



**COUNTY COMMISSIONERS**

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**PLANNING COMMISSION**  
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Matthew J. Edmond, AICP  
Executive Director

Chester County Environmental and Energy Advisory Board

**Hybrid Meeting – GSC Room 351E/Zoom**  
Government Services Center  
April 22, 2026

**AGENDA**

- 2:00 p.m. 1. CALL TO ORDER  
A. Welcome *Paul Spiegel, Chair*
- 2:05 p.m. 2. ACTION ITEMS  
A. Adoption of February 25, 2026 Minutes *Paul Spiegel, Chair*
- 2:10 p.m. 3. DISCUSSION ITEMS  
A. Climate Action Plan Update Discussion *Rachael Griffith, Penn State LCAP Team*  
    1) LCAP team presents preliminary priorities & ranking  
    2) Update on county facilities & operations actions  
B. Clean Energy Subcommittee Report *Kevin Warren, Subcommittee Chair*  
    1) Energy Strategy Plan discussion  
C. EAC Outreach Update *Ann Colby-Cummings*
- 3:35 p.m. 4. UPDATES AND COMMENTS  
A. Planning Commission Report *Rachael Griffith*  
B. Updates from the Board *Board Members*  
C. Public Comment
- 4:00 p.m. 5. ADJOURNMENT

Attachments:

- Draft Feb. 25, 2026 meeting minutes
- LCAP presentation summary (corresponds with agenda item 3.A.1)



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Government Services Center Room 351E/Zoom

February 25, 2026  
Hybrid meeting

### **DRAFT MINUTES**

MEMBERS PRESENT IN PERSON: Paul Spiegel, Chair, Seung Ah Byun, Matthew Edmond, Richard Moseley, Steve Krug.

MEMBERS PRESENT VIA ZOOM: David Stauffer, Chinaza Akobi, Jeff Byers, Sarah Sharp, Mark Connolly, Rachel Roberts, Gene Johnston (for George Martynick), Kevin Warren

OTHERS PRESENT IN PERSON: Richard Drake; Lydia Franks; Rachael Griffith; Kate Hutelmyer; Carol Stauffer; Sally Warren.

OTHERS PRESENT VIA ZOOM: Peter Buck; Carolyn Conwell; Ryan Mawhinney; Shawn Paul Reagan; Karin de Vries; Sean Walsh

#### CALL TO ORDER:

The Environmental and Energy Advisory Board meeting, held in the Government Services Center in Room 171 and via Zoom video/audio on Wednesday, February 25, 2026, was called to order at 2:08 P.M. by Chair, Paul Spiegel. Mr. Spiegel noted a quorum was not present, so approval of the January 28th meeting minutes would be skipped until later in the meeting when enough board members join.

#### Presentation: Climate Action Progress

Ms. Griffith shared greenhouse gas emissions trends since 2005, noting an overall decrease of nearly 40% since 2005. She also shared results of several metrics the county tracks related to key climate solutions, and discussed the major accomplishments of county government since the Plan's adoption in 2021. Carrie Conwell, Senior Environmental Planner at the Planning Commission, shared CCPC's plans for community and stakeholder engagement for the Plan update.

#### Discussion: Updating Climate Action Plan's Greenhouse Gas Reduction Goal:

Ms. Griffith facilitated a discussion on whether the Plan should retain the same greenhouse gas reduction goal. Ms. Byun suggested keeping the goal the same and expressed that setting interim targets could be difficult given changes in policy. Mr. Spiegel noted that he has seen organizations with long-term goals not act on them, suggesting interim goals can be helpful. Mr. Krug noted that the county is behind on achieving the long-term goal, and that it will be harder to reduce the remaining emissions. Ms. Roberts suggested adopting criteria to periodically assess whether to adjust goals. Discussion ensued on net zero emissions. Mr. Edmond suggested the group should determine the

ultimate greenhouse gas reduction goal, and then interim targets can be determined. Peter Buck clarified that the state's greenhouse gas reduction goal aligns with the Paris Agreement. Discussion ensued on the meaning of 'net zero'. Mr. Johnston suggested a goal is set based on what we think is possible today and can be revisited each time the plan is updated.

