



COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

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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
Aug. 26, 2026

AGENDA

- 2:00 p.m. 1. CALL TO ORDER
- A. Welcome *Paul Spiegel, Chair*
 - B. Board vacancy for utility representative
- 2:05 p.m. 2. ACTION ITEMS
- A. Adoption of June 24, 2026 Minutes *Paul Spiegel, Chair*
- 2:10 p.m. 3. DISCUSSION ITEMS
- A. Climate Action Plan Update Discussion *CCPC*
 - 1) Review results from survey #2
 - 2) Update on Climate Resilience and Vulnerability Assessment
 - 3) Update on municipal actions
 - 4) Review and prioritize potential action list
 - B. Clean Energy Subcommittee Report *Steve Krug, Subcommittee Member*
- 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 June 24, 2026 meeting minutes
- Draft climate vulnerability maps
- Draft action list



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June 24, 2026
Hybrid meeting

DRAFT MINUTES

MEMBERS PRESENT IN PERSON: Paul Spiegel, Chair, Matthew Edmond, Secretary, David Stauffer, George Martynick, Steve Krug

MEMBERS PRESENT VIA ZOOM: Wyatt Williams, Kelsey Boyd, Chinaza Akobi, Ann Colby Cummings, Seung Ah Byun, Bill Messerschmidt, Jeff Byers, Mark Connolly, Sarah Sharp

OTHERS PRESENT IN PERSON: Carol Stauffer, Gene Huller, Ryan Mawhinney, Amy Zimmerman, Carrie Conwell, Nancy Shields

OTHERS PRESENT VIA ZOOM: Rachael Griffith, Dennis Ray, Dennis Rowan, Kirk Reinbold, Allen Prindle

CALL TO ORDER:

The Environmental and Energy Advisory Board meeting, held in the Government Services Center in Room 351E and via Zoom video/audio on Wednesday, June 24, 2026, was called to order at 2:03 P.M. by Chair, Paul Spiegel.

Approval of April 22, 2026 Minutes:

A MOTION TO APPROVE THE MINUTES FROM THE APRIL 22, 2026 MEETING WAS MADE BY MR. KRUG, SECONDED BY MS. AKOBI, AND PASSED BY UNANIMOUS VOTE OF THE BOARD. MOTION CARRIED.

Discussion: Climate Action Plan Update

Amy Zimmerman, CCPC intern, shared high-level results of the first of two surveys for the Climate Action Plan. Approximately 1,250 people took the survey. A summary of the results can be found [here](#).

Ryan Mawhinney, Sustainability Planner, shared progress on the resilience component of the Climate Action Plan, which will play a more prominent role in the updated Plan than in the previous plan. He shared vulnerability maps for heat and flooding in the county for the board's comment. Mr. Martynick suggested adding dwellings or other structures that are isolated from road access by bridges or other obstacles, and to also include bridges that are in poor condition due to scour and other structural deficiencies that are related to climate change. Ms. Byun noted WRA has field data related to this.

She also suggested adding critical infrastructure such as hospitals, to include in the vulnerability analysis.

Mr. Mawhinney then shared information on adaptive capacity for both flooding and extreme heat, and how this will be incorporated into the prioritization of actions. The Board discussed potential stakeholders to help further refine resiliency actions.

Ms. Griffith led a discussion on stakeholder engagement which will occur over the coming months. Key stakeholder groups include municipalities, K-12 schools, agriculture, emergency response organizations, power and energy providers, climate advocates, transportation sector, and others. Ms. Griffith will follow up with a spreadsheet where Board members can provide contacts for stakeholder groups.

Ms. Griffith then discussed a potential update to the Plan's greenhouse gas reduction target. She recommended changing the Plan's goal to align with the US Climate Alliance's goal, which the Commonwealth also adopted in its latest Comprehensive Climate Action Plan. Ms. Boyd suggested quantifying what level of action would be needed for this reduction to occur in a way people could better understand (number of trees planted, etc.). The Board supported using this goal in the Climate Action Plan Update.

Clean Energy Subcommittee Report

Mr. Connolly provided a brief presentation on Community Choice Aggregation (CCA), which allows municipalities to aggregate residential and small commercial electric accounts and procure electricity supply on their behalf. This can result in cost savings and potentially more demand for renewable energy. CCA is not currently authorized in PA, but Mr. Connolly suggested it might be appropriate to include in the Climate Action Plan. Mr. Martynick discussed potentially having the Sustainable Energy Partnership of Southeast PA aggregate customers rather than an individual municipality, but it could be very staff intensive. The Board discussed the appropriateness of urging our county's state legislators in Harrisburg to support legislation authorizing CCA, but instead decided to incorporate CCA as a recommendation in the CAP, and potentially supplying a letter to the SEP board after obtaining more information about the feasibility of SEP becoming the community choice aggregator.

Public Comment was heard from Dennis Ray, Dennis Rowan, and Kirk Reinbold in support of CCA, and providing further explanation of how it works.

Planning Commission Update

Mr. Mawhinney noted that the Open Space Accelerator mini-grant program recently launched and is accepting applications for open space implementation plans. Mr. Edmond shared that CCPC and Chester County 2020 are bringing back the Citizen Planner Awards, which will provide awards for citizen planners, plans, and development/preservation projects in Chester County.

Updates from the Board

George Martynick noted that the Facilities Department opened bids for a +/- 200kW rooftop solar array on the county's administration building in West Chester.

