3rd Annual Update to the Sustainability Commission

December 15, 2023

Presented by:

Francine Locke, Chief Sustainability Officer &

Rebecca Yurkovich, Sustainability and Resilience Manager

Mission

The Delaware County Office of Sustainability's mission is to incorporate efficiency, sustainability, and resiliency into all aspects of County government.

Role

- Operationalize Sustainability into County Government
- Develop, Implement and Report on Sustain Delco's Goals, Targets, and Actions
- Collaborate with Sustainability Commission
- Engage and Support Community

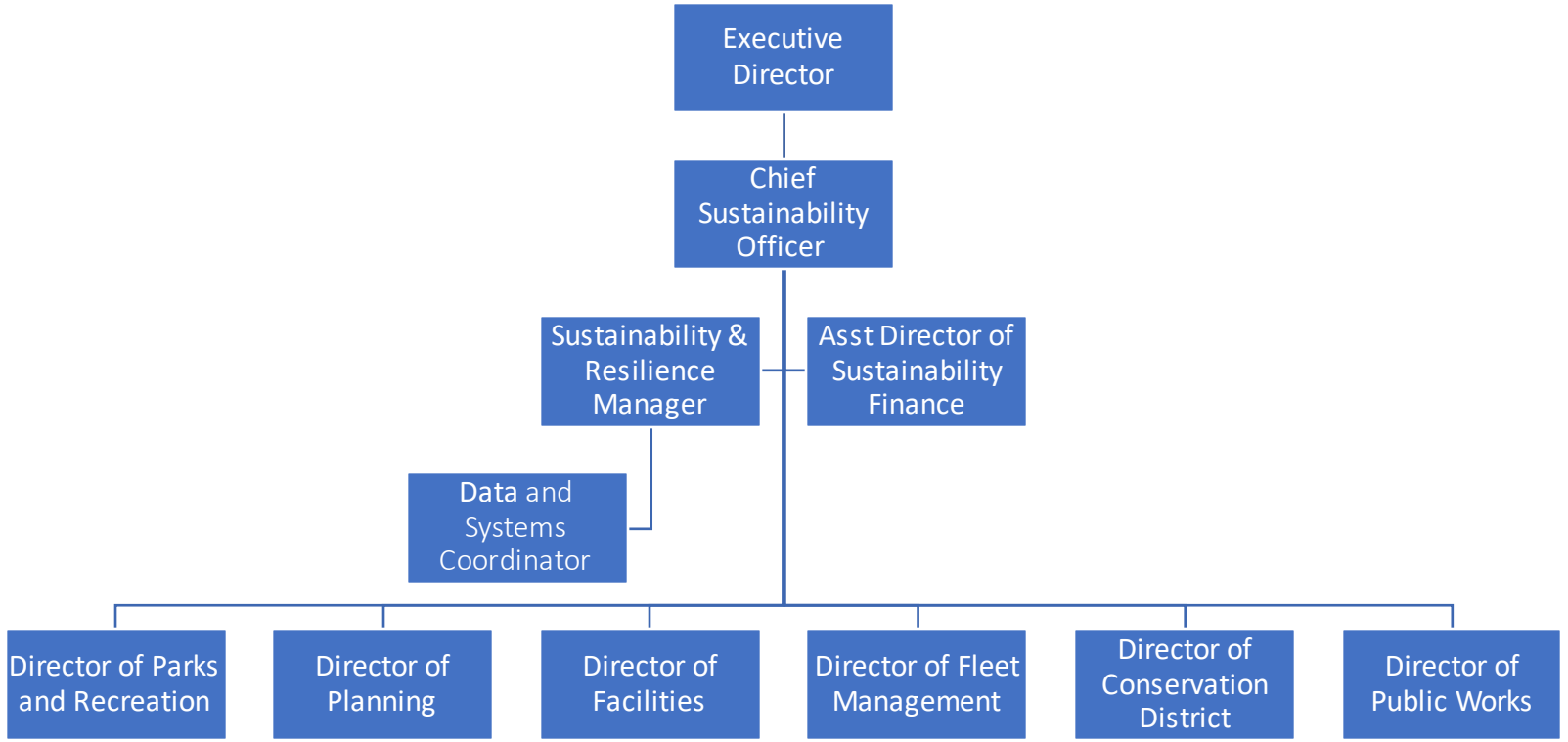
Seed Change

“We can't solve a problem with the same mindset that created the problem; a seed change is required.”

