



**Montgomery Township
Environmental Advisory Committee
December 6, 2011
7:30pm**

The monthly meeting of the Montgomery Township Environmental Advisory Committee (EAC) was held on December 6, 2011 in the Montgomery Township Municipal Building. The members of the EAC in attendance included: Beth Staab, Jeff Gibbons, Barry Baker, Jeanine Hurry, Terry Wilson and Supervisor Joe Walsh. Also in attendance were Bruce Shoupe, Director of Planning and Zoning and Kate Grubb, Management Analyst.

I. Pledge of Allegiance and Call to Order

The Regular Meeting was called to order at 7:41 pm.

II. Approval of Minutes – October 25, 2011

Beth Staab made a motion to approve the meeting minutes from October 25, 2011 and Jeanine Hurry seconded the motion. The motion passed 5-0.

III. Public Comment

There were no public comments.

IV. New Business

Christopher Kaasmann, Montgomery County Recycling Coordinator

Christopher Kaasmann serves as the Chair on the Upper Merion Township EAC. He provided a summary of his scope of work for Montgomery County as its Recycling Coordinator. In his capacity at the County, he works with 62 municipalities to assist with their recycling programs and he also oversees the County's household hazardous waste collection program (HHW). The County's HHW program is the largest part of his job. Collections sites are located close to Montgomery Township at North Penn High School, Montgomery County Community College, and in Hatboro Horsham. The county has decided to separate electronics from the HHW program as the collection is about 60% electronics. The county has signed on with a private company, We Recycle, to collect the electronics, which not only saves the county money but earns money per pound of electronics collected. The county previously paid \$0.19 / lb for electronic disposal but will now receive \$0.49 / lb for laptops/PC's, \$0.05 / lb for CRT monitors/TV's, \$0.03 / lb for printers / scanners, and \$0.01/ lb for everything else. The removal of electronics from the HHW program will save the county around \$100,000 a year and also hope to reduce traffic congestion during the six county collection dates throughout the year. Conversely, collections will no longer be a 1-stop shop for hazardous waste and electronics.

Within the RFP from We Recycle, language was included that if one of the municipalities in Montgomery County wished to piggy back and use We Recycle

to host a permanent container, the municipality would secure the same low contracted rate that the county pays We Recycle. The collection uses a walk-in C-box container. The revenue generated would offset the expense of staffing the collection. We Recycle provides training to the employees who would be staffing the site on designated collection dates. In 2010, manufacturers were mandated to collect & recycle their market share of materials sold.

Barry Baker questioned what the usage statistics were for the current collection sites. Christopher Kaasmann replied that the statistics have yet to be computed because the sites are not yet monitored. Christopher Kaasmann informed the committee that there will be a law, *Covered Device Recycling Act* (CDRA), to ban consumers/residents from inappropriate disposal of recyclable items. The disposal practices of consumers/residents will be closely monitored in 2012 prior to the law taking effect in 2013. Christopher Kaasmann also stated that committee members will start to see more companies like We Recycle or eForce that recycle and dispose of electronics. He will forward the contact information to Supervisor Joe Walsh. Christopher Kaasmann noted that Upper Merion Township is thinking about setting up its recycling container at the same site as its yard waste collection. When the container is full, the company will remove the recyclables within 24 hours notice. He advised that moving forward, committees and townships should make sure that any contracted company have a 3rd party insurer, like EPA's R2 (Responsible Recycling) and e-Stewards certification programs. Most companies are NAID certified and wipe the hard drive clean versus smashing the hard drive. Terry Wilson asked if the Township would receive documentation that all devices have been destroyed and/or wiped properly. Christopher Kaasmann answered that documentation of destruction can be provided.

Christopher Kaasmann summarized some of last year's recycling events organized by the county. The county organized a tire collection at the Montgomery Mall where they partnered with Emanuel Tire, a company that recycles tires. The recycled tires are reused in asphalt, playgrounds, etc. Part of the county's education program included a Recycle Dart Contest with the theme: "Rethinking Plastic." Local trash haulers sponsored the program and awarded prizes to the winners. Beth Staab stated that she works with an environmental club at the local elementary school, Green Team, and would love to work with the county to the extent possible regarding educational programs. Lastly, the county initiated a campaign sign recycling program at 10 municipal locations. The Democratic and Republican Party Committees were on board with the program and it has generated an overwhelming response.

Montgomery County electronic contact information is as follows: facebook page: MC Recycling and the website address: www.montgomerycountyclecycling.org. The website is also home to the Recycling A-Z Guide. Kate Grubb noted that she would provide a link to the county's website and A-Z Guide on the Township's EAC/Earth Friendly webpage.

Joe Walsh asked if the recycling program was self sustaining and Christopher Kaasmann responded that the county implemented budget cuts but the department is saving money due to the revenues from the electronic recycling.

New EAC Group Photo

The EAC posed for a new group photo to be used on the EAC webpage and the volunteer wall in the Township Building.

Senate Bill 1100 & House Bill 1950 – The Marcellus Shale Bills

Beth Staab started a healthy discussion surrounding fracking, aka hydraulic fracturing, and Senate Bill 1100 and House Bill 1950. This is a contentious issue where PA is one of only a few states that does not tax those who frack and therefore does not financially reap the benefits of drilling. The proposed Senate and House bills include a minor tax (1% or less) and put in place very few provisions for permits, penalties, and limits on contamination to name a few. In addition, the bills strip municipal zoning control as to the location of drill sites. Beth's concerns and awareness related to contamination, traffic, damaged infrastructure, remediation, responsibility and the health and safety of those adversely affected.