ADJOURNMENT

THERE BEING NO FURTHER BUSINESS, A MOTION TO ADJOURN WAS MADE AT 4:15 P.M. BY MR. KRUG, SECONDED BY MR. MARTYNICK, AND PASSED BY UNANIMOUS VOTE OF THE BOARD.

Respectfully submitted,

Matthew J. Edmond, Secretary

MJE/CS/RG

DRAFT

Community Actions- Draft List

Buildings and Energy

Expand Climate Communications

- Implement a community-wide climate change awareness strategy.
 - Promote “success stories” of various stakeholder types implementing climate solutions
 - Share out results from Climate Action Plan targets and metrics.

Connect Projects with Funding

- Communicate and promote funding opportunities to residents, businesses, institutions, local governments, and other power users.
- Support clean energy lending programs, such as C-PACE and those offered through Green Banks.
- Fully implement and promote the Commercial Property Assessed Clean Energy (C-PACE) program to support clean energy, energy efficiency, and resiliency financing on commercial and multifamily properties.
- Work towards establishing a dedicated, secure funding source to support renewable energy, energy efficiency. Target landlords/property owners so renters can benefit from energy cost savings.

Reduce Energy Consumption

- **PSU:** Promote and facilitate energy retrofit accelerator for existing buildings (“packages” of weatherization, efficiency, and system upgrades, particularly for low income and/or energy burdened households.
- Adopt the most up to date building and energy codes and provide resources to support code enforcement
 - Adopt municipal codes that offer incentives to use the International Green Building Code (IGCC) or the ICC Zero Code, promoting passive house and zero energy design and construction, and incorporation of renewable energy infrastructure into new construction.
 - Provide adequate training opportunities for code enforcement officers and inspectors.
- Enact municipal building benchmarking programs and policies that require annual disclosure of energy usage for large nonresidential buildings.
- Implement an Energy Performance Policy requiring all nonresidential buildings of 50,000 square feet and larger to achieve a high-performance standard or complete a building tune-up once every five years.
- Adopt codes that offer incentives for providing rooftop solar or solar-ready areas on proposed large commercial buildings with roof areas exceeding 50,000 SF.

- Develop a model ordinance for dark sky-compliant landscape lighting that utilizes motion sensors, timers, context-sensitive light levels, and LED color temperatures that support human and wildlife health.
- Develop and administer regional income-qualified home retrofit/improvement programs at scale that streamline the process of making homes safer, healthier, and more energy efficient.
 - Seek out sources of funding to enhance federal, state, and utility program funding pools and capacity, especially in underserved markets.
 - Consider developing a version of this program for non-income qualified homeowners to take advantage of a streamlined process for weatherization and energy efficiency.
- Provide guidance for energy retrofits and weatherization of older/historic homes/ Create a home weatherization referral service/help line
- Promote programs that offer low and no-cost energy audits for homes, businesses, local governments, faith-based institutions, and non-profit organizations
- Partner with community organizations and utilities to educate homeowners on best practices for home retrofits, as well as utility resources and rebates
- Provide technical resources to support building owners with implementing energy efficiency, electrification, on-site renewable energy in multifamily buildings.
- Organize a Strategic Energy Management style cohort program where local wastewater treatment plants, municipalities, and School Districts share best practices for energy savings, recycling, and other energy efficient practices with their peers.
- Develop outreach programs to work with commercial and industrial sectors to encourage emission reductions actions. (e.g. Webinar on Portfolio Manager, education about federal or state level incentives to develop climate action plans, etc.

Transition Fossil Fuel-Based Systems to Electric

- **PSU:** Promote conversion of fossil fuel-powered residential and commercial HVAC systems (particularly oil) to high efficiency electric heat pumps.
- Support education of contractor training on installation, leak detection, issues with high GWP refrigerants, proper handling, and procurement practices that address heat pump refrigerant leaking
- Create cost/benefit comparisons between existing gas/oil heating and cooling and electric heating/cooling
- Promote the electrification of industrial uses (particularly low-heat processes) and deploying gas and fuel oil alternatives in industrial operations. Promote using low or no-carbon energy feedstocks as fuel, including Biomethane and Hydrogen for high heat processes.
- Adopt codes that require new construction such as commercial developments, multifamily developments, single family construction, and major renovations to be EV-ready.

- Promote electrification of home lawn and yard equipment and power tools

Transition Toward a Net-Zero Carbon Electricity Grid

- Establish community-wide renewable energy targets with a goal to achieve 100% renewable electricity county-wide by 2050.
- **PSU:** Lead or participate in a Solarize campaign to facilitate group purchasing of solar panels and potentially battery energy storage systems.
- Promote local streamlining of siting, permitting, and interconnection processes to make widespread and rapid deployment of clean energy projects possible.
- Provide incentives to reduce carbon emissions from new electricity generating sources.
- Promote legislation that would permit community choice aggregation, particularly at the county or regional level, to facilitate lower costs and/or more renewable energy to be used by residents and small businesses.
- Study opportunities for thermal energy networks, and pursue planning grants to support pilot projects
- Evaluate/support the role of low-carbon fuels, such as renewable natural gas (RNG) to complement electrification, and address reliability, resiliency, and affordability
- Adopt supportive zoning and permitting practices for large scale renewable energy systems.
- Reduce soft costs of local (aka distributed) solar and battery energy storage systems by streamlining the local application, permitting, and inspection processes.
- Encourage large buildings and facilities to deploy virtual power plant solutions.
- Promote deployment of new carbon capture technologies for power and industrial systems.
- Explore new power sources: Produce and or utilize hydrogen and RNG/ biogas. Promote increased recovery of methane gas from agriculture, wastewater, and landfill operations for use as energy. Explore and plan for new small modular nuclear power where appropriate.
- Support renewable energy development among community service organizations such as schools (public and private), libraries and fire departments through knowledge sharing and aggregate purchasing.
- Consider pursuing SolSmart Platinum certification for County and provide guidance to municipalities that are interested in seeking certification.
- Conduct outreach to HOAs to encourage lifting restrictions on residential rooftop solar
- Establish a vetted contractor/trusted installer directory to address widespread concern about unreliable solar companies.
- Provide incentives for parking lots to include solar canopies.

