

Building a Successful EAC

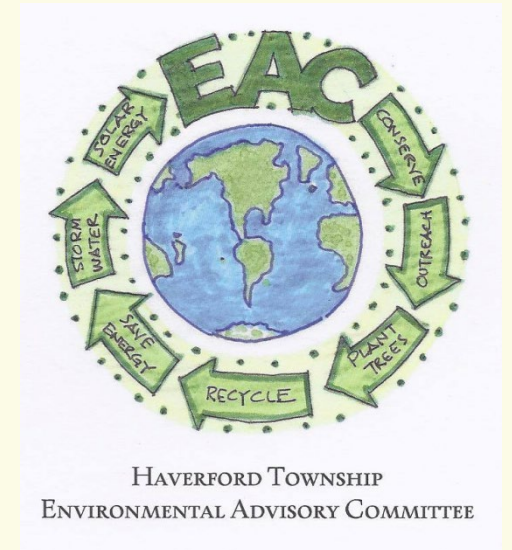
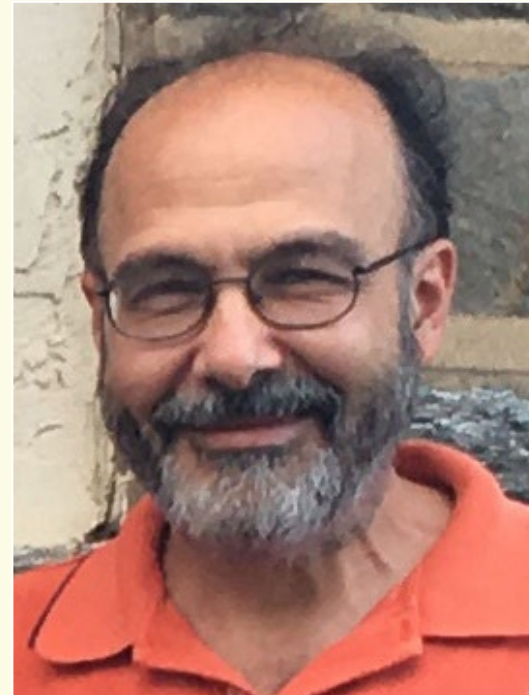
Jeanne Barrett Ortiz

Senior Program Manager Landscape Conservation

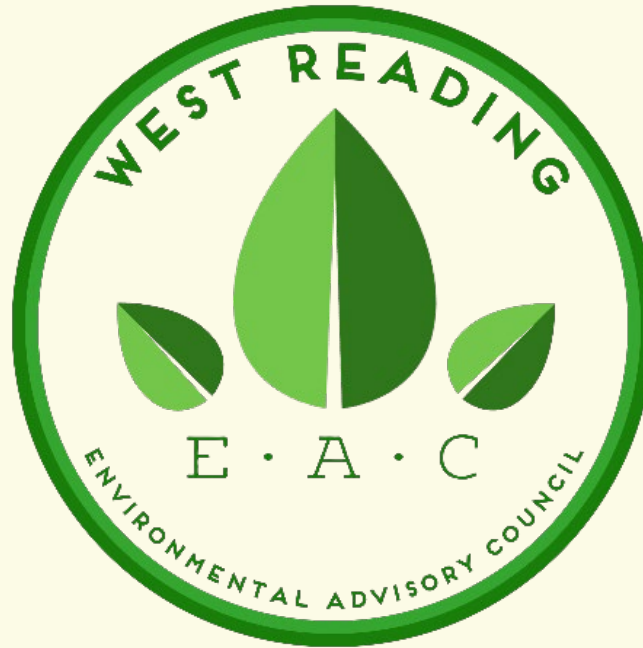


Peter Puglionesi, PE

Haverford Township EAC



What are EACs?



148 of 1973, as amended in 1996

Act 148 states that “An environmental advisory council shall have the power to:

- 1. Identify environmental problems and recommend plans and programs** to the appropriate agencies for the promotion and conservation of the natural resources and for the protection and improvement of the quality of the environment within its territorial limits.
2. Make recommendations as to the possible use of open land areas of the municipal corporations within its territorial limits.
3. Promote a community environmental program.
4. Keep an index of all open areas, publicly or privately owned, including flood-prone areas, swamps and other unique natural areas, for the purpose of obtaining information on the proper use of those areas.
5. Advise the appropriate local government agencies, including the planning commission and recreation and park board or, if none, the elected governing body or bodies within its territorial limits, in the acquisition of both real and personal property by gift, purchase, grant, bequest, easement, devise or lease, in matters dealing with the purposes of this subchapter.”