Examples:

- Sustainability Commission
- FCNA and Energy Audits
- CIP prioritization rubric and process
- 2 Capital Loans

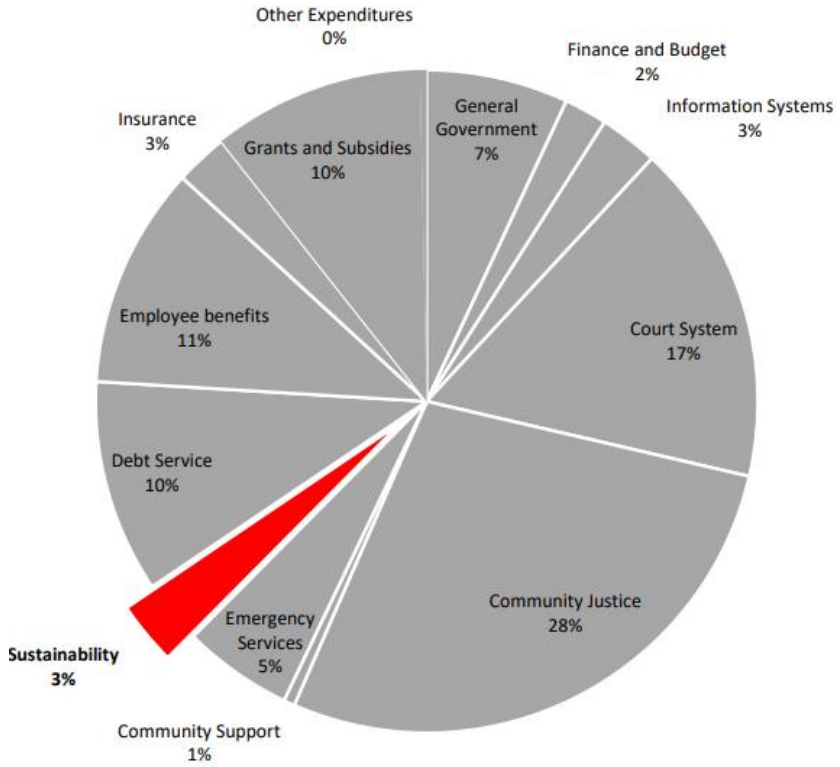
Team


Executive Director
Chief Sustainability Officer
Sustainability & Resilience Manager
Asst Director of Sustainability Finance
Data and Systems Coordinator
Director of Parks and Recreation
Director of Planning
Director of Facilities
Director of Fleet Management
Director of Conservation District
Director of Public Works

Leadership

Budget

The Sustainability Team incorporates the 6 departments that historically have addressed the County's physical infrastructure and the built environment.



While this group of departments' impact on the operating budget is small at 3%, that allocation is used to leverage the >$70M in capital and other infrastructure spending.

How it works

- **Key Performance Indicators** – Quality, Productivity, and Efficiency
- **Sustainability** Mindset and Metrics – Impact to People, Planet, Profit