Enhance Energy Resilience

- **PSU:** Promote investments in microgrids and battery backup at critical facilities.
- Support the development of energy storage facilities to bolster grid reliability with an increasing penetration of intermittent renewable resources such as wind and solar.

- Work with utilities to ensure that the electricity grid is ready for electrification related to peak load impacts and reliability.
- Facilitate engagement between local communities and electric distribution and generation companies to advocate for strategic siting and permitting of new generation, transmission and distribution infrastructure as needed and appropriate.
- Advocate for utilities to bury power lines in outage-prone areas
- Promote the use of Chester County and Montgomery County's Data Center Ordinance Guide, particularly to require a portion of proposed energy usage is generated by renewable sources; that energy usage will be met by installation of new generation sources; that diesel generators will not be used for demand response or voluntary curtailment, and the proposed design uses innovative technology reducing water usage.

Transportation and Land Use

Expand Transit Usage

- Expand public transit, including restoring/expanding passenger rail service to West Chester, Phoenixville, and Pottstown.
- Improve first and last mile connections to transit through increased funding for shuttles and van pools, bike lanes and paths, sidewalks, and integrated data platforms for trip planning.
- Install new / improve existing bus shelters by installing benches and ADA upgrades, real-time schedule information, improved lighting, and enhanced stop and station access with sidewalks, crosswalks, and curb ramps.
- Promote employer-based strategies that prioritize public transit use with telework options supported where transit is limited.
- Evaluate the feasibility of and implement opportunities to electrify or power buses with cleaner fuels such as green hydrogen, RNG, renewable diesel, etc., and install supporting infrastructure.
- Work with DVRPC on the Transportation Improvement Plan to increase funding for transit-related projects.
- Explore the feasibility of express bus service (“Bus Rapid Transit”) along Route 3 and in other areas as appropriate.

Encourage Smart Growth

- **PSU:** Support transit-oriented development through higher density zoning districts with reduced parking near transit stops, and engage regional organizations and transit authorities in transit-oriented development land development processes
- Prioritize reuse of existing commercial/office space over new build (including converting offices to housing) in a way that preserves neighborhood character and supports increased density through land use planning, incentives, and flexible development standards.
- Enact land use policies—such as upzoning, density bonuses, incentives, land development standards, accessory dwelling units, and transfer of development rights—to facilitate communities that are mixed-use, high density, proximate to existing transit service, and walkable and bikeable.
- Identify areas with lowest vehicle miles traveled (VMT) and up-zone those locations in coordination with transit enhancements.
- Centrally locate public facilities close to transit and/or active transportation infrastructure.
- Revise zoning to provide diverse, affordable housing options closer to employment and commercial centers, and allow mixed-use development in strategic locations.
- Implement parking reforms by eliminating parking minimums and/or imposing parking maximums, increasing parking impact fees, restricting the development of new surface lots, and implementing performance pricing for on-street parking.
- Consider pursuing Sustainable Pennsylvania Community Certification.

Expand Active Transportation Infrastructure and Use

- **PSU:** Expand the network of trails, sidewalks, and bike lanes.
 - Ensure bike/ped infrastructure is considered as part of every transportation and corridor redevelopment project
 - Work to close gaps in the active transportation network, particularly where sidewalks, bike lanes and trails can most feasibly be used for transportation and/or connect to transit stops.
 - Require developers to include sidewalks in new development.
 - Expand and maintain the local and regional trail network for walking, running, and cycling for both recreational and commuting purposes.
- Adopt practices to ensure safety of all users on the roadways
 - Adopt and apply municipal complete streets policies.
 - Implement traffic calming measures on prioritized roadways.
 - Segregate cars and bikes as much as possible by creating physically separated bike infrastructure and establishing car-free zones in strategic locations.
 - Improve street sweeping/debris removal to improve safety of existing bike lanes.
 - Increase training for police officials on the rights and responsibilities of bicyclists and state laws on passing bicyclists.
- Expand Bike Access and Use
 - Support or implement e-micro mobility options like e-bikes through adopting supportive policies and regulations, and through providing bike share programs in areas as supported by demand. Include low power e-bike/scoter charging on EV chargers.
 - Work with local organizations to provide programming to encourage biking
 - Increase participation in 'bike to work day' programming.
 - Introduce new users to biking with guided tours of the county/region's biking infrastructure.