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EACs Do Many Things!



The Allentown Environmental Advisory Council cordially invites you to:

THE 2ND ALLENTOWN SUSTAIN-A-BALL

Saturday, April 16, 2011
6:00 – 9:00 PM
at the Allentown Brew Works
812 W. Hamilton Street, Allentown, PA 18101

A celebration of Lehigh Valley initiatives to protect and sustain Allentown's natural resources.

Program, hors d'oeuvres, pasta bar, desserts
Dancing to the music of Tavern Tan
Silent Auction
Artists: drinks casual to fun formal
Purchase tickets online or make checks payable to EAC, Sustain-A-Ball

Meal checks to Jean Rosoman
Allentown City Hall
415 W. Hamilton Street, Allentown PA 18101
For more information, contact
John Thompson 610.434.2200 • johnthompson@eacpa.com
Proceeds will benefit the Allentown Environmental Advisory Council's efforts to protect and sustain the natural resources of the City of Allentown

Order tickets online:
sustainaball.org
\$30
Students \$15

SPONSORS:
Lehigh Valley Land Recycling Initiative
Sustainable Energy Fund
PTE Corporation
AFC First Financial Corporation
Karlens F&E Program
JG Petros Company, Inc.

SPONSORS:
Pennsylvania Environmental Council
Alliance for Sustainable Communities
Lehigh Valley
Chubb & Simon, Inc.
Food and Water Watch
Lehigh Valley Green Building Forum
Clean Water Action

SPONSORS:
Lange Engineering
O'Neil Technology
One With the Earth Project
Sustainable Business Network
Fourth Dimension Concepts • Natural Architecture
WDV Lehigh Valley Community Public Radio

SPECIAL THANKS FOR INKING DONATIONS FROM:
Allentown Brew Works
Edge of the Woods Nature Plant Nursery
Fourth Dimension Concepts • Natural Architecture
WDV Lehigh Valley Community Public Radio



You are invited to the 4th Annual
Go For the Green Awards Ceremony
Honoring Lower Merion Township's
Environmental Leaders

2011 Award Recipients

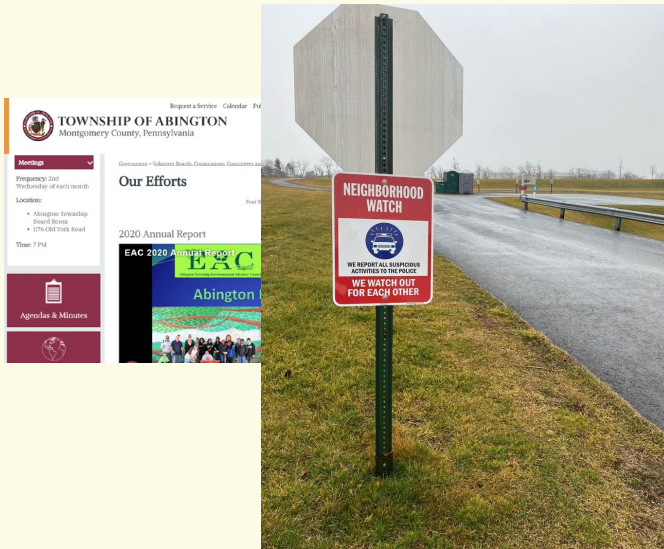
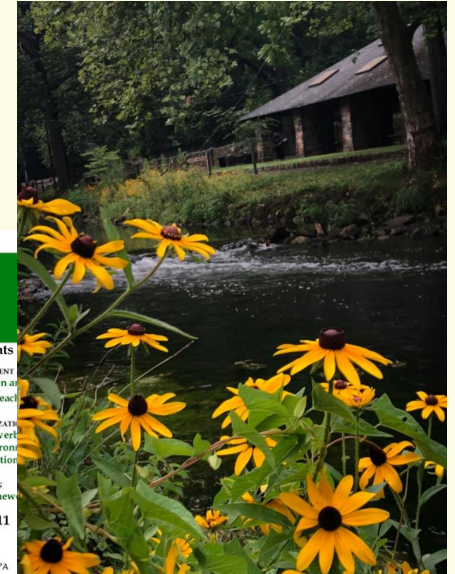
LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT AWARDED Mike Weilbacher	RESIDENT Helen at Peace
EDUCATIONAL AWARD Pre-K Class at Temple Beth Hillel/Beth-El	ORGANIZATION River Environmental Education
COMMERCIAL SITE GREENING 308 E. Lancaster Avenue, Wynnewood, PA	

