



## Delaware County Sustainability Commission Meeting Minutes

Friday, October 13, 2023

2:00 - 4:00 PM

Attendees:

Commission Members		Other County Staff	
<b>PUBLIC MEMBERS (5 for Quorum)</b>		Becca Yurkovich	
X	Steve Clark		
X	David Director		
	Krystl Gauld		
	Cephus Hales-Richardson		
	Carol Martsof		
X	Julie Prey		
X	Jaclyn Rhoads		
	Shawn Stancill		
	Grace Venit		
	Joi Washington		
<b>GOVERNMENT MEMBERS (4 for Quorum)</b>			
X	Gina Burritt		
	Laura Goodrich-Cairns		
X	Francine Locke		
X	Ed Magargee		
X	Marc Manfre		
X	Ed Orner		
X	Brooks Stayer		

1. Welcome and Roll Call – Becca Yurkovich completed roll call. Commission quorum was not achieved as there were only 4 public members in attendance. While awaiting additional members, the Commission skipped forward in the agenda to the Chief Sustainability Officer Update.
2. Chief Sustainability Officer Update and Economic Sustainability with the Department - Presentation by Francine Locke
  - a. Francine provided a check-in on Delaware County’s 2023 Sustainability goals.
    - i. Publish 1st Sustainability Plan and begin implementation
    - ii. Hold 2nd Annual Sustainability Conference
    - iii. Publish County-wide Zero Waste Plan and Implement Pilot Program
    - iv. Expand Vehicle Electrification Program
    - v. Develop county Public Works Design Standards for CIP
    - vi. Continue to invest in Parks, Open Space and Trails
    - vii. Continue working towards renewable energy through SEPSPA (formerly RPPA) and PJM CCC
  - b. Economic Sustainability within Delaware County Office of Sustainability

- i. Funding Sustain Delco Plan - Partners, County Funding, Grants, Community Partners, and Fundraising
    - 1. Francine went through each funding method and shared examples of projects utilizing each method.
  - ii. Reviewing Economic Sustainability in each Focus Area
    - 1. Energy and Efficiencies - Energy savings with LEDs and PECO rebates
    - 2. Natural Resources - Return on Environment Study - Economic Impacts of Open Space in terms of environmental services and direct use benefits.
    - 3. Climate Resiliency - Sea level projections show over \$430 million in property value at risk of inundation. Cost savings will be created through cost avoidance.
    - 4. Zero Waste - Reducing waste decreases the cost of disposal.
    - 5. Transportation - Safe multimodal transportation boosts economic development.
    - 6. Health and Wellness - As shown through the Return on Environment study, open space can impact resident health.
3. Instructions for Public Comment. Comments may be submitted by the following: 1) email [sustaindelco@co.delaware.pa.us](mailto:sustaindelco@co.delaware.pa.us), or 2) written comment in the chat window
4. Office of Sustainability Update - Becca Yurkovich
- a. County Green Team - County Employees working towards Zero Waste.
    - i. Pilot studies for recycling and back-of-house composting in the Government Center. Nothing Left to Waste contracted to help with the recycling program and Mother Compost contracted for the Composting program.
  - b. EV Charging Program Study (County-Owned Stations)
  - c. Tree Canopy Study - Currently in the RFP stage for mapping Delco Tree Canopy and gathering recommendations for improving its health.
  - d. Keep Delco Beautiful Advisory Committee Meeting for the first time.
  - e. Conference Planning kicked off this week for the 2024 conference.
  - f. Zero Waste Plan
    - i. Met with PA DEP on Wednesday, October 12th to discuss comments. Plan is considered a non-substantial plan update.
    - ii. Next Steps include updating the PA DEP comments, circulating to municipalities, responding to comments, and then going before the County Council for approval.
  - g. Community Engagement Events
    - i. Rose Valley Climate Forum (Tuesday, October 17th)
    - ii. We Conserve PA EAC Network Fall Gathering (Saturday, October 21st)
    - iii. Representative O'Mara Weatherization Event (Thursday, November 2nd)
    - iv. Swarthmore Senior Citizens Group (Wednesday, November 8th)
  - h. Other Events
    - i. Name Your Park Contest for Former Don Guanella Site
    - ii. E-Recycling in Rose Tree Park (October 17th)
    - iii. Campaign Sign Collection (Friday, November 17th and Saturday, November 18th)
  - i. Regional Projects
    - i. Sustainable Energy Partnership of Southeastern PA - MOU formalizing partnership going before County Council this month.
    - ii. Climate Pollution Reduction Grant
    - iii. Regional Benchmarking Program
    - iv. Inter-County Sustainability Group
    - v. NREL Clean Energy to Communities Grant
  - j. Sustainability Plan Implementation
    - i. Creating strategy for working with both internal County Departments and creating action-oriented working groups.