Mitigate Congestion & Improve Air Quality

- **PSU:** Adopt a no-idling policy at municipal buildings, schools and businesses.
- Encourage the use of transportation demand management through ride sharing, carpooling/vanpooling, employer-provided transit benefits, parking pricing and management, and telecommuting.
 - Ensure programs are usable by seniors without smartphones.
 - Offer improved service to communities with low income households/zero-car households.
 - Consider offering employee incentives

- Retrofit traffic signals to LED technology and provide regular maintenance
- Encourage municipalities to coordinate and maintain signal timing to reduce idling time at intersections and to install closed-loop signal systems where feasible.
- Participate in multi-municipal traffic control plans and congestion management programs on a corridor-wide basis.
- Encourage the installation of park-and-ride lots along arterial roads where appropriate.
- Enhance Safe Routes to School activities, improve school zone pedestrian infrastructure, and work to reduce the pickup queue of cars before and after school.
- Address industrial air quality/odor complaints (mushroom industry H₂S emissions and truck emissions/noise along Route 30 in Coatesville, prioritizing solutions that also mitigate greenhouse gas emissions.

Increase Adoption of Electric & Low-to-No Emissions Vehicles

- **PSU:** Promote the use of electric and high fuel efficiency vehicles.
 - Increase public familiarity and knowledge of EVs, such as existing models, charging station locations, and incentives and available rebates.
 - Perform outreach and education to public and private medium- and heavy-duty vehicle fleet managers within the county to provide information on resources for fuel switching and electrification.
 - Provide recommendations and support for police and public works departments to transition to alternative fuels/fuel-efficient vehicles.
 - Establish municipal fleet fuel efficiency standards including light- and heavy-duty vehicles. Standards should consider EV economics and should be revisited every three years.
- Expand local EV charging infrastructure.
 - Install DC fast chargers in strategic locations.
 - Streamline/standardize zoning requirements and the permit process for installing EV charging stations to expand access to charging infrastructure for those without access to off-street parking.
 - Require or incentivize new commercial development/re-development projects to install EV charging facilities.
 - Require all new residential homes to be EV-ready.
- Promote the use of alternative, zero or low emissions fuels.
 - Expand use and generation of hydrogen fuels.
 - Promote the offtake of hydrogen into priority sectors, including heavy-duty transportation (i.e., aircraft, forklifts, and other offroad vehicles) and

industries that cannot or should not be electrified (i.e., cement production, steel and aluminum smelting, and chemical refining).

- Scale the use of new technologies through engaging with and educating interested parties (especially end users) on the potential applications and benefits of using hydrogen fuels.
- Expand hydrogen transport and refueling infrastructure.
- Promote the electrification/use of low carbon fuels like biodiesel, renewable diesel, green hydrogen, etc. for off road recreational vehicles, medium and heavy-duty construction vehicles, and agricultural vehicles.
- Support the use of less carbon-intensive alternative fuels for aircraft.
 - Expand the use of sustainable aviation fuel.
 - Explore electrification and hydrogen as supplements to traditional jet fuel to reduce carbon emissions of aircraft.
- Encourage school districts to place a minimum/ average fuel efficiency standard on district vehicles and explore the use of EV buses. Reassess every three years due to rapidly evolving market and incentives.

Waste Management

Divert organic waste from landfills.

- Develop a community scale composting facility within the county to expand opportunities for organics recycling and reduce GHG emissions associated with hauling organic materials.
- Encourage the development of food waste composting pilot programs with universities, schools, hospitals, nursing homes, and other institutions.
- Facilitate partnerships between organic waste generators and farmers for livestock feed and on-farm composting.
- Develop educational programming to increase public awareness of food expiration and “best by” date labels to reduce food waste.
- Provide incentives, rebates, or bulk purchasing discounts for home composting equipment including tabletop and yard composters.
- Support/establish curbside composting programs in boroughs and HOAs
- Support/establish community compost collection programs where food scraps can be dropped off at a central location like a farmer’s market
- Establish, enhance, and promote networks for edible food rescue programs.
- Encourage county-wide yard waste collection by municipalities.
- Encourage municipalities to convert yard waste composting facilities to accept food waste, as well.

Reduce Waste

- Adopt “zero waste” reduction goals for local governments and schools, and provide model actions for employees to reduce waste
- Promote sustainable waste management practices including source reduction, reuse, recycling and home composting through education and outreach.
- Support construction material salvage and reuse.
 - Develop and promote model ordinances that require/incentivize new buildings to include a minimum amount of reused/salvaged
 - Develop and promote model ordinances that require the salvage of high-embodied carbon and reusable material types during demolition.
 - Leverage existing initiatives in the government, nonprofit, and professional organization sectors, such as US Green Buildings Council’s resources to evaluate the benefit of material reuse in building construction.
 - Investigate opportunities to develop a county-wide construction and demolition waste recycling program.
- Adopt ordinances that ban single use plastics at the local municipal level.

- Evaluate and amend municipal fees and procedures for waste disposal to decrease waste: for example move to “pay as you throw” payment structures or offer for smaller bins for curbside pickup that would have reduced fees
- Support historic preservation and the adaptive reuse of buildings to reduce construction waste, lower energy use related to demolition, and promote sustainability of resources.
- Conduct a waste characterization study as a precursor to a future waste diversion analysis that identifies downstream waste disposal pathways, explores opportunities to increase recycling and composting, and reduces waste to extend the life of the county’s landfills.
- **PSU:** Institute a Climate Smart/Sustainable Procurement initiative, including a “buy recycled” policy, for county government. Promote the initiative with and offer resources to municipalities to adopt their own such policy.