**Tuesday, May 3, 2011
6 p.m.
Appleford Estate
770 Mt. Moro Road, Villanova, PA**

Light refreshments will be served.
Kindly RSVP to Andrea Campitelli at (610) 645-6112 or acampitelli@lowermerion.org by Tuesday, April 26, 2011

GO FOR THE GREEN
ENVIRONMENTAL ADVISORY COUNCIL
LOWER MERION TOWNSHIP

Sponsored By:
WHOLE FOODS
mgkf
Pennoni



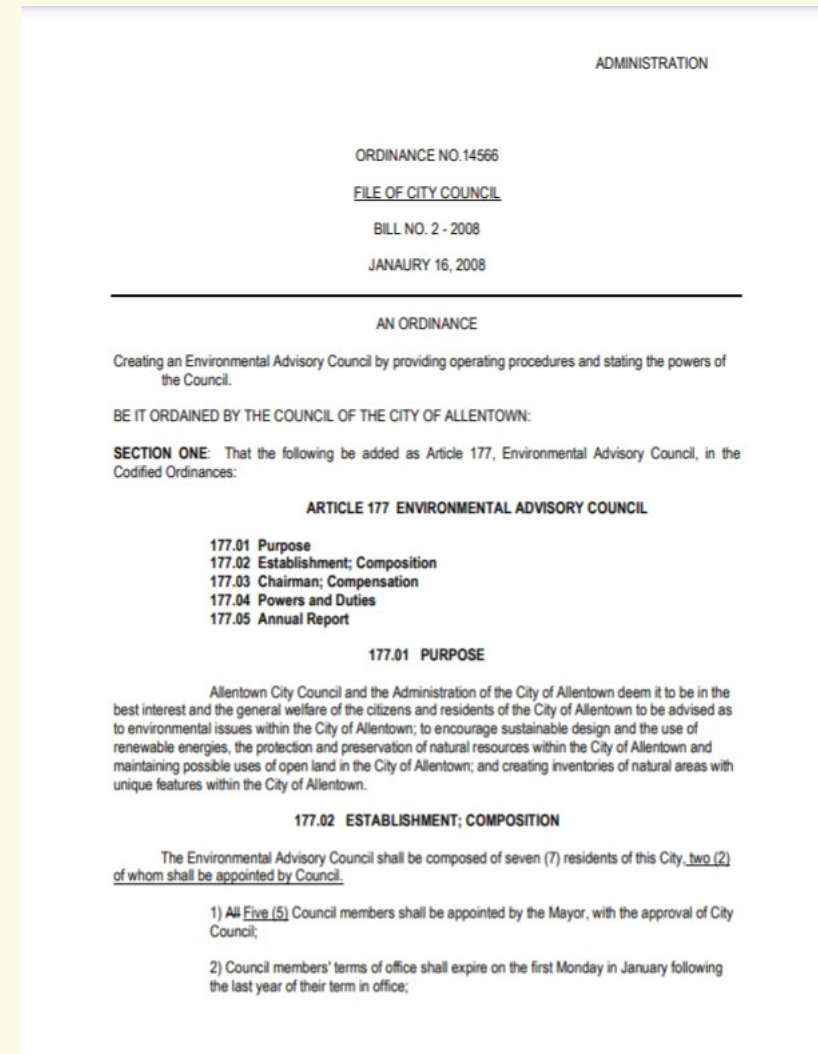
GREEN CONSHY
Conshohocken Environmental Advisory Council - EAC
@ConshyEAC · Nonprofit organization

[Send message](#)



How are they formed?

