



West Pikeland Township

ENVIRONMENTAL ADVISORY COUNCIL

1645 Art School Road - Chester Springs, PA
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office@westpikeland.com

May
2021

Environmental Advisory Council (EAC)

Mission:

To advise the West Pikeland Township Board of Supervisors and other West Pikeland Township committees on matters dealing with the protection, conservation, management, promotion and use of natural resources located within West Pikeland Township.

EAC Members:

Bryan Maher, Chair
Linda Reichert, Co-Chair
Janet Parry, Secretary
John Matthews
Richard Pomeroy
Donna Switzer
Glenn Wenger

EAC Meetings are open to the public and held the first Tuesday of each month at 7:30 p.m. via Zoom (until further notice).
Contact EAC@westpikeland.com for Zoom link.

<http://www.westpikeland.com/government-departments/environmental-advisory-council/>



Transition to Renewable Energy Update

The Chester Springs Library has been chosen to participate in Libraries Transforming Communities: Focus on Small and Rural Libraries. The library will partner with the West Pikeland Twp EAC and use the \$3,000 award to hold the following Community Conversations on renewable energy and how it could be part of the township's future.

"Libraries Transforming Communities: Focus on Small and Rural Libraries is an initiative of the American Library Association (ALA) in collaboration with the Association for Rural and Small Libraries (ARSL)." Chester Springs Library is located at 1709 Art School Road in Historic Yellow Springs. For more information about the Community Conversations, and all the library's programs, visit www.chesterspringslibrary.org > calendar. Bring a lawn chair.

JUNE 5 @ 4PM
Township Amphitheater
1645 Art School Road, Chester Springs
Rain date June 6

RENEWABLE ENERGY, TIPS & OPPORTUNITIES
Presentations by Dennis Rowan, Community Renewable Energy Expert and Ronald Fisher, E.D. The Energy Co-op

JULY 26 @ 7PM
Pine Creek Park
1488 Yellow Springs Road, Chester Springs
In event of rain, a Zoom link will be on Library website

BOOK DISCUSSION LED BY CHESTER SPRINGS LIBRARY
"How to Avoid a Climate Disaster" by Bill Gates and "The Future We Choose" by Christine Figueres

SEPTEMBER 11 @ 4PM
Township Amphitheater
1645 Art School Road, Chester Springs
Rain date September 12

RENEWABLE ENERGY FOR A SUSTAINABLE FUTURE
Presentations by Paula Kline, Sustainability Expert and Jess Cadorette, Conservation Voters of PA



Ecological Stewardship of Residential Property

On March 23, the WPT EAC held its first in a series of environmental public presentations titled, "Honey I Shrunk The Lawn".

The presentation by Sharon Richardson, a local Master Gardener and Master Naturalist, dealt with the destructive effects mowed lawns have on our environment and actions we can take as public stewards to reduce them. By converting unused areas of our lawns to pollinator gardens or back to natural habitat we can reduce our use of harmful fertilizers, herbicides and insecticides and also lower our water and air pollution. Doing this will provide food and shelter for birds, butterflies, and other wildlife. You will create your own park and also save time and money.

To follow up, the West Pikeland EAC chaired a meeting of 10 other EACs in Northern Chester County to discuss mutual projects for collaboration and a protocol for sharing informing on projects and presentations among the EACs. The group will be focusing on projects related to lawn reduction options, eliminating/reducing herbicides, pesticides and fertilizer usage, and clearing township property of invasive plants.

EAC 2020-21 In Review

December 2020: Glenn Wenger of the EAC has started discussions with volunteer residents and other ChesCo EACs to naturalize lawns. Pilot projects are underway.

January 2021: The EAC partnered with the Chester Springs Library to apply for a National grant aimed at increasing township information and education around renewable energy.

March 2021: The EAC began its speaker series with a PA Master Gardener discussing ecological stewardship of residential properties. Next speaker scheduled to talk about improved recycling in May 2021.

April 2021: The EAC celebrated Earth Day by hosting a roadside cleanup within the township where 27 volunteers removed more than 55 bags of trash, a dozen tires, and tons of larger items from the watershed.

June 2021: Because the first paper shredding event was so successful, the EAC is hosting its second free paper shredding event for Township residents at the township building in partnership with CCHD, where they will be hosting a free mobile COVID vaccination clinic.

Vision Partnership Program

On April 14, 2021, the Chester County Planning Commission awarded a Vision Partnership Program (VPP) grant to East Pikeland, Schuylkill, West Pikeland, and West Vincent Townships for development of a Clean Energy Transition Plan (CETP). The VPP grant program promotes cooperation between the county and local governments in the implementation of Landscapes3, Chester County's comprehensive policy plan.

The goal of reducing pollution and regional greenhouse gas emissions starts with a CETP to evaluate current energy use and create a roadmap to transition to predominantly renewable energy by 2050. This will be an evolving plan that will continue to be revised based on advances in renewable energy technologies, progress, priorities, and regional changes. Energy transition planning is already under way in communities across the region, primarily led by volunteers, laying the groundwork for full transition plans. This grant will enable the participating communities to contract the assistance of energy and community engagement consultants to create a roadmap into the future consistent with the county's recently released Climate Action Plan and the Phoenixville Regional Planning Commission (PRPC) comprehensive plan.

The energy plan will start with municipal operations, maximizing energy efficiency and exploring onsite renewable energy production technologies with consideration to return on investment and preservation of the character and natural beauty of the townships. Additionally, the project will develop an outreach and education plan that engages large energy users and the general public. Municipal teams will encourage and assist their communities with energy conservation and transition, providing avenues for involvement, informed decision-making, and feedback and inquiries from the community.

The four participating townships are part of the Phoenixville Area Clean Energy Alliance (PACEA) which also includes Charlestown Township and Phoenixville Borough. While this grant serves to directly advance the clean energy goals of the four participating townships, the energy and community engagement plans will serve as models to assist other townships across the county and region.

Kathy McDevitt, West Vincent Township
Clean Energy Transition Team
WVCETT@gmail.com

Natural Tick Repellents

The best way to avoid infection is to prevent tick bites in the first place. For those who enjoy getting outdoors, tick repellents can help you stay safe. Many types of pesticides and tick repellents are available for purchase. As an alternative, below are some suggestions for natural repellents that reduce human, animal, and environmental exposure to chemical pesticides.

Essential oil mixtures

Common essential oils used as tick repellents include lemongrass, cedar, peppermint, thyme, and geraniol.

Garlic oil

Garlic oil repellents use essential oils derived from garlic plants. A 2015 study suggested that when applied to lawns, multiple applications of garlic oil-based repellents may be necessary.

Metarhizium brunneum or *Metarhizium anisopliae* fungus

These species of fungi grow naturally in soil and can repel or kill ticks. They are commercially available for application on lawns and can be found under the name Met52.

A study of these fungi suggested that they may provide an alternative approach from other insecticides for controlling tick populations. Another study found that application of Met52 is not harmful to populations of non-target bug species.



Resources:

PA Dept of Natural Resources:

<https://www.dcnr.pa.gov/Pages/default.aspx>

Penn State University Extension:

<https://extension.psu.edu/>

Green Valleys Watershed Association:

<https://www.greenvalleys.org/>

French and Pickering Trust:

<https://frenchandpickering.org/>

Delaware Riverkeeper Network:

<https://delawareriverkeeper.org/>

Schuylkill Highlands Conservation Landscape Initiative:

<http://www.schuylkillhighlands.org/about.php>

Audubon Pennsylvania

<https://pa.audubon.org/>