2023 Highlights

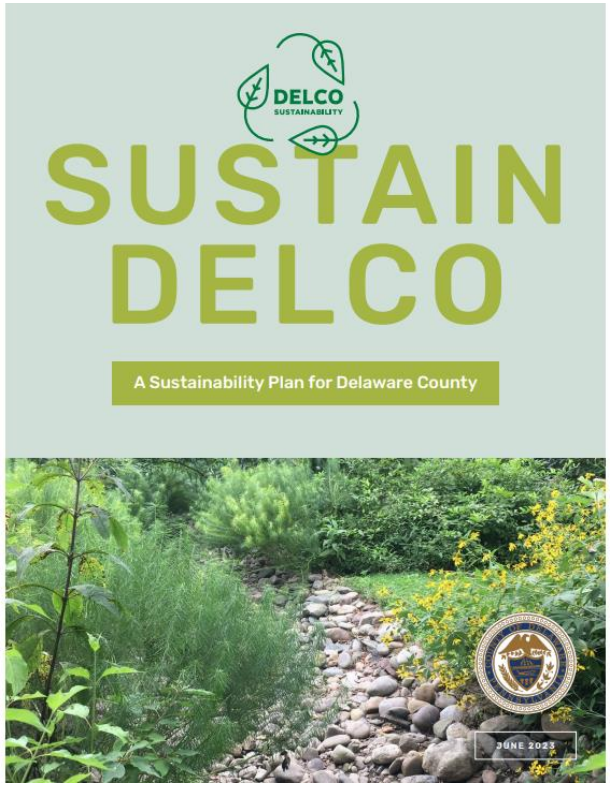
WHYY NEWS CLIMATE DESK | WATERSHED

More days of sweltering heat and flooding: Delaware County confronts climate crisis with its 1st-ever sustainability plan

Climate projections expect Delco to face significant challenges. Delco's plan contains more than 200 actions to create a more sustainable and resilient county.

By Kenny Cooper · August 23, 2023

The Commodore Barry Bridge connects Chester to Logan Township, N.J. (Emma Lee/WHYY)



WELCOME TO SUSTAIN DELCO!

Dear Friends,

Delaware County is excited to share with you the release of its first ever sustainability plan, Sustain Delco! As members of the County Council, Sustainability Commission, and staff, we have always placed a high priority in making sustainability a guiding value and this is echoed by the community we serve. In the wake of a changing climate, we are committed to taking action to maintain Delaware County as an exceptional place to live, work, and play.

Sustain, by definition, means "cause to continue for an extended period or without interruption." In creating a Sustainability and Climate Action Plan for Delaware County, the County is taking steps to improve our environment and community today, so all may have a safe, healthy, and enjoyable place to live without interruption for generations to come. Sustain Delco: A Sustainability Plan for Delaware County seeks to "green" county operations while also promoting positive changes in all 49 of Delaware County's municipalities.

This Plan was developed in consultation with a wide range of stakeholders and recognizes a shared responsibility to build and operate a government that contributes to the well-being of every member of the community. This is our vision for the future, and we invite everyone to join us so that we can work together to turn this vision into a reality.