Can be proposed by anyone
Presentation to elected officials
EAC ordinance passed (models available)
Elected officials appoint 3-7 members



Funding

Many operate with no or little budget
Some receive annual funding
Many EACs fundraise/apply for grants



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Tredyffrin Rain Garden Program

2021

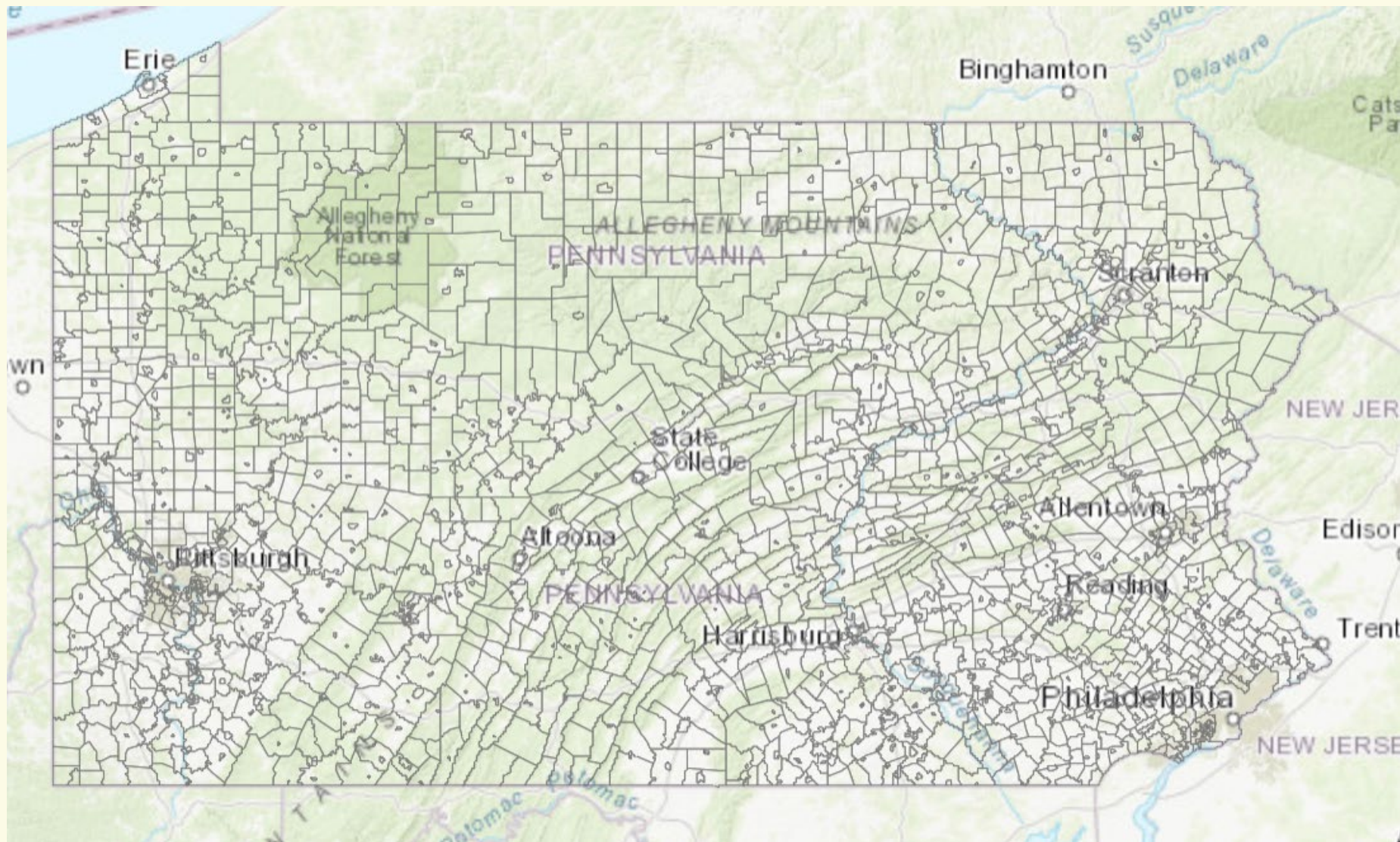
**DEP Growing Greener
Grant Recipient**

 *Thank you!* 

Benefits

Part of local government
Stature
Helpful to boards and community
Build partnerships
Raise funds
Get projects done
Future elected officials





