

**Meeting Minutes  
Chester County  
GREENHOUSE GAS REDUCTION TASK FORCE**

**ALL MEMBERS MEETING**

January 30, 2008  
5:30 PM - 7:00 PM

Chester County Government Services Center (GSC)  
601 Westtown Rd  
Room 171  
West Chester, PA 19380

**Attendees:**

GHG Task Force Members (approximately 46 individuals)  
GHG Task Force Steering Committee (nine individuals)  
Mr. Stephen Fromnick, Director of Facilities; Chair, Greenhouse Gas Reduction Task Force  
Ms. Christine Genter, Assistant Director of Facilities  
Mr. David Ward, Deputy Director, Chester County Planning Commission  
Mr. Bob Watts, Director, Chester County Solid Waste Authority  
Mr. Russell Rickards, Professor Emeritus, West Chester University  
*Mr. Duncan Alison, Chairman, Chester County Agricultural Council (Not Present)*  
*Ms. Victoria Wills, Excelon, Government Relations, Energy Industry (Not Present)*  
Mr. Paul Spiegel, Project Management, LEED/ Facilities Energy Conservation Expertise  
Mr. Tom O'Donnell, Ph.D., Rettew Associates, Consulting Engineers  
Mr. Robert McKinstry, Jr., Ballard Spahr, Environmental Law, Finance, Conservation  
Mr. Charles Shorten, Ph.D., PE, Professor West Chester University

Others in attendance/invited guests:

Mr. Rob Graff, Manager, Office of Economic Analysis, Delaware Valley Regional Planning Commission (DVRPC)  
Mr. Tom Tuffy, Director, Center for Energy, Enterprise & the Environment, PennFutures  
Mr. Randal Price, Chester County Facilities

**Welcome and Opening Remarks (Meeting Start 5:45 PM)**

Steve Fromnick, Chairman of the Chester County Greenhouse Gas Reduction Task Force welcomed all in attendance. He mentioned that adjustment should be made at the next meeting to be held at the GSC to compensate for the delays due to people entering through the x-ray machine. After some brief comments, Steve presented a PowerPoint

presentation related to the GHGRTF organizational structure. Note: this presentation is available as an attachment to this e-mail and can be downloaded as a PDF file from the [www.chesco.org](http://www.chesco.org) website by following this link:

<http://dsf.chesco.org/chesco/cwp/view.asp?a=1511&q=633902>

On that page click on:

**01/30/2008** GHGRTF Committee Meeting

[http://dsf.chesco.org/chesco/lib/chesco/GHGRTF\\_PowerPoint\\_Presentation\\_1-30-2008\\_SMF.pdf](http://dsf.chesco.org/chesco/lib/chesco/GHGRTF_PowerPoint_Presentation_1-30-2008_SMF.pdf) PowerPoint Presentation Meeting Minutes Download

The agenda for the meeting was:

- Chronology
- Process
- Status of Organization
- Goals and Objectives
- Plan/Criteria for Recommendations
- Issues/Next Steps
- Q&A/Discussion
- Subcommittee/Group Selection

During a presentation, Steve revisited the Resolution from the Commissioners initiating the task force, reviewed the history and timeline planned for the task force, presented the Steering Committee organization structure and introduced the individual steering committee member who were present. The rest of the presentation talked about the formation of the subcommittees that were similar to those organized by Montgomery County but modified for the purposes of Chester County based upon the fact that Chester County is more agriculturally oriented. This resulted in a separate agriculture and forestry subcommittee. The others three subcommittees included Transportation and Land Use, Waste Management and Recycling, and Energy related to residential, commercial, industry and institutions (the last area recent addition). In addition to the subcommittees there were four groups identified associated with Communications, Outreach, Information Gathering, and Carbon Inventory Preparation.

The presentation also highlighted the structure of each of the subcommittees to include a membership listing, a listing of the challenges and goals for the subcommittee leading to a set of recommendations. Each subcommittee will have a steering committee liaison to ensure that there is cross-fertilization of ideas and concepts between the subcommittees and the groups.