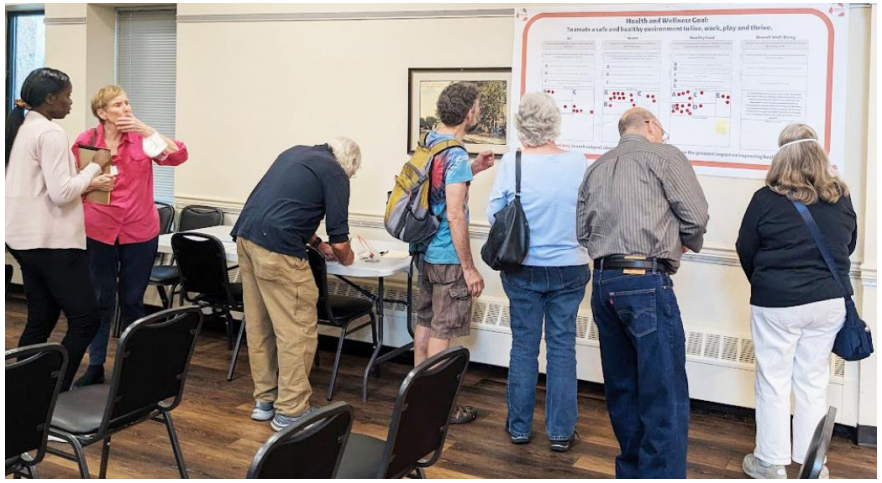
Sincerely,

Dr. Monica Taylor
County Council Chair

Carol Martsolf
Sustainability Commission Chair

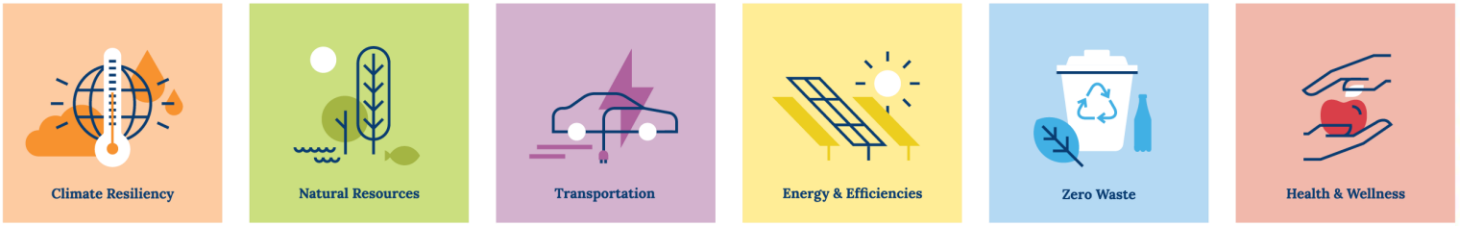
Francine Locke
Chief Sustainability Officer

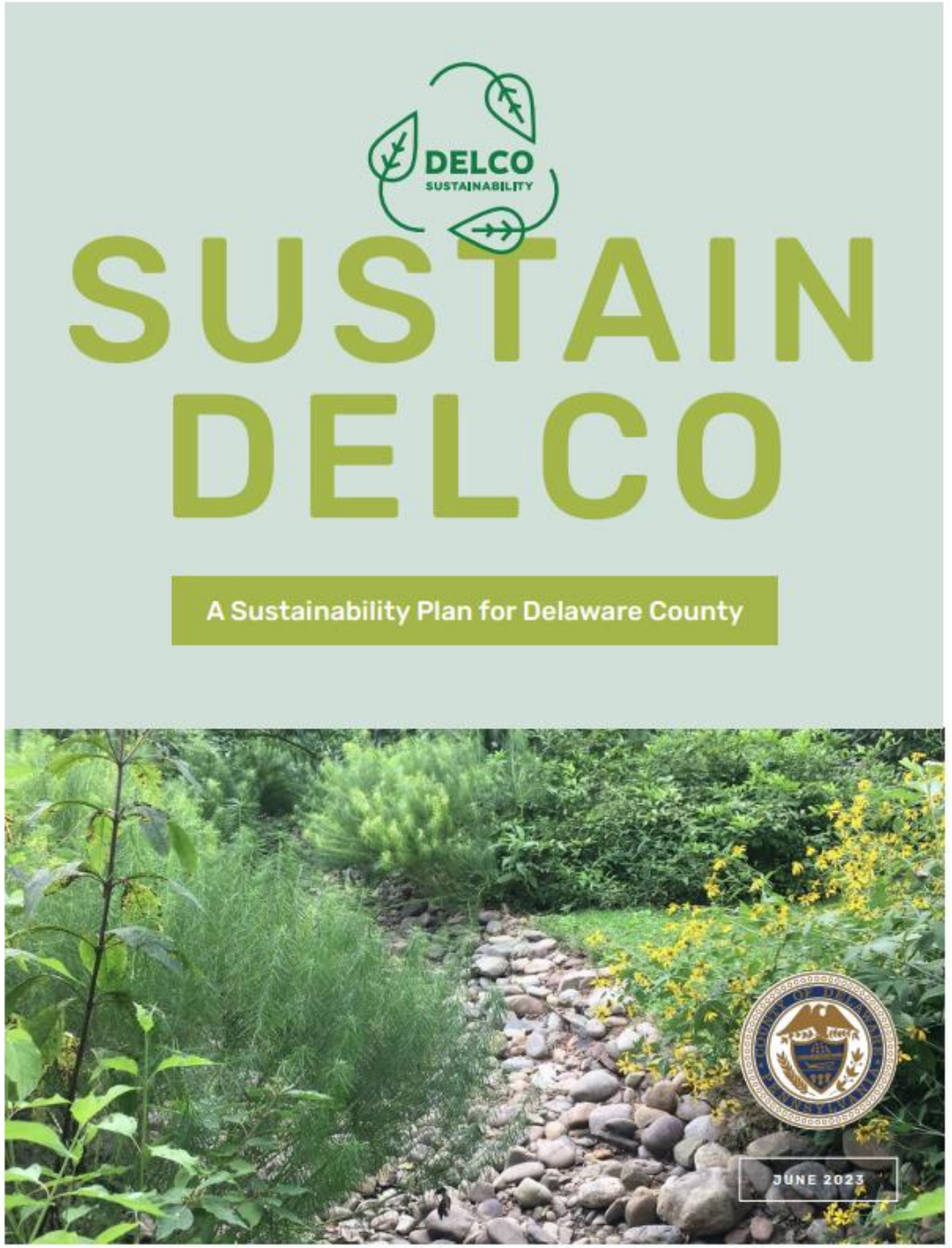
A Sustainability Plan for Delaware County 1