2500+ Municipalities



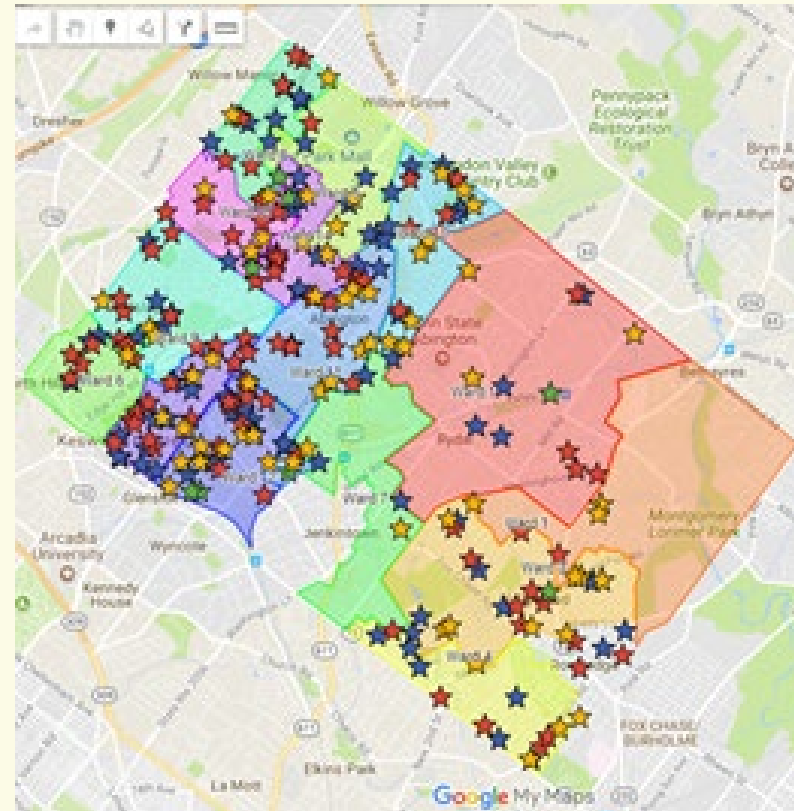
Education

- Workshops
- Tours
- Inventories
- Publications
- Community festivals
- School programs
- Advise other government bodies



Projects

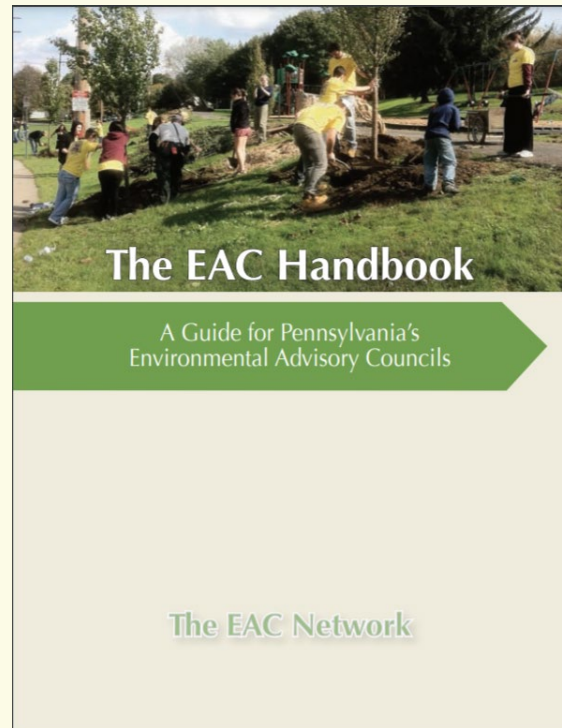
- Open space prioritization
- Stewardship
- Riparian buffer restoration
- Tree plantings
- Rain barrels
- Alternative energy
- Sustainability
- Pollution reduction
- Awards....



