The program was led by Vivian Williams of the Stroud Water Research Center.

Prior Sustainability Series programs have included the following:

- Conservation Development: Lightening the Footprint of Growth
- We All Live Downstream
- Bringing Green Energy Home
- 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. WaterSense Partnership

In 2012, the EAC continued to implement the EPA WaterSense Partnership program for Radnor Township. Radnor Township became a “Promotional Partner” in the United States Environmental Protection Agency (“EPA”) WaterSense Program in 2010 upon the recommendation of the EAC. 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 2012 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. In addition, the EAC passed a Resolution encouraging Pennsylvania to declare an annual 1-week tax holiday on WaterSense labeled products.

D. Electric Vehicles & Charging Station

The EAC continued to work to build support for the use of lower emission vehicles in our community and to highlight the opportunity offered by presence of the public electric vehicle (“EV”) charging station in the Wayne Presbyterian Church parking lot in downtown Wayne. The public EV charging station is the first of its kind on the Main Line. The EAC worked closely with the Township in prior years 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. 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.

E. Stormwater

In 2012, the EAC participated in various meetings and workshops addressing stormwater management and control. These meetings included sessions specifically addressing comprehensive stormwater management options for Radnor Township and as well as regional programs on stormwater management. The EAC shared information and insights with the community on how to implement improved stormwater management strategies.

The EAC submitted an application for Water Resources Education Network (“WREN”) grant to construct a rain garden on Township property and offer related educational programming. The EAC did not win the grant, but may try again in the future. However, a WREN grant application was awarded to the Garrett Hill Coalition for a similar project and the EAC offered to provide support to them on their project if needed. Separately, the EAC provided support to the Township on its plan to construct a rain garden in Cowan Park (completion anticipated in 2013).

F. Sustainable Parks Policy

In April 2012, the EAC passed a Resolution recommending that the Township develop and implement a Sustainable Parks Policy (“SPP”) to promote the use of sustainable landscapes wherever practicable in the Township’s parks, trails, gardens, and open spaces. In general, sustainable landscapes are those which enable the natural and built systems to work together beneficially to meet the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs. More particularly, the goal of the SPP would be to promote the management of landscapes so as to improve and regenerate the natural benefits and services provided by healthy ecosystems, thus increasing the positive aspects and decreasing the negative aspects associated with maintenance of our public spaces. Sustainable landscapes can be functional, cost-efficient, environmentally-beneficial, and aesthetically pleasing. The

EAC recommended that the SPP be developed in consultation with landscape professionals familiar with sustainable site design and maintenance principles and with interested members of the community

G. Trash, Recycling and Yard Waste Collection

The EAC provided 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. In addition, the EAC announced household hazardous waste collection days, National Take Back Day, composting workshops, and electronic waste recycling events.

H. Radnor Green Website

Radnor continued to maintain and update the information posted on the Radnor Green website with the help of Township staff. The EAC developed the Radnor Green section of the Township website in 2009 in order to provide a single point of entry for citizens interested in environmental and sustainability related information.

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 information and announcements at its monthly meetings regarding environmental and sustainability topics, programs and events that may be of interest to the Radnor community. Educational presentations at EAC meetings included the following topics:

- Home energy audits and available economic incentives
- Radnor recycling program
- Radnor elementary schools environmental activities
- LED lighting conversions

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.

L. Environmental Guidance to Township

When requested by the Radnor Board of Commissioners, Township staff or other boards, the EAC provided comments and guidance on environmental aspects of various

issues under consideration. In 2012, topics included herbicide use on the Radnor Trail, proposed shade tree ordinance modifications, and proposed zoning modifications.

#### IV. EAC Liaison Members

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