

Allentown EAC Report to City Council 2023





2022 Achievements

Drive Greater Transparency and Accountability on Environmental Matters: What we have done!

- Provided recommendations on environmental sustainability metrics for a City dashboard. The recommended dashboard metrics are posted on the EAC's webpage on the City's website
- Led the City's CDP disclosures which is an important vehicle to make available to the public significant data with respect to the City's greenhouse gas emissions and climate actions. The disclosures are posted on the EAC's webpage on the City's website



2022 Achievements Cont'd

Actions to Address Environmental Justice In Allentown

- Worked closely with Promise Neighborhoods Lehigh Valley (PNLV) in developing an AmeriCorps-compliant pilot program that would include environmental sustainability initiatives within the City of Allentown for Corps members to provide service and receive job skills training.
- Submitted a comprehensive report and recommendations to the City to address energy equity issues in the City of Allentown. The report and recommendations are posted on EAC's webpage on the City's website
- Submitted an application for technical assistance from ACEEE to help the City to develop additional programs to address energy equity in the City



2022 Achievements Cont'd

Plan for a Sustainable and Resilient Allentown

- Provided recommendations to the City on investing in continued reduction of its energy costs and associated taxpayer burden through energy efficiency and renewable energy projects that take advantage of Pennsylvania's Guaranteed Energy Savings Act as well as state and federal funding and potential public-private type partnerships. The recommendations included a full step-by-step outline of how the city could proceed with this work, including having a FREE energy audit conducted by Siemens Energy. The recommendations are posted on EAC's webpage on the City's website



2022 Achievements Cont'd

Improve Community Health Outcomes

- Helped to promote community event in Allentown focused on raising awareness regarding lead contamination in homes



2022 Achievements Cont'd

Increase Environmental Stewardship

- Supported the City's litter education as part of the Summer in the Parks program by providing input and instruction through a Muhlenberg student intern who was retained and guided by the AEAC
- Provided literature and children's activities in support of the City's earth day program
- Reviewed communications regarding environmental permits and other notices to the City from environmental agencies
- Submitted proposal to City to install a solar kiln at its yard waste facility



2022 BUDGET

In 2022 the AEAC was allocated a budget of \$5000. The AEAC proposed to use that money to purchase materials necessary to pilot the solar kiln project at the City's yard waste facility. However, as of this date the City has not yet completed its evaluation of the feasibility of the project. The money has, therefore, not yet been spent. The AEAC expects that a budget of \$5000 each year would be appropriate for the AEAC to fulfill its purpose of supporting community environmental projects such as this one.



Goals we are Currently Working On

- Advise and assist the City on completing a free comprehensive energy audit for all City-owned assets (including vehicles and distributed energy systems) in 2023. The AEAC lead on this goal will be Tinku Khanwalkar. Jon Zeller and Kyle Ropski will support this goal.
- Advise and assist the City in creating a task force in 2023 to select and prioritize recommendations for City-owned assets from the energy audit considering all grant opportunities and alternative financing mechanisms with an eye towards creating a publicly available energy savings implementation plan for city assets with targets and interim Milestones by 2024. This goal will also be led by Tinku Khanwalkar, Jon Zeller and Kyle Ropski.
- Develop a report and recommendations on a proposed ordinance banning plastic bags in the City. Julie Thomases will lead this goal with assistance from Jennifer Swann and Dieter Kretschy and Lacey.



2023 Goals Cont'd

- Advance energy equity in the City of Allentown by assisting in development of an energy efficiency strategy and plan that includes advancing energy efficiency at residential properties (including rental properties) and partnering with CACLV to produce educational material on indoor air quality, energy efficiency and opportunities for whole home retrofitting. Maria Ocasio will lead this goal with assistance from Jennifer Swann and Tinku Khanwalkar.
- Incorporate environmental sustainability in the “Inside Allentown” program run by Julie Thomases. This goal will be led by Julie Thomases with input from Tinku Khanwalkar
- Evaluate incorporating BirdTown metrics into future AEAC initiatives. This goal will be led by Tinku Khanwalkar with input from Barbara Malt



2023 Budget Request

We request the continuation of \$5,000 budget designated to the EAC.