<https://westhanover.com/environmental-advisory-council>



It's All Here:



<https://weconservepa.org/eac/eac-handbook/>



“DO’s” for a New EAC

- Review your municipality’s EAC ordinance – know what is and is not included in your mission; understand how new laws are made
- Review Guidance
- Get Board and Municipality liaison’s to meetings and explain expectations, “Robert’s Rules”, Chair/Co-Chair election

References

- https://conservationtools-production.s3.amazonaws.com/library_item_files/1311/2537/EAC_Handbook_210602.pdf?AWSAccessKeyId=AKIAIQFJLILYGVD4AMQ&Expires=1644171551&Signature=ZM5%2BF1Qvx4MV8aygpkvFstnXSJE%3D
- https://assembly.cornell.edu/sites/default/files/roberts_rules_simplified.pdf

New EAC and New Members

- Get to know the elected officials who appointed you
- Get to know the Township official serving as liaison
- Be positive and productive and respect their time
- Actively communicate priorities and proposals before making any formal proposal for ordinances or funding for initiatives
- Ask them to communicate to the public
- Provide meaningful official web site content
- Consider “friends of” social media avenues if messages are not getting through



“DO’s” for a New EAC Term

- Encourage meaningful citizen involvement and assistance to EAC – this is your pool of committed future members
- Learn the qualifications and commitment of volunteers
- Know who is not coming back, propose new candidates
- Give new members EAC ordinance, guidance & recent minutes ahead of their first meeting to review – before their first meeting
- Members share background, qualifications, priorities
- New Chair / Co-Chair / Secretary selected



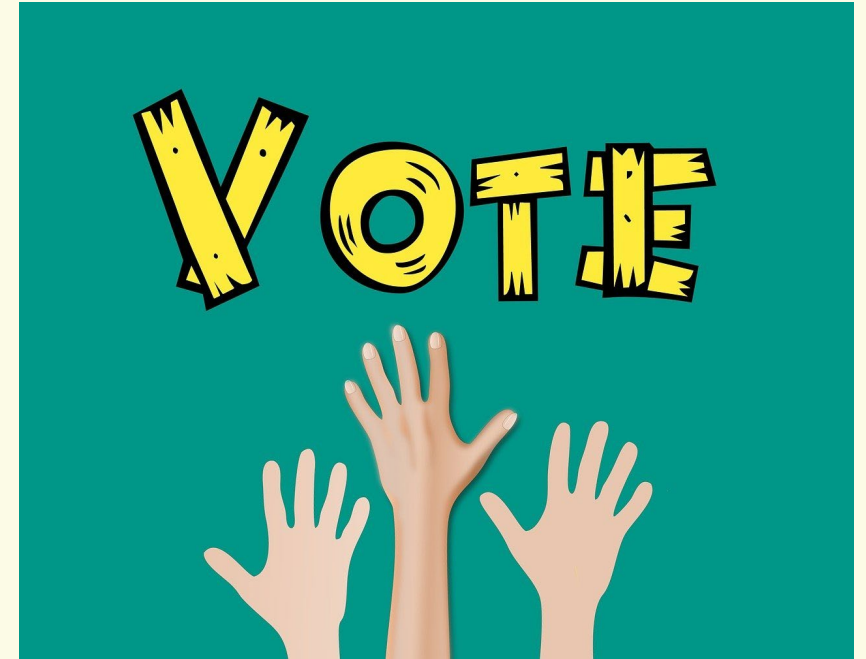
Agendas and Minutes



- Standard templates, consistent look
- Concise AGENDA to municipal liaison several days before meeting
- Concise draft MINUTES to EAC members before next meeting
 - Attendees
 - Comments/Votes on approval of prior month's minutes
 - BRIEF – not a transcript of everything said, 2-3 page target
 - Stick to agenda items / new business and not side-discussion, speculation
- Final MINUTES for pub to municipal liaison before next meeting

Voting

- Only by EAC members (some EACs allow EAC appointed members that don't vote)
- Mainly on approval of MINUTES
- Also on formal and official proposals or presentations to elected /municipal officials
- “Activities” generally done by consensus or contributions of those who volunteer for them (e.g., workshops, tabling at events) and do not require voting



Challenges



- Political appointees may have little knowledge base
- Members who seldom attend, contribute or who are disruptive – even if starting out well intentioned
- Board liaisons mostly or completely uninvolved or lower level FT or PT employee with little communication to Mgmt.
- Township / Elected Official indifference or negative attitude or too many competing priorities
- Rocky relationship w/Township, caused members to resign
- Difficult to get web page revisions posted

Challenges



- EAC ordinance does not provide a Planning connection or mission - out of the loop on new Planning/Zoning ordinances until too late in the process
- Members/Visitors don't understand what municipalities can and cannot do, what EAC's role is
- Walking the line - How to "advocate" for doing the right thing for the environment while being an official municipal entity
- Human nature – wanting to rehash old discussions, debate every detail, go down rabbit holes

