

# CHELTENHAM TOWNSHIP SUSTAINABILITY PLAN



CHELTENHAM TOWNSHIP  
MONTGOMERY COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA  
MARCH 20, 2013

## CHELTENHAM TOWNSHIP COMMISSIONERS

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Harvey Portner - Vice President

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Kathy A. Hampton

J. Andrew Sharkey

### SUSTAINABLE CHELTENHAM STEERING COMMITTEE

Art Haywood - Committee Chair -  
Cheltenham Township Commissioner

Lorna Rosenberg - Committee Vice-Chair -  
Environmental Advisory Council Member

Ben Adams - Citizen at Large

Thomas Carboni - Citizen at Large

Martin Carey - Citizen at Large

Darryl Carrington - Environmental Advisory Council Representative

Mark Curchack - Arcadia University

Darlene Davis - School District Superintendent

Jonathan Essoka - Citizen at Large

Charles Gabriel - Citizen at Large

Paul Gordon - Planning Commission Member

Judith Gratz - Citizen at Large

Stephanie Gray - School Board Member

Bryan Havir - Township Manager

David Kraynik - Former Township Manager

Michael Leff - Citizen at Large

Ruth Lefton - Elkins Park Hospital Chief Operating Officer

Matthew Malinowski - School District Business Affairs Director

William Mettler - Environmental Advisory Council Member

Carl (Tobey) Oxholm III, - President of Arcadia University

Bernard Panzak, Jr. - Shade Tree Advisory Committee Member

Ashley Schmid - Tookany-Tacony Frankford Watershed Partnership

Michael Swavola - Cheltenham Township Commissioner

### SUSTAINABLE CHELTENHAM GENERAL COMMITTEE

Kurt Ahrens - Citizen at Large

Yuri Berg - Citizen at Large

Peter Blau - Citizen at Large

Philip Bugg - Citizen at Large

Jeff Cawthorne - Citizen at Large

Christopher Edelstein - Citizen at Large

Leonard Eisenman - Citizen at Large

William England - Citizen at Large

Charlene Glenn - Citizen at Large

Robert Hamburg - Citizen at Large

Steve Lavelle - Citizen at Large

Susan Levey - Citizen at Large

Beverly Milestone Maisey - Citizen at Large

Grahame Maisey - Citizen at Large

Randall Mattison - Citizen at Large

Stephen McCarter - Citizen at Large,  
District 154 State Representative

Olga McHugh - Citizen at Large

Thomas McHugh - Citizen at Large

Tom Petersen - Citizen at Large

Mark Sirinides - Citizen at Large

David Utain - Citizen at Large

Beth Yount - Citizen at Large



# SUSTAINABILITY PLAN

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## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY



In the spring of 2011, the Cheltenham Township Commissioners decided to initiate a township-wide planning effort to create a Sustainability Plan in response to the growing interest among citizens to explore ways to make the community more resilient and environmentally friendly. Residents, businesses, community groups and organizations are all stakeholders in the plan, which seeks to create a united vision for a sustainable community, shared goals to achieve that vision, and a set of specific actions that the Cheltenham Township government can take to become a more sustainable community.

In May 2011 a group of 45 citizens, elected and appointed Township officials and staff and representatives of major Cheltenham institutions, including the School District, Arcadia University, and Einstein Hospital, were selected to represent the community on the Sustainable Cheltenham General Committee with the Montgomery County Planning Commission serving as the planning consultant. These members played a significant role by meeting on a regular basis to provide input during the process and to review drafts of the plan. The purpose of the Committee was to identify aggressive community-wide goals that can be implemented with a set of concrete, achievable actions and can be accomplished by the Cheltenham Township government to further the vision of a Sustainable Cheltenham. Workshops were held to discuss specific issues in addition to a public open house which was held by the Committee to inform the public of the efforts and to receive their input. A public website was created where the writing team distributed information and visitors to the site could engage in a dialogue about sustainability. The Township Commissioners were given regular updates on the progress of the plan at public meetings. Throughout the planning process an effort has been made to reach out

to the public because, without the input and support of the community, this plan could never become the useful public tool it is intended to be.

The plan is divided into six sections. Each section can be used separately, or they can be read together as one publication.

**Executive Summary** - This section is a concise summary of the plan.

**Introduction** – This section introduces the reader to Cheltenham Township, the topic of sustainability and why Cheltenham strives to be a sustainable community. It also describes in more detail the planning process and the Cheltenham Township Sustainability Plan.

**Cheltenham Community-Wide Goals and Objectives** – This section describes the goals and objectives for Cheltenham Township. These goals and objectives can be used by any organization, institution or individual in the Township to promote sustainability:

**Community Engagement**

Engage and educate all Cheltenham residents and stakeholders to unite behind a shared set of goals to build a sustainable future.

### **Energy**

Maximize energy efficiency, minimize energy demand and emissions, and shift all community electricity consumption to renewably-sourced energy generated within the Township and the region.

### **Mobility**

Minimize vehicular travel and emissions, increase use of alternative modes of transportation, and make it desirable, safe, and convenient to walk and bike throughout the Township and connect to the region.

### **Waste Reduction**

Minimize solid and hazardous waste disposal, and maximize the re-use of waste products as a resource.

### **Ecological Stewardship**

Protect and improve the overall health and ecological diversity of the Township's habitats, waterways, and soils, both on public and private lands.

### **Sustainable Development**

Promote building, land use, site development, and landscaping that respects the natural environment and maximizes clean and efficient use of resources, and ensure that all permitting, codes, and regulations support the community's sustainability goals.

### **Water Management**

Minimize stormwater hazards, reduce wastewater flows, increase natural absorption of rainwater, and maximize the utility of rainwater as a resource.

### **Local Economy**

Encourage and support local and regional agriculture, artisans, businesses, institutions, and industry by strengthening connections to, and markets for, local goods and services.

### **Healthy Living For All**

Promote healthy living in Cheltenham through equitable, affordable, and safe access to information, education, recreation, natural areas, car-free transportation, fresh local foods, health care services, clean air, and clean water.

### **Monitoring**

Track and report the progress of measurable implementation strategies; re-evaluate and update goals and targets as needed.

**Municipal Action Plan** – The Cheltenham Township government strives to be a leader in sustainability and should serve as a model for Township citizens. The Cheltenham Township Sustainability Municipal Action Plan

outlines action items that the Township can undertake to function in a more sustainable manner. The Cheltenham Township government will work to implement as many of the action items as possible although the timeline for each item may differ, for example some action items could be implemented immediately while others may take years. Community members are encouraged to create their own action items which they can undertake in order to accomplish the Township's sustainability goals.

**Sustainability Resources** – This section functions as a resource for Cheltenham Township to pursue the sustainability goals. For each goal, this section provides information so that the reader can understand the role of sustainability in Cheltenham and have easy access to pertinent data.

**Input from Stakeholders** - The material in this section contains valuable comments gathered during the public process and is not an official part of the Sustainability Plan.

This plan is meant to evolve and change over time. The goals, objectives and action items should be assessed on a regular basis and modified to fit the changing needs of Cheltenham Township. In the near future, new technologies and techniques may become available that will help Cheltenham become more sustainable. Or new challenges may arise that require swift action by the community. This plan should adapt to the needs of Cheltenham Township so that it can be a valuable tool to promote sustainability. In 2020, the Township could perform an overall assessment of the Sustainability Plan and perform a formal update of the plan to ensure it remains a useful tool for community.