Increase opportunities for reuse/repair and expand recycling opportunities for hard-to-recycle items

- Fund improvements to materials recovery facilities to sort and process flexible plastics.
- Promote regional resources for recycling hard to recycle items such as tires, eWaste, household hazardous waste, bulk items, etc.
 - Establish a permanent household hazardous waste drop-off location.
 - Contract with private companies for people to pick up decommissioned & refurbished electronics.
- Encourage all municipalities to participate in the Regional Household Hazardous Waste initiative.
- Promote the Repair Café model: encourage participation in current Repair Cafes, and promote/facilitate the creation of new repair groups.

Reduce Greenhouse Gas Emissions from Sewage Treatment.

- **PSU:** Promote upgrades of sewage treatment facilities to utilize hydrothermal carbonization technology or other methods that reduce methane emissions and that break down PFAS, pharmaceuticals, and other chemicals in biosolids.
- Encourage wastewater treatment plants to capture methane, implement biodigesters, and upgrade biogas to biomethane.
 - Utilize grants, rebates and credits to support methane capture and biomethane upgrade projects.
 - Create an inventory of plants with significant energy recovery and biomass to energy potential.

Increase Water Use Efficiency

- Encourage the use of low-flow faucets and toilets and leak-detection systems at large campuses and in public buildings.
- Encourage the use of recycled grey water through incentives and streamlined permitting.
- Promote water conservation and efficiency practices in water treatment plants by detecting and fixing leaks in distribution networks.

Reduce Greenhouse Gas Emissions and Air Pollution from Trash Hauling & Waste Generation

- Promote residential municipal “single hauler” contracting to reduce truck miles and GHG emissions.
- Affirm Chester County’s no-burn ordinance, (Chester County Health Code Section 502.7.1) with municipalities and encourage its enforcement. Develop an education program for municipalities and county residents on the detrimental effects of burning refuse and solid waste.
- Work with the Chester County Solid Waste Management Authority and waste haulers to encourage practices that limit trash collection to once per week

Agriculture and Forests

Encourage energy efficiency, renewable energy, and less carbon-intensive energy sources for Agricultural facilities, equipment and processes.

- Increase energy efficiency in agricultural operations and equipment
 - Provide technical assistance to agricultural producers to conduct energy audits to determine costs and a baseline for electricity use, opportunities for energy reductions, and funding/financing opportunities.
 - Install energy efficient improvements such as upgrades to lighting, ventilation/fans, irrigation pumps, machinery, and heating and refrigeration units.
- **PSU:** Promote small (2-10 acre) agrivoltaics/dual use installations, particularly on marginal parts of farmland, to diversify farm income, reduce on-farm energy usage and/or provide renewable energy to the local community.
- Encourage agricultural uses that are high users of power to consider the use of solar arrays for their electricity needs (e.g., mushroom growers, dairy producers, greenhouse operations, commercial poultry operations).
- Expand use and generation of biomethane fuels
 - Support education on biomethane, how it is generated, and its uses, including work with local governments, solid waste authorities, and wastewater providers to develop feedstocks from wastewater and landfill facilities.
 - Provide technical assistance for municipal ordinances that promote responsible development of anaerobic digesters.
 - Assess the greenhouse gas reduction benefits, financial and operational feasibility, and environmental impact of developing of a community methane digester in Western/Southern Chester County to process manure, mushroom compost, and potentially food waste (excluding food processing residuals) and produce biogas, biomethane, and potentially generate electricity.

Promote Best Practices for Reducing GHG Emissions in the Agriculture Industry

- Promote regenerative agriculture
 - Shift to low- or no-till farming practices
 - Maximize crop rotation and cover cropping practices to fix nitrogen, sequester carbon, and prevent soil erosion
 - Implement rotational grazing practices and seed native grasses in pastures
 - Encourage silvopasture (integration of trees and grazing livestock operations on the same land) with perennial crop plantings
- Promote the use of high-quality feed to reduce methane production
- Conduct outreach and education to agricultural networks on the societal and environmental benefits of methane-reducing feed additives, which may otherwise present little to no advantage to farmers
- Compost manure aerobically (with adequate aeration) to minimize methane production compared to anaerobic decomposition in wet storage

- Promote the development of on-farm composting facilities for food and animal waste and plant matter to improve soil health
- Reduce nitrogen emissions from fertilizer through providing resources on cornstalk testing (as opposed to less precise soil testing), precision application and use of slow-release fertilizers.
- Promote use of compost, manure and biochar to build up organic matter and increase soil carbon content, and promote biochar as a soil amendment for agricultural BMPs.

Promote and Support the Local Agriculture Industry & Urban Agriculture

- Provide funding and technical assistance to agricultural producers to keep their businesses viable and strong.
 - Provide information on funding and financing options.
 - Expand farmers markets and other local distribution hubs
 - Facilitate agreements between local agricultural producers and distributors
- Expand/support urban agriculture and community gardens
- Start agriculture community land trusts
 - Preserve urban agricultural spaces
 - Explore the reuse of city/locality-owned parcels for urban agriculture
 - Explore establishing a regional or county-wide Farmland Commons that leases farmland long-term to small farm businesses that wish to keep their products local.
- Continue to encourage residents and businesses to support the local food system.
- Support the development of new, local biochar production facilities.

Preserve Open Space

- **PSU:** Continue to advance the protection and stewardship of open space, farmland, woodlands, wetlands, and other natural and cultural features through dedicated funding programs.
- Improve the connectivity of open space to protect green infrastructure and further mitigate climate change.
- Purchase wetland easements on marginal and flood-prone agricultural lands to diversify grower income, buffer productive lands from flood events, and improve the environmental services provided by these lands.
- Assess the feasibility of purchasing repetitive loss properties and land in flood hazard zones for open space to increase absorptive capacity of flood planes and reduce flood risk to property.