Do's and Don'ts:

Educate New Members on Charter and prior minutes before hand	Spend all meeting time educating new members on old discussions
Understand the ordinance process, work with elected officials	Assume you have authority to pass laws
Let working groups develop drafts/ options outside EAC meetings	Research and debate every option within limited time of EAC meetings
Expect EAC member to review material before meetings	If they haven't, give them homework, get comment later
Propose programs / laws that are positive, doable, justified	Spend limited “capital” on lower priorities, unachievable asks

Get Rolling with Easy Wins

- Outreach at public events
- Educate on recycling, composting, green stormwater, rain gardens
- Proposals with clear payback – Grants, LED lighting, cost reductions from investing in composting / recycling education



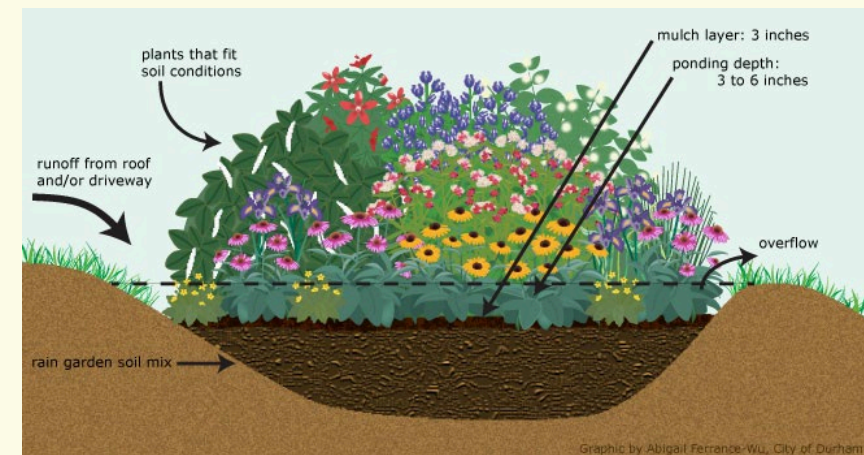
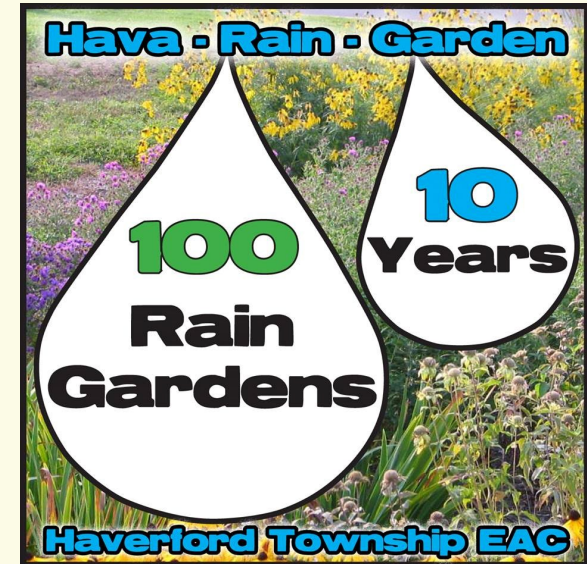
Aspiring, Achieving



- Climate Action Plan and Muni Implementation Group
- SolSmart and Sustainable PA Certifications
- Buying Renewable Energy, transitioning to Hybrids/Evs
- Energy audits, efficiency projects, solar installations
- Integration of EV charging, efficiency, net zero incentives into zoning and development ordinances
- Active community outreach/assistance programs
- Teaming with / Supporting community based efforts with similar goals (e.g., Solarize Delco, United Solar Neighbors)

Aspiring, Achieving

- Subsidized composters/curbside compost pickup
- Proactive stormwater ordinance, low mitigation thresholds to prevent further deterioration
- Rain garden / barrel / planter programs
- Teaming with / Supporting community based efforts with similar goals (e.g., Watershed Groups, Terracycle)
- Programming for Muni web, cable, podcasts, YouTube



High Performing EACs

- Networking with County/other EACs in the region
- Holding events that reach people
- Providing resources for community action

References

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCwISP41eRhD0SUyHxGpY9xQ>

<https://haverfordclimateaction.org/>

<https://makebenproud.com/>