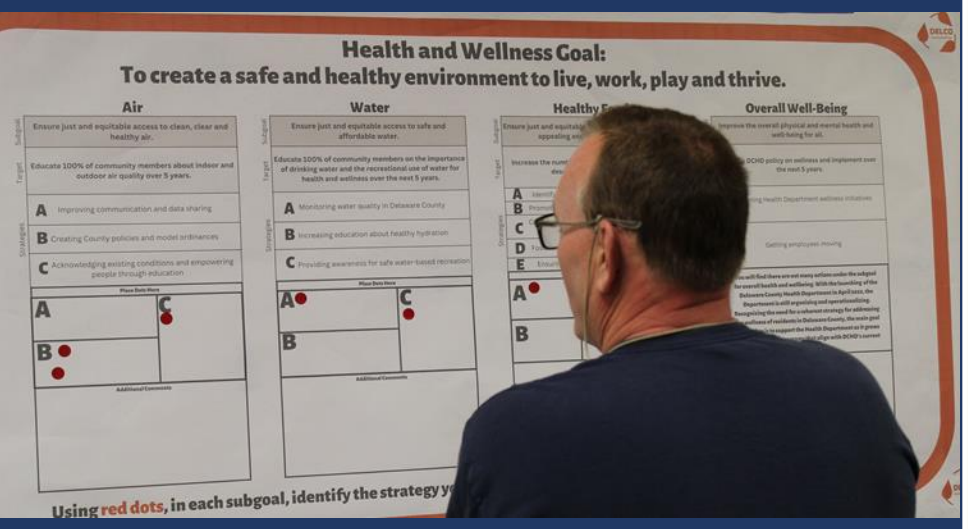
Creating Sustain Delco

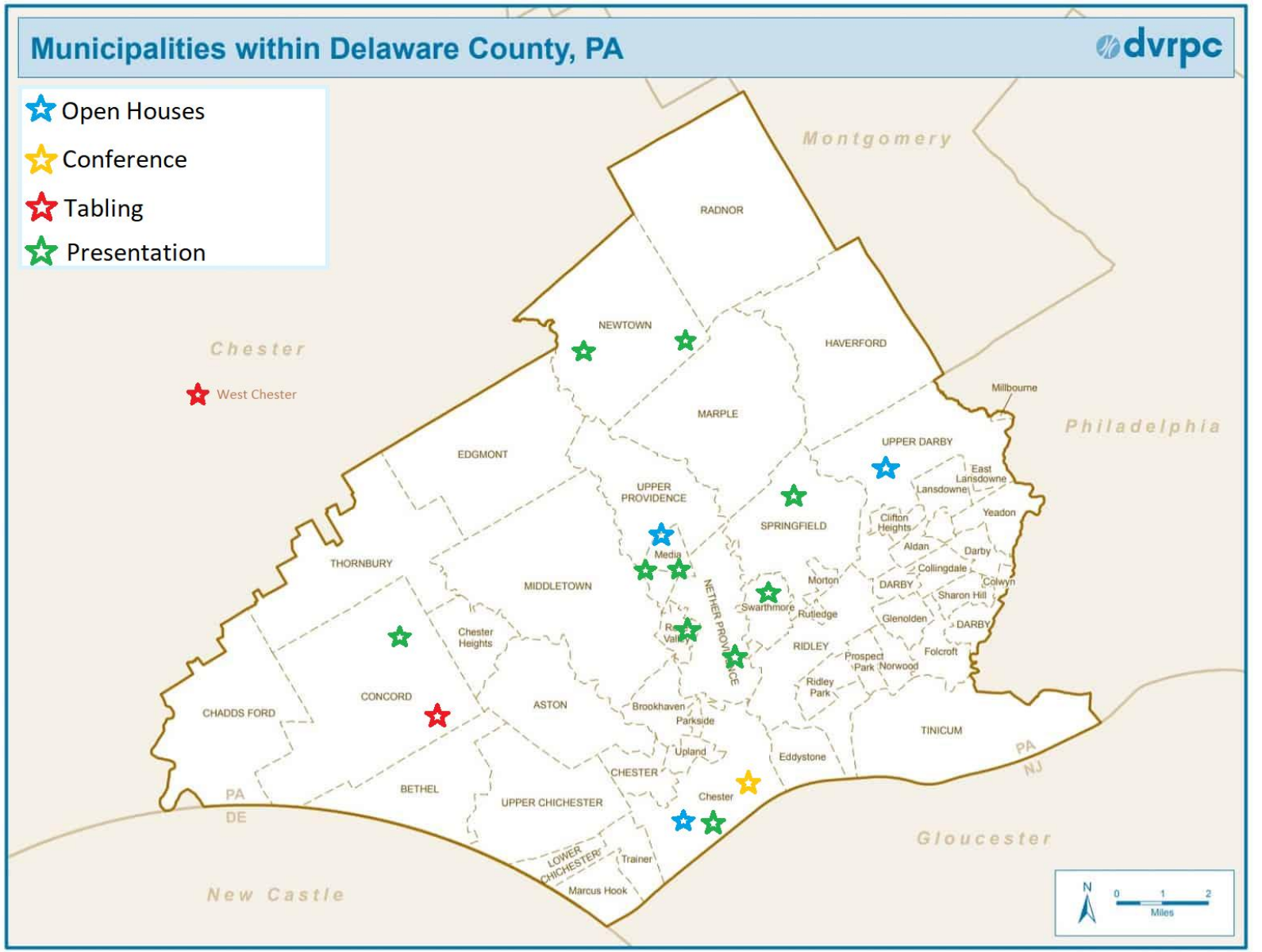
- Finalized goals and identified subgoals to add clarity and direction
- Identified actions to meet goals including lead organizations and key partners
- Vetted all actions to ensure they reflect guiding principles
- Drafted content
- Reviews and Graphic Design
- Presented and Accepted before the Sustainability Commission and County Council





2023 Community Engagement





2023 Implementation

- Baseline of Existing Open Space Parcels *(GIS)*
- Tree Canopy RFP *(DCOS/GIS)*
- Conservation Mini-Grants for Riparian Buffers and other projects for improving water quality *(Conservation)*
- Create a watershed group for Naamans, Marcus Hook, Stoney Creek Watershed *(Clean Air Council)*
- Identify baseline sidewalk inventory *(GIS)*
- Create a Vision Zero Plan *(Planning)*
- Create model design guidelines for safe bike crossings *(DVRPC)*
- Implement off-hours energy reduction through lighting schedules (DCOS/Facilities)
- "Right-size" the recycling program to ensure adequate receptacles, staffing and other resources meet county needs *(DCOS)*
- Create a pilot composting program at the Government Center *(DCOS)*
- Increase community air quality monitoring throughout the County to better gauge air quality in all communities *(Planning/CAA)*
- Installation of additional community gardens *(Parks)*

