



# West Pikeland Township

## ENVIRONMENTAL ADVISORY COUNCIL

1645 Art School Road - Chester Springs, PA  
610-590-5300

[www.westpikeland.com](http://www.westpikeland.com)  
[office@westpikeland.com](mailto:office@westpikeland.com)

October  
2020

### 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:

John Matthews, Chair  
Linda Reichert, Co-Chair  
Janet Parry, Secretary  
Warren Fox  
Bryan Maher  
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

[office@westpikeland.com](mailto:office@westpikeland.com) for

Zoom link.

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



### Transition to Renewable Energy

West Pikeland Township is investigating the participation in an ambitious initiative to preserve our treasured local environment, save money on energy costs, and improve air and water quality.

The initiative involves a grassroots effort to voluntarily commit to achieving 100% renewable and clean energy by 2050. The EAC recommends joining a Nationwide effort that collaborates with the Phoenixville Regional Comprehensive Plan (of which the township is a member), the Phoenixville Area Clean Energy Alliance (PACEA), and surrounding neighbors.

As it stands, over 20 other municipalities in our region have committed to this goal. It is our hope to become the next! As we engage with our Board of Supervisors, we will keep you informed on our progress.

The transition will include assessing Township energy uses and looking for opportunities for increased efficiency or reduced energy demand, identifying power purchasing alternatives, providing community education, collaborating with other municipalities, and developing a step by step action plan.

If you would like more information or would like to become more involved, please visit us on the West Pikeland Environmental Advisory Council webpage.




**SHRED  
EVENT**

WEST PIKELAND TOWNSHIP  
FREE SHREDDING EVENT

**NOVEMBER 14, 2020** | **1645 ART SCHOOL ROAD**  
**9AM TO NOON** | **CHESTER SPRINGS**

HOSTED BY WEST PIKELAND TOWNSHIP ENVIRONMENTAL ADVISORY COUNCIL

### November Paper Shredding Event

On November 14, 2020 from 9am to noon, the EAC will be hosting a free paper shredding event for Township residents at the Township building. A shredder truck will be at the Township Building to receive and shred your papers on the spot.

If you would like more information about upcoming events or how to get involved, please visit the West Pikeland Township website.

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

## EAC 2020 In Review

**January 2020:** An EAC member conducted an energy audit of Township owned properties and operations to develop a carbon emissions baseline.

**April 2020:** The EAC responded to the Penn Environment Local Plastics Questionnaire aimed at gauging the interest in Pennsylvania to fight plastic pollution.

**June 2020:** The EAC worked with the Audubon Society to provide free plantings to township residents owning properties with streams to restore riparian buffers with bird friendly plants. 35 residents participated.

**June 2020:** EAC subcommittee was formed to assist the Township with a plan to investigate the transition to renewable energy in coordination with surrounding municipalities and as part of the Phoenixville Regional Plan.

**November 2020:** The EAC is hosting a free paper shredding event for Township residents at the township building.



## Naturalized Lawns

The West Pikeland EAC is initiating a program to encourage its residents to restore non-usable areas of their mowed lawns back to natural habitat to provide food and shelter for our native birds, insects, and other wildlife. Restoring areas along stream banks (“riparian buffers”) has an additional effect of preventing soil erosion, stabilizing stream temperatures, reducing flooding, and intercepting pollutants carried by surface water.

Maintaining lawns often requires the extensive use of chemical fertilizers, insecticides, and herbicides to kill weeds. When it rains these chemicals end up in our ground water that is used for drinking and in our streams, which effects the aquatic life that lives there. Mowing, weed-whacking and edging burns gasoline which contributes to greenhouse gas emissions that drive climate change.

We are not declaring a war on lawns, but we want to encourage our residents to think about possible places in your lawns that could be converted to allow a more visually appealing, diverse, and sustainable landscape. The area of your yard can be as large or as small as you desire. If it is not possible to reduce the size of your mowed lawn, there are environmentally friendly ways to maintain it. Links and resources are provided below.

We are looking for volunteers to help us get started with this project. With your permission, you will be mentioned on our website and in future newsletters. Most importantly, you will be doing a service to our environment and serve as an example to other residents in the township.

Contact Glenn Wenger [fys26weng@aol.com](mailto:fys26weng@aol.com).



For professional help with plant selection, sales, and/or design go to [www.yellowspringsfarm.com](http://www.yellowspringsfarm.com) or contact [nancybartleydesign@gmail.com](mailto:nancybartleydesign@gmail.com)

### **Resources (Google the following):**

[Sustainable \(and Beautiful\) Alternatives to Grass Lawns](#)  
[Turn your Lawn into an Ecological Oasis](#)  
[Transform your Yard and Community into an Oasis Bringing Nature Home, D. Tallamy](#)  
[Environmentally Friendly Lawn Maintenance](#) - EPA

## Spotted Lantern Fly – Beware of Local Mother Nature

There’s hope that a few native predators have discovered that a spotted lantern fly may be a tasty treat! Penn State is conducting a research project to determine whether or not native birds and insects will eat spotted lantern flies.

They are calling upon the public to contribute data that can help answer important research questions pertaining to native birds/spotted lantern fly interactions. The citizen scientists will post reports, videos and photos of birds they see feeding on spotted lantern flies along with other observations. Birds are important in keeping plant-insect populations under control. Hopefully, the spotted lantern fly has met its match with local Mother Nature. To learn more about this program, please visit the Penn State Extension website at

<https://extension.psu.edu/spotted-lanternfly>



### **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://delawariverkeeper.org/>

**Schuylkill Highlands Conservation Landscape Initiative:**  
<http://www.schuylkillhighlands.org/about.php>

**Audubon Pennsylvania**  
<https://pa.audubon.org/>