Steve also highlighted the concept/mission for the task force organization which included:

- Avoid “Reinventing the Wheel”
- Build On The Success And Efforts Of Montgomery County  
<Http://Greenprint.Montcopa.Org/Greenprint/Site/Default.Asp>

- Use County Citizens and Employee Volunteers To Work on the Steering and Subcommittees
- Cooperate and Integrate with State (DEP), Regional (DVRPC) and Local Groups (4CP, Bluer, BV & others)
- Present a Realistic/Attainable/Sustainable Action Plan to the Commissioners
- Identify “Quick Hits”/”Low Hanging Fruit”
- Identify/Educate Sponsors, Advocates & Political Support As Part Of The Action Plan Once Completed

In addition, there was discussion related to the plan to arrive at the recommendations and the criteria for the recommendations to be considered by the subcommittees prior to forwarding this information to a steering committee and the commissioners. These included:

- Action Oriented, Action Oriented, Action Oriented
- Suggestions Must Meet A Set Of Criteria: I.E., Realistic/Feasible, Economically Sound Over The Long Term, Measurable, And With A Net Impact On Greenhouse Gas Reduction
- Recommendation Based On Sound Science
- E.G., Massive Wind Mill Farms Locally. . .
- Recommendations For Goals For The County And The Municipalities
- Roles of the County, Municipalities, Implementation Team, Etc.

At the end of the presentation there was a question-and-answer period with the following discussions.

Mr. Joel Kauffman, Ph.D., from the University of Sciences in Philadelphia, stood to ask if the task force would be considering the issue of water vapor and its impact on the environment relative to the CO<sub>2</sub> content. This item was addressed by Professor Russell Rickards who explained (author's paraphrase) that gaseous CO<sub>2</sub> caused by humans enhances the normal production of CO<sub>2</sub> in the atmosphere. Addressing its reduction can be impacted by human efforts more effectively than water vapor which is a naturally occurring phenomenon and more massive problem.

A point was made by Suzanne Adams, Weston Solutions, that the County could consider use of the ICLEI process to manage the subcommittees as well as it's application to the generation of the carbon footprint/inventory. Steve mentioned that this is something that could be considered and we will have to have the Steering/subcommittees look into it.

The question was raised from the floor as to the difference is between The Transportation and Land Use subcommittee and the agricultural and forestry subcommittee. An attempt

was made to differentiate the two by example where the transportation and land use subcommittee would deal more with traffic congestion, the relationship between land use and transportation infrastructure, and open space vis-à-vis the Agriculture and Forestry subcommittees looking at farm operations, local production of produce, logging issues and/or new tree planting/forestry management. Here again it was suggested that a review of the Montgomery County website could highlight some of the major differences between the committees as they set them up.

Another question was raised about cross-fertilization of information between the subcommittees. Steve Fromnick explained that that was the intent behind having steering committee liaisons to the subcommittees as co-chairs. This would provide a link back to the steering committee and between committees. It should be noted that some individuals are (and others are welcome to) signing up for more than one subcommittee which also serves a similar purpose.

Drew McDowell asked if the test scores could be given some guidance from the commissioners relative to the threshold for the economic payback expected for investment into green recommendations. Steve Fromnick indicated that we certainly can get some guidelines from them but that should not deter making good recommendations. He highlighted that the new Justice Center is a building built to last 50 to 80 years in the County could afford to make green decisions with longer paybacks in situations like that. Later but as a related comment Joe Weidel, Bedwell Co., the contractor for the Justice Center, indicated that there was a lot of information available that could support making green decisions and the impact of the payback. Others comment that the payback periods are improving because cost of green technology (e.g., photovoltaics) is dropping rapidly.

Bruce Arnold, 25 x 25, discussed the possibility for alternative fuels citing the fuels for schools and beyond program that he is working on as an example. This would be a statewide energy use initiative promoting the use of local renewable resources to provide reliable energy for Pennsylvania schools and businesses. It would utilize rapid growth wood burned as an alternative fuel sources from urban or construction site wood, low value wood that is part of a timber harvests, residues from wood manufacturing, dedicated energy crops, and timber stand improvement activities.

Steve Fromnick then asked that the individuals present sign up for the subcommittees that they felt they want to serve. This information will be compiled and some realignment may be necessary. Subcommittees that have cochairman is already named can set up their own meeting schedules, those that do not the steering committee will work to appoint a cochairman/liaison.

The next meetings to be held should be subcommittee/group meetings as scheduled by their cochairman. The steering committee will deliberate other pending issues (subcommittees goals/challenges) via the Internet as a potential meeting at the end of February. Subcommittee and group chairmen are encouraged to communicate with any of the steering committee liaisons or Steve Fromnick directly for clarification.

Meeting adjourned: 7:05 p.m.