

CAAP Year 1 Accomplishments 2022

The **Centre County Solar and EV Charger Co-op** closed its membership on January 31, 2022 after its launch 5 months ago. We surpassed our 100-member goal with 142 members. The Centre County Co-op has the largest membership amongst the 13 total in the state. Through the Co-op 12 homes in the State College area installed solar and 5 homes in Bellefonte, totaling 161kW.

Go Solar in the Centre Region website went live February 2022 and has received 2,040 views in 2022 (please update). This website provides property owners and installers with tools and resources to help guide them through the process of installing solar. It also includes information on local programs and government initiatives.

Solar documents were developed to assist municipalities and our community:

- [Best Practices for Regulating Accessory Solar Factsheet](#)
- [Primary-Scale Solar Study and Toolkit](#)

Centre Region COG achieved a **SolSmart Silver designation**, joining 20 other designees in PA. This recognizes the Centre Region for taking bold steps to encourage solar energy growth and remove obstacles to solar development.

The **CAAP Implementation TAG** was formed and began meeting monthly in June 2022. It consists of 8 technical experts who are developing a strategy to implement the CAAP. The Implementation Strategy will include a detailed level of priority actions along with the resources and funding needed to implement the CAAP through 2026.

The HOME Foundation's Centre Region proposal was **1 of the 17 finalists** for three awards of \$1,000,000 through ICLEI Local Governments for Sustainability and Google. While we were not a recipient, we are proud our proposal made it to the final round on a national level. It confirms the validity and need of our proposed program to make energy upgrades more accessible for low- to middle- income (LMI) households. The team received 20 community letters of support and continues to seek funding sources to develop the **Energy+ Program**.

Collaborated in the development of the Centre Region's first **Growing Greener Garden Tour** attended by over 50 people. The one-day event in July was designed to showcase habitat-friendly landscaping practices. Community members were able to visit four residences in the State College area to see local examples and become inspired to adopt this approach to landscaping.



Community Climate Action Conversation kits were created to offer the community another way to engage in climate change conversations to help identify and implement climate action strategies to build a more resilient Centre Region. Three groups and 58 community members participated in 2022, and more groups have expressed an interest to host a conversation in 2023

The 15 entities working together in Centre County received **9 project proposals for a Solar Power Purchase Agreement (SPPA)** to evaluate purchasing grid connected solar. The group represents a consortium of municipal, authority, school district, and county governments who are considering aggregating their electricity to find a utility scale solar project that can meet current and future demand. The group is driven by a desire to reduce electricity-related costs, Scope 2 greenhouse gas emissions, and to increase intergovernmental cooperation.

Hosted a successful **Commercial Property Assessed Clean Energy (C-PACE) education event** at Big Springs Spirits on October 3, 2022. Developers, commercial lenders, architects, and commercial realtors were in attendance to learn about this low cost, flexible financing program for clean energy on commercial and agricultural properties.

Clean Energy's **CCRRA Station switches to Renewable Natural Gas (RNG)** to reduce truck emissions and help the region to achieve its sustainability goals. Renewable natural gas (RNG)* is a term used to describe biogas and can come from a variety of sources, including municipal solid waste landfills, digesters at water resource recovery facilities (wastewater treatment plants), livestock farms, food production facilities and organic waste management operations.