Beth Staab asked if the topic of fracking was worth the committee reaching out as a group to Representative Todd Stephens with a recommendation in hopes of influencing the Senate or House bill.

Supervisor Joe Walsh didn't see the EAC doing anything that would substantially change the outcome of how they vote. He believes the legislators will try to pass the best bill possible and that, locally, the EAC would not sway the vote in any capacity.

Christopher Kaasmann added that the EAC could get Representative Todd Stephens or Representative Kate Harper to attend a meeting and help educate residents about the proposed bill.

String Light Recycling – Website & E-News

Beth Staab announced that Lowe's Home Improvement recycles used holiday string lights. Residents may go online to Earth 911 to find other recycling sites. Christopher Kaasmann stated that he could publicize this type of recycling on the County's website.

Along the lines of recycling, Christopher Kaasmann also announced that the county does a quarterly newsletter, where residents can sign up online, to announce recycling information. In association with *Keep America Beautiful*, the County offers ROGO – recycling on the go. The County has 18 easily collapsible recycling containers for organizations to reserve. Reservations may be made online at the County's website.

Beth Staab announced that the Reporter will be featuring a story about Bridle Path Elementary's Green Team. The newspaper attended one of the Team's meetings where they measured the wattage & calculated the cost using their nifty watt meter. This tool showed the cost to run an electric appliance (string lights) 24/7 for 30 days. The results were as follows:

Big, night-light size color bulb string lights:

Type	Retail Cost per string	Energy Cost to run 1 string	Energy Cost to run	Energy Cost to run 25 strings
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			10 strings	
Strings of 25, C7 incandescent bulbs	\$6.99/ea Target	\$10.27	\$102.70	\$256.75
Strings of 25, C9 LED bulbs	\$11.99/ea Target	\$0.19	\$1.90	\$4.75

Mini bulb string lights:

Type	Retail Cost per string	Energy Cost to run 1 string	Energy Cost to run 10 strings	Energy Cost to run 25 strings
String of 50 Mini Incandescent bulbs	\$2.29 Target	\$1.00	\$10.00	\$25.00
String of 60 Mini LED bulbs	\$11.99 Target	\$0.25	\$2.50	\$6.25

V. Old Business

Sustainability Audit

Jeff Gibbons provided a summary for the committee of his Implementation Plan Summary (IPS) that he presented in January of 2010. The committee paid for the audit in 2009 and the final product came with recommendations of varying levels and associated costs. The focus from the audit would target energy and GHG emissions, such as electricity, natural gas and gasoline. These are the most significant components of Montgomery Township's baseline GHG inventory and they are the easiest data to collect and track.

Terry Wilson stated that he would email the IPS to the committee so each member has an electronic version. The next step would be to look at the green print and try to connect the dots with initiatives the Township has already taken. Then, the committee will do a cost analysis of the recommendations in order to help prioritize and plan for implementation. Barry Baker stated that the committee may want to look at one of the longer term goals recommended within the audit. While some of the minor, low-cost recommendations can be achieved rather quickly, it is worth looking into and establishing some long term goals.

Barry Baker shared his thoughts from the sustainability audit to the committee. He realized how good of a job Montgomery Township was doing and that the largest impact was residential and the smaller impact was on the municipal side. While the Township should be seen as a leader, the greater contribution of efficiency should shift to the residents. Jeff Gibbons added that the toughest part of that variable is that the Township doesn't have any data for the residential impact. Barry Baker thought that constant and consistent communication to residents may have a greater impact on change.

Chris Kaasmann said that the county's green house gas reduction plans were online on the county's planning commission webpage, <http://planning.montcopa.org/planning/site/default.asp>, under Green Print.

Kate Grubb will look into the software system used to collect and store the data and try to learn how to use the program.

Wissahickon Watershed Report

This topic will be discussed at the next meeting, January 24, 2012.

Earth Day 2012

Jeanine Hurry stated that she knows Debbie Zimmer, the Director of PQI, Paint Quality Institute in Spring House, and she would see if Debbie Zimmer would be interested in coming out to speak during the Township's Earth Day Celebration for 2012. PQI specializes in acrylic, water based, paints and stains for Dow and Dow's customers.

Vacant EAC Position

Beth Staab announced John Griffies resignation. He will be recognized at the January 23, 2012 Board of Supervisors meeting. Supervisor Joe Walsh emailed a resume of an interested candidate to the committee for review. Jeff Gibbons and Jeanine Hurry also know someone who may be interested in serving on the EAC.

Next Meeting

The next EAC meeting will resume the advertised 4th Tuesday of the month and will be January 24th, 7:30pm.

Single Trash Hauler Discussion

Jeanine Hurry is going to look over Supervisor Walsh's bulleted notes about a Single Trash Hauler and collect data from neighboring municipalities. The topic was tabled to be discussed at a future meeting.

VII. Adjournment

There being no further business to come before the Committee, the meeting adjourned at 9:47pm. **The next meeting of the Environmental Advisory Committee will be January 24, 2012 at 7:30pm.**