Presentation: Prioritization Matrix for Climate Actions

Shawn Reagan and Karin de Vries, students from Penn State's Local Climate Action Planning (LCAP) program working with CCPC, presented a prioritization matrix they created to evaluate and compare potential actions for including in the plan update. Mr. Connolly asked how the students came up with their rankings. Mr. Buck noted the board should provide input on the criteria and ranking within the matrix. Mr. Moseley commended the tool, and suggested the outputs would likely not change much unless there were significant changes to the weighting.

Discussion: Climate Action Priorities

The board split up into groups to identify priority actions that the LCAP students will analyze with their prioritization matrix.

Approval of January 28, 2026, Minutes:

A MOTION TO APPROVE THE MINUTES FROM THE JANUARY 28, 2026 MEETING WAS MADE BY MS. BYUN, SECONDED BY MS. AKOBI, AND PASSED BY UNANIMOUS VOTE OF THE BOARD. MOTION CARRIED.

Updates from the Board:

Mr. Connolly suggested governments should be transparent about their use of AI.

Public Comments: Mr. Sean Walsh, supervisor in West Goshen Township, expressed his support for the Board's work on the climate action plan, shared greenhouse gas reduction strategies the Township has recently undertaken.

ADJOURNMENT

THERE BEING NO FURTHER BUSINESS, A MOTION TO ADJOURN WAS MADE AT 4:07 P.M. BY MR. KRUG, SECONDED BY MR. MOSELEY, AND PASSED BY UNANIMOUS VOTE OF THE BOARD.

Respectfully submitted,

Matthew J. Edmond, Secretary

MJE/RG

# Chester County Energy & Environmental Advisory Board

## Climate Action Plan PSU-LCAP Agenda Summary

### Background and Work Completed to Date

To support the climate action plan, a point-based prioritization matrix was developed by PSU students in conjunction with Chester County staff to evaluate proposed Climate Action Plan strategies across multiple criteria. Criteria include: GHG reduction potential, cost, feasibility, co-benefits, and implementation complexity.

This matrix was introduced at a prior Energy & Environmental Advisory Board meeting, where members participated in a structured prioritization exercise. Individual responses were collected, compiled, and organized into a hierarchical priority ranking. Based on those results, a refined set of 15 high-priority actions was identified for further evaluation, focusing on emissions impacts, cost considerations, and overall feasibility.

### Focus of the meeting

From the broader list of fifteen actions, six priority initiatives have been selected for discussion at this meeting. These actions represent opportunities with strong emissions-reduction potential. These actions vary in length for implementation:

1. **Solarize Campaign (Group Purchasing):** Expand access to solar through coordinated, group-purchase efforts.
2. **Electric Heat Pump Conversion Initiative:** Promote electrification of heating systems.
3. **Microgrids and Battery Backup at Critical Facilities:** Support resilience and emissions reduction at essential sites.
4. **Agrivoltaics:** Encourage dual-use solar installations compatible with agricultural operations.
5. **Electric and High-Efficiency Vehicle Adoption:** Promote cleaner vehicle options countywide.
6. **No-Idling Policies:** Adopt and promote no-idling practices at municipal buildings, schools, and businesses.

### Full Set of Actions Under Matrix Evaluation

In addition to the six focus items, the full prioritization matrix includes the following actions, which were selected by the students with input from the advisory board during the previous meeting:

- Energy retrofit accelerator program
- Climate-smart procurement initiative

- Municipal clean energy contracting templates
- Support and promote tree planting in urban areas / coordinate and promote tree giveaways and grant programs
- Continue open space preservation programs and prioritize land that sequesters carbon
- Support transit-oriented development through higher-density zoning districts with reduced parking near transit stops
- Expand bike lane mileage, share-the-road infrastructure, and local and regional trail network
- Bring electric car share opportunities into the county

### **Expected Outcomes**

By the end of this meeting, the Advisory Board will have:

- A shared understanding of the highest-impact Climate Action Plan strategies
- Refined input on priority actions for near-term advancement
- Clear direction to support the County's Climate Action Plan development and implementation