Expand the Urban Tree Canopy

- **PSU:** Support and promote tree planting in urban areas, and coordinate and promote tree giveaways and grant programs.

- Provide the public with informational resources on where to plant trees for maximum energy conservation
- Explore the development of a tree giveaway/grant program to replace the Keystone 10 Million Trees program.
- Improve tree canopy/coverage in urban areas and prioritize areas with the lowest tree canopy cover
 - Establish regional or local tree canopy cover goals
 - Encourage tree-planting initiatives at schools and parks
- Incorporate the use of biochar as a soil remediation technique to increase carbon sequestration and improve tree health where appropriate
- Expand in-person and virtual offerings of PHS' Tree Tenders program or similar in Chester County
- Increase urban greenspace by providing incentives for commercial and multifamily buildings to establish and maintain greenspaces such as gardens, courtyards, and rooftop greenspaces. Focus urban greening efforts in communities which have historically been deprived of trees and parks to increase public health, community investment, and felt connection to the environment.

Expand and Protect Forested Areas

- Develop and adopt a county-wide tree canopy plan that brings together stakeholders to identify strategies for building collective momentum and shared resources for improving forest health, expanding the tree canopy, and increasing stewardship capacity.
- Adopt municipal ordinance language that conserves existing woodlands, requires tree replacement /reforestation for lost woodlands, and protects trees to remain on developed sites. Require foresting unforested riparian buffers as part of the land development process.
- Investigate the allocation of a portion of the County's open space funds for the strategic conservation and preservation of woodlands and wooded corridors within the County.
- Consider establishing and building a County Forest Reserve system; explore use of an Official Map as a tool for such establishment.
- Modify the Chester County Preservation Partnership Program to permit community and municipal groups in addition to conservancies to purchase, plant and manage trees.
- Reforest public land that has been cleared or where woodlands are declining or degraded to address this area's regeneration debt, similar in principle to wetlands restoration. Work with land owners who are interested in reforesting private lands.
- Enact municipal management policies and plans that protect and manage forested lands, including establishing canopy goals, tree planting programs, and tree hazard and health assessments, and tree replacement programs.
- Conduct tree plantings around old growth forests for added protection from development and invasive species pressure.
- Provide resources for homeowners and businesses to safely remove dead trees that pose threats to people, homes, and infrastructure.

- Commission a feasibility study for developing a regional carbon offset market to support land conservation, tree planting on open land
- Preserve existing forests using conservation easements.
- Identify areas of unforested riparian buffers and target for tree planting.

Expand and Steward Natural Areas

- Encourage/incentivize/facilitate native plantings, meadows, and reduced turf where appropriate, with a focus on public lands, unused portions of schoolgrounds, and corporate campuses.
 - Obtain grant funding and provide project management support for cohorts of these groups for tree plantings, lawn-to-meadow conversions, or ecological restoration projects.
- Optimize carbon sequestration through sustainable forest and land management.
 - Develop and manage volunteer programs to expand steward capacity for managing forested and open public lands.
 - Support private landowners caring for their woodlots/forests
 - Replace monocultures of invasive species with diverse native species
 - Promote restoration activities that encourage forest regeneration
 - Plant fast growing species for areas used as timber lands
- Promote floodplain restoration projects.

Climate Resiliency Actions

Promote Climate Adaptation and Resilience Planning

- Designate a staff person to serve as County Climate Resiliency Coordinator to coordinate activities and track progress departments.
- Using county-level assessments as a starting point, incentivize or otherwise promote municipal climate change vulnerability assessments and adaptation plans.
- Conduct climate risk assessments for water supply and energy utilities to identify specific risks, actions, as well as gaps for additional research.
- Create guidance for municipalities to incorporate climate projections into land use planning.
- Track and analyze health data to better understand climate-related health impacts, including heat, flooding, and vector-borne diseases.

Enhance Adaptation to Climate Impacts

- Promote the use of nature-based solutions to reduce climate risks, such as flooding or extreme heat.
- Adopt and enforce requirements for property owners to disclose information about a building's propensity to flood when renting or selling the property and include information on whether mold remediation has been or will need to be conducted.
- Provide financial and/or technical support for retrofitting outdated/failing stormwater basins and culverts.
- Develop an ordinance guide on ways municipalities can encourage reduced impervious coverage in land development projects.
- Develop and promote model ordinances that promote expanded floodproofing in flood-prone areas.
- Promote the construction of public spraygrounds, prioritizing areas with above average heat exposure and low adaptive capacity.