1. Commission members discussed the idea of working groups. Members thought Sustainability Commission members should serve as liaisons on each of the groups that are created.
  - a. Ideas for Working Groups included:
    - i. Policy Working Group
    - ii. Local Food Working Group
  - b. It was recognized that interested citizens could join the working groups which align with their interests.
  - c. David Director shared that the Delaware County League of Women Voters received a grant to create an online clearinghouse of sustainability resources and groups.

*Public Comment –*

- *Email - Oiseen the Fianna - asked about the Commission's perspective on fires caused by EV battery failures, citing recent fires in England and close proximity of chargers to infrastructure in Media.*
  - *It was recognized that the Delaware County Fleet Department is very much on top of preventative maintenance and recalls for its vehicles. It was also pointed out that fires caused by EVs are very rare in relation to the number of vehicles on the road.*
- *Email - Oiseen the Fianna - asked how bike sharing is working nationwide and shared their opinion that bikes are littering sidewalks.*
  - *Planning Director Gina Burritt shared that the Delaware County Planning Department is currently studying bikeshare in Delaware County as well as creating an active transportation plan to address concerns with active transportation and identify opportunities for making it more accessible.*
  - *Sustainability Commission member Steve Clark shared that biking seems to be on the rise, as he has noted an increase in bikes at Haverford High School each day.*
- *Comment - Raelyn Harman - asked how programs like Teachers Teammates might dovetail to work in tandem with the Delaware County Sustainability Plan.*
  - *It was recognized that Sustain Delco explicitly outlines interest in expanding to work with schools.*

5. Reorganization - Unfortunately, the Commission was short one public member for quorum, so the appointment of officers, nominations for the Delaware County Conservation District Vacancies, and the Approval of meeting times and schedule will be postponed.
  - a. The proposed 2024 meeting schedule was reviewed.
  - b. The Sustainability Commission charge was reviewed.
  - c. It was recognized that the Commission has two new members, Grace Venit and Joi Washington, which will be in attendance at next month's meeting.
6. Set Action Items for Next Meeting - Becca Yurkovich
  - a. Follow up on public comment from the last meeting regarding chain of custody for recyclables.
    - i. A chain of custody has not been created by the Delaware County Solid Waste Authority. Typically haulers are contractually bound to perform recycling services. It falls on the contracting municipality to ensure their services are being met.
  - b. Developing a communications and engagement plan for sharing the Sustainability Plan (In-progress)
  - c. Meet the Members Survey
  - d. Sending out plant-based diets resolution from the Council of Mayors
  - e. EAC contacts list

- f. Google Drive Folder Created for Sustainability Plan Ideas and Implementation Actions
  - g. Need a Secretary for the Commission
  - h. Eastwick Flooding Study - US Army Corps of Engineer Proposed Levee in Cobbs Creek
    - i. Poll to reschedule the November meeting to allow for maximum participation at the Eastwick meeting on November 9th.
7. New Business
- a. Francine recommended a by-law change to allow Becca Yurkovich, Delaware County Sustainability and Resilience Manager, to serve as a voting member on the Sustainability Commission.

*Public Comment*

*Sustainability Commission Member Marc Manfre shared initiatives going on in the County Parks including the installation of raised flower beds in Upland Park, work with Penn State Extension, and other projects.*

8. Adjournment (No vote, as they did not have quorum)