Dear PA Municipal Official or Environmental Committee Member,

You are invited to participate in a new online platform that is intended to be a resource for communities in Pennsylvania that have developed or are developing Climate Action Plans or Energy Transition Plans with a goal of reducing their community's carbon emissions. PA Clean Energy

PA Clean Energy - is intended for two main audiences:

- Municipal Governments: sharing success stories, example plans, policy and project descriptions and a library of educational resources (webinar recordings) intended to help municipal governments lead by example, choosing and managing their energy; and developing enabling policies that inspire their residents and businesses to do the same.
- Community Engagement: sharing resources for Reducing, Electrifying and Transitioning to renewable energy sources for residents, business leaders, commuters, soccer parents, any community stakeholder.

This platform is owned and managed by municipal government staff and volunteers (environmental committee members) that want to stay connected with other communities in Pennsylvania that are facing similar challenges. It is expected that these tasks (recommending climate actions and tracking progress) will mostly fall to the EAC or SAC or EAB volunteer members, but participation by municipal staff and elected officials is most welcome. For this reason, PA Clean Energy is a resource for boroughs and townships in PA that do not have a significant department dedicated to developing and implementing their Climate Action Plan (or similar).

Options For Participation In PA Clean Energy

Two roles for participation have been defined (we are just getting started, so better suggestions may emerge):

- 1. Platform Steering Committee: a small group of representatives that make decisions on the direction and major content updates for the platform as well as consider new applications to join the Steering Committee or the Platform Contributor group. For instance - this committee would decide which of 6 example municipal sustainable building checklists should be listed in the section "Municipal Policies That Enable & Encourage".
- 2. Platform Contributor: every municipality that joins this platform is encouraged to contribute by: adding their story in a blog post; improving the lists of plans, resolutions, policies and testimonials. Site editing authority will be assigned. Someone on the Steering Committee will have authority to approve and publish updates.

All members will have the ability to connect with other members via email to ask questions like: does anyone have an example of purchasing EVs for municipal staff? Or, How do you handle organizing volunteers to help with community engagement?

Costs

At this time the costs to platform members are zero. Site hosting costs are minimal and have been covered through 2023. Unless the Steering Committee decides to add significant new features (real time chat; event registration; storing video libraries) these costs should not increase.

Who Created This Site? Who Will Own It Going Forward?

The site was initially created by Jim Wylie, a volunteer with the Ready For 100 campaign in southeastern PA. Ownership can be transferred to another owner on the Steering Committee as that group emerges. There are no obligations or strings attached to any environmental organization or other Non-Governmental Organization. It is hoped that this platform will be something of a Wiki - managed by the entities that benefit from it - **PA municipalities that are committed to reducing their carbon emissions**.

Next Steps, How To Join

Browse through the site PA Clean Energy. Feel free to add suggestions in the open comment doc (link on the homepage) or send a question or suggestion through the Contact page. If you would like Jim to join a Zoom to walk through the site with your EAC or municipal officials, that can be arranged.

If your municipality is ready to join as a Contributing Member or Steering Committee Member, please find the Request To Join PA Clean Energy form on the <u>Contact page</u>. Or contact Jim directly.

As municipalities step up to be contributing members they will be listed on the About page.

Thank you for taking bold steps to address the climate crisis. By sharing our stories and effective projects and policies, we can help each other navigate these uncharted waters.

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