Support Populations Most Vulnerable to Climate Impacts

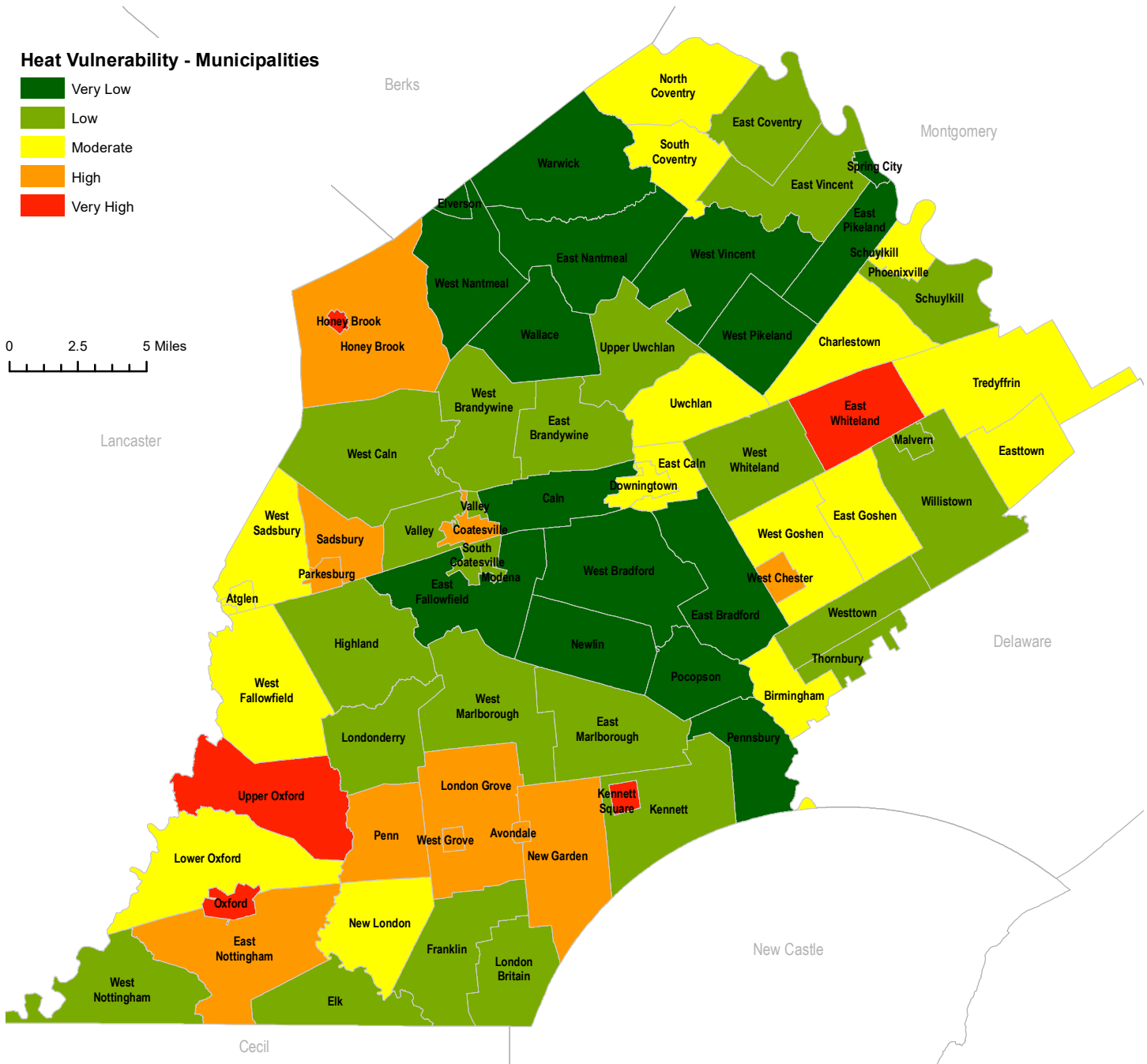
- Conduct outreach to groups that serve outdoor workers to provide information on resources available to protect workers from exposure to climate hazards.
- Prioritize flood mitigation improvements in known flooding hotspots.
- Determine the need for and feasibility of providing Resiliency Hubs with emergency power, heating and cooling, and potentially shelter facilities for those displaced by flooding, etc.
- Target investments, transportation assistance, energy affordability, accessible communications, and preparedness resources to populations and places with lower adaptive capacity.
- Conduct outreach to low-income residents on utility/energy assistance programs.

Enhance Emergency Communications

- Expand existing extreme weather emergency response management to consider the increased frequency and severity of extreme weather events due to climate change.
- Ensure emergency communications share resources available for coping with the emergency, such as cooling centers, shelters, etc.
- Promote awareness of emergency and evacuation planning for individuals and families.