2024 Implementation

- **Tracking Progress**
  - Establish Online Reporting Form for both County Departments and External Partners
  - Updating Matrix Reporting Current Status
  - Creating Website/Dashboard for Transparency of Progress

2024 Implementation

- **Awareness and Collaboration**
  - Road Show Engaging all 49 Municipalities
  - Meetings with Internal Departments
  - Launching Working Groups

2024 Implementation

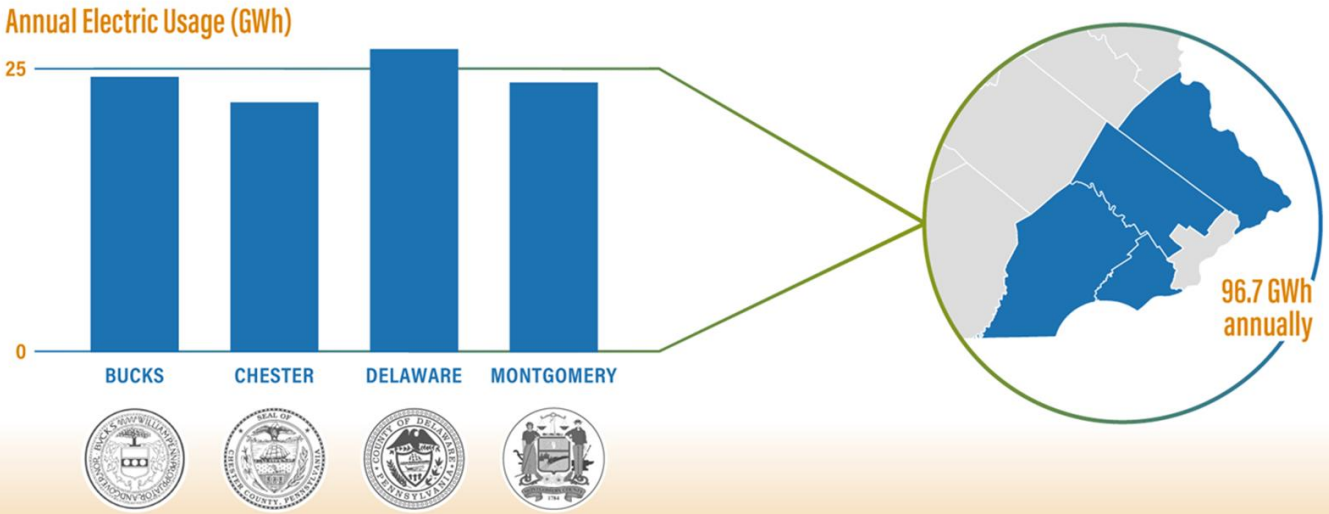
- **Implementing Priority Projects**
  - Hosting 5 Keep Delco Beautiful Events
  - Establishing Baselines and Gathering Necessary Data
  - Establishing Relationships and Building Community Trust

2023 Highlights

- Campaign Sign Recycling Events
- Keep Delco Beautiful Affiliation
- Community E-Waste and Household Hazardous Waste Events

2023 Highlights

- SEPSA MOU with Neighboring Counties and DVRPC
- Certificate of Environmental Stewardship for 100% Green e-Energy Certified Wind Power



2023

Delaware County

Sustainability Conference

2024 Look-Ahead

- Implement Sustain Delco, Track Progress, and Publish 1st Annual Sustain Delco Report and Visit 49 Municipalities to present Sustain Delco
- Convene First Executive Leadership Team Sustainability Retreat
- Fundraise through The Foundation for Delaware County
- Convene 3rd Annual Sustainability Conference
- Conduct Tree Canopy Study and Plan
- Launch Composting and Recycling at Government Center
- Perform Relighting at Government Center and Demonstrate ROI
- Install Electric Vehicle Charging Infrastructure on County Properties
- Influence the Availability of locally sourced Renewable Energy and procure at the Greatest Value through SEPSA