

The items listed below are for consideration and discussion, not final recommendations. The intent is for them to be vetted by stakeholders, municipalities and the public to identify the actions that will end up in the region's Climate Action and Adaptation Plan (CAAP).



## RENEWABLE ENERGY

10/14/20

- ✦ *67% of the Centre Region's GHG emissions are energy related*
- ✦ *Co-Benefits: improved resiliency (shelter in place longer, less reliant on grid), reduced operating and infrastructure costs, improved indoor air quality, improved health*
- ✦ **Projected Goal:** *Replace grid electricity with 10%-residential and 5%-commercial zero carbon generation*

### 1. Develop a resilient energy portfolio through diversified sources and local generation

- A.2 Identify and adopt a local regional renewable energy increase goal per year
- B.2 Continue to expand partnerships with Centre Region authorities, SCASD and Penn State to support solar installations
- C.2 Continue to support regional entities renewable energy projects. For example, the UAJA's study of anaerobic digestion - renewable natural gas and a pilot residential solar leasing program.
- D.2 Look for opportunities to engage the agricultural community in renewable energy projects, such as solar, solar grazing and biomass energy.
- E.2 Pursue government entities committing to 100% renewable energy (by a certain date)
- F.2 Develop ordinance for all new municipal buildings to meet net zero energy ready standard
- G.2 Incorporate renewable energy as part of the energy management plan for public facilities

### 2. Improve access to affordable clean energy for residents and small organizations

- A.2 Provide education and outreach to expand participation in cleaner energy sources
  - Educate residents about renewable energy options when choosing the company that supplies your electric generation supply (PA Power Choice).
  - Educate homeowner's associations of region's goals and advantages of solar roof installations.



- Encourage residents and small businesses with solar installed to host open houses to educate their neighbors and community.
- B.2 Streamline permitting for solar-plus-storage for individual homes and businesses.
- Review and develop permitting and inspection processes that promote and integrate solar PV plus storage
  - Keep the review process streamlined and efficient as demand for these services increase
  - Invest in the education of newly hired electrical inspectors
  - Support uniform region-wide permitting and procedures
- C.2 Review and develop planning, zoning and development regulations that promote and integrate solar PV
- Determine allowable structures and locations, including determinations on solar farms and development of solar ready buildings (siting, roof structure, etc.)
  - Provide guidance, technical assistance or incentives for solar PV development on parking lots, vacant lots, buffer lands around nuisances, airport safety zones and non-building structures.
  - Identify preferred solar panel locations - parking lots - from CRPA parking management project

### 3. Support clean energy policy and growth

A.3 Continue to investigate the feasibility of a Solar Power Purchase Agreement for a portion of the Centre Region municipal entities' electric consumption

B.3 Advocate for statewide standards to ensure support for energy efficiency and renewable energy

C.3 Influence and urge the State to increase the Alternate Energy Portfolio Standards (AEPS).

- By 2021, Pennsylvania's electric distribution companies (EDCs) and electric generation suppliers (EGSs) must supply 8 percent of their electricity from Tier I energy sources and 10 percent from Tier II energy sources. Within the Tier I obligation, AEPS requires 0.5 percent of electricity be supplied from solar photovoltaic (PV) systems.
- Encourage standards for renewable natural gas (methane digestion)
- Promote the PA Renew Works campaign led through the PA Solar Center.

D.3 Influence and urge the State to adopt community solar legislation, which allows local solar facilities to be shared by multiple community subscribers who then receive credit on their electricity bills for their share of the power produced.

E.3 Promote solar panel recycling and advocate for federal and state level mandates for recycling.

- Europe in 2012 established rules for solar panel recycling through the Waste Electrical and Electronic Equipment (WEEE) Directive