Heat Vulnerability

By Municipality



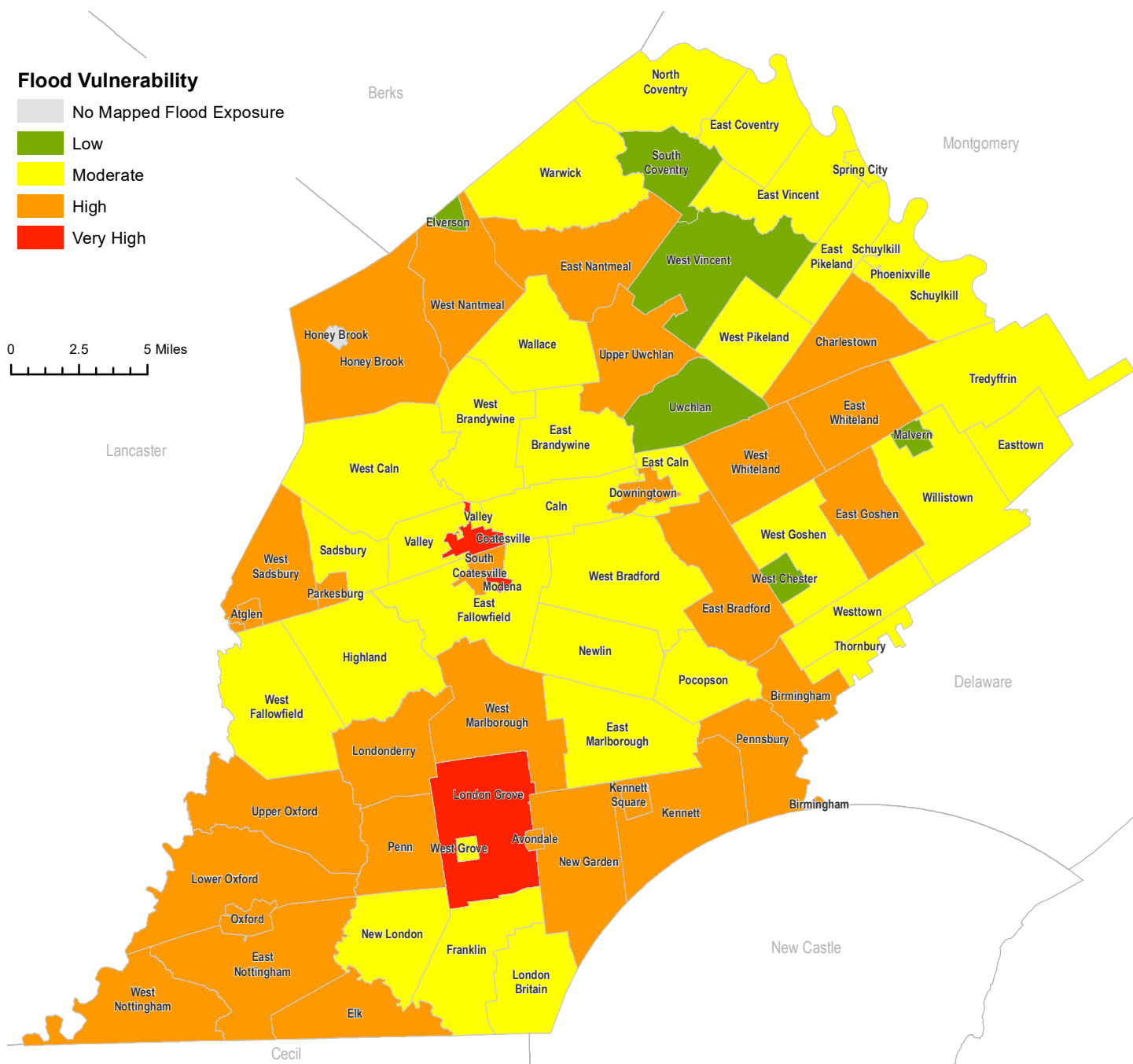
8/13/2026

Heat Vulnerability Map Notes:

- **Exposure:** DVRPC surface temperature difference by 2020 Census block, representing relative land-surface temperature conditions.
- **Sensitivity:** DVRPC 2023 Indicators of Potential Disadvantage (IPD), assigned from Census tracts to Census blocks.
- **Potential Impact:** Heat exposure and sensitivity were combined using a 70% exposure and 30% sensitivity weighting.
- **Adaptive Capacity:** Adaptive capacity reflects natural cooling and access to resources that can help reduce heat impacts. Natural capacity includes tree canopy and protected pervious/open space. Access capacity includes hospitals/emergency-response facilities, cooling resources, and public transit access.
- **Adaptive Capacity Weighting:** Natural capacity and access capacity were weighted equally. Within natural capacity, tree canopy was weighted 75% and protected pervious/open space 25%. Within access capacity, emergency/medical facilities were weighted 40%, cooling resources 40%, and public transit access 20%.
- **Final Vulnerability:** The potential-impact score was reduced by adaptive capacity: **Vulnerability = (Exposure + Sensitivity) - Adaptive Capacity.**
- **Municipal Aggregation:** Final Census-block vulnerability scores were area-weighted within each municipality to calculate a municipal vulnerability score.
- **Classification:** Municipal scores use the same five vulnerability class thresholds as the Census-block map: Very Low, Low, Moderate, High, and Very High.
- **Interpretation:** Higher vulnerability reflects greater heat exposure and social sensitivity combined with lower capacity to cope with or adapt to extreme heat.

Flood Vulnerability

By Municipality



Flood Vulnerability Map Notes

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- **Municipal Score:** Each municipality's score is the average flood-vulnerability score across all of its Census blocks, adjusted for block size.
- **Exposure:** FEMA 1% and 0.2% annual-chance floodplain overlap by 2020 Census block.
- **Sensitivity:** DVRPC 2023 Indicators of Potential Disadvantage assigned from Census tracts to Census blocks.
- **Adaptive Capacity:** Riparian tree canopy, wetlands, protected pervious open space, and access to flood-response facilities.
- **Final Score:** Exposure and sensitivity were combined and adjusted for adaptive capacity. Higher adaptive capacity reduces relative vulnerability.
- **Classification:** Municipalities with mapped flood exposure use the same five vulnerability class thresholds as the Census-block map: Very Low, Low, Moderate, High, and Very High. Municipalities with no overlap with the mapped FEMA 1% or 0.2% annual-chance floodplains are identified separately as **No Mapped Flood Exposure**.
- **Interpretation:** The municipal class represents an overall area-weighted average. Flood vulnerability may vary substantially among blocks within the same municipality.
- **Limitations:** This countywide screening does not fully represent local drainage and stormwater conditions, household resources, warning and evacuation capacity, or municipal response capabilities.
- **No Mapped Flood Exposure:** This designation indicates no mapped FEMA 1% or 0.2% annual-chance floodplain exposure and does not mean that flooding cannot occur.