



**COUNTY COMMISSIONERS**

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Matthew J. Edmond, AICP  
Executive Director

Environmental and Energy Advisory Board  
Government Services Center Room 351E/Zoom

October 22, 2025  
Hybrid meeting

**MINUTES**

MEMBERS PRESENT IN PERSON: Paul Spiegel, Chair; Carol DeWolf, Vice-Chair; Kelsey Boyd; Seung Ah Byun; Steve Krug.

MEMBERS PRESENT VIA ZOOM: Jeff Byers; Mark Connolly; Madhu Gurthy; Marcus Kohl; Dave Stauffer; Kevin Warren; Wyatt Williams.

OTHERS PRESENT IN PERSON: Tom Bonner; Richard Drake; Jeanne Franklin; Rachael Griffith; Gene Huller; Kate Hutelmyer; Ryan Mawhinney; Sally Warren.

OTHERS PRESENT VIA ZOOM: Jaxon Dierker.

CALL TO ORDER:

The Environmental and Energy Advisory Board meeting, held in the Government Services Center in Room 351 East and via Zoom video/audio on Wednesday, October 22, 2025, was called to order at 2:33 P.M. by Chair, Paul Spiegel. Mr. Spiegel introduced the newest member of the board, Jeff Byers, representing PECO Energy.

Approval of July 23, 2025, Minutes:

A MOTION TO APPROVE THE MINUTES FROM THE JULY 23, 2025, MEETING WAS MADE BY MR. KRUG, SECONDED BY MS. BYUN, AND PASSED BY UNANIMOUS VOTE OF THE BOARD. MOTION CARRIED.

DISCUSSION ITEMS:

Meeting Start Time: Mr. Spiegel introduced the idea of extending the time this board meets to allow more time to discuss important issues.

A MOTION TO APPROVE THE EEAB MEETING START TIME TO 2 PM AND END AT 4 PM MEETING WAS MADE BY MR. KRUG, SECONDED BY MS. BYUN, AND PASSED BY UNANIMOUS VOTE OF THE BOARD. MOTION CARRIED.

Nominating Committee: Mr. Spiegel raised the issue that nominations will be needed for Officers at the next EEAB meeting.

SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS

Environmental Subcommittee: Ms. Griffith reported that Ms. Colby-Cummings has been compiling a new webpage for Environmental Advisory Councils (EACs) on the Chester County Planning Commission site.

The subcommittee is also supporting CCPC to host WeConservePA's EAC Fall Gathering which will be held at Penn State Great Valley on Saturday, November 15, 2025, from 8:30 am to 4:00 pm.

Clean Energy Subcommittee:

Mr. Warren reported the committee is still working on an Agrivoltaics Event in 2026, and the subcommittee attended the Penn State Extension Energy Team's Energy and Agriculture Conference on October 10, 2025, with a spotlight on solar and biogas technologies.

Mr. Warren reported on the status of various federal energy programs. There was a discussion on a range of PA state legislative bills affecting data centers, data centers, and solar on warehouses.

PRESENTATION: Data Centers' Potential Impact in SE PA

Mr. Byers, newest EEAB board member representing PECO, gave a presentation with Tom Bonner, PECO's Director of Policy and External Affairs, on *"Understanding Data Centers and their Impact on the Electric Grid"*.

Ms. Griffith raised the issue of finding good municipal guidance on zoning for this increased demand with regard to sound/noise, water usage, power use, emergency services, along with the risk of large-scale diesel storage needed to supply backup generators. Discussion on how HB502 would offer power plant developers consistent regulation statewide, but strip away local municipal control on zoning issues.

As no power generation facilities exist in the county (aside from distributed solar PV), Mr. Krug said the new energy demands were proof that we need a Chester County Energy Strategy. He cited the Chester County Chamber of Business and Industry 2025 Legislative Agenda, which prioritizes energy generation/availability.

The Board returned to the Clean Energy Subcommittee's report. Mr. Connolly reviewed the draft Chester County Energy Strategy Plan. Energy efficiency, assurance planning (resilience, safety, community strength), and expanding renewable energy, including supporting agriculture-based energy innovation like Agrivoltaics, were main points stated. Ms. De Wolf suggested adding local municipal input as stakeholders in this plan.

Discussion on the process to review and approve this draft Energy Strategy Plan and to figure out if this will be a stand-alone policy, or part of Landscapes4, or the Climate Action Plan.

Sustainable Landscape Management Plan Discussion

Ms. Griffith presented CCPC's work on developing a Sustainable Landscape Management Plan for the county's Prison complex. She proposed that the Environmental Subcommittee meet separately to provide input on the Plan. Mr. Stauffer shared that Penn State Main Campus has an excellent Sustainable Master Plan that might offer good ideas. Mr. Krug shared that West Chester University recently switched from a coal-fired to a geo-thermal system for the entire campus.

UPDATES AND COMMENTS:

Planning Commission Director's Report - Ms. Griffith reported on behalf of Mr. Edmond, who was unable to attend today's meeting. The Planning Commission invites this board to submit any project

suggestions for the 2026 Work Program. The Climate Action Plan will undergo an update beginning in 2026. CCPC won two awards from the PA Chapter of the American Planning Association at their annual conference recently: 1) Trail Planning Series award; and 2) former Executive Director Brian O’Leary was honored with the Distinguished Service Award. Several [Chester Valley Trail Updates](#) were mentioned and detailed information is on the website.

Sustainability Director’s Report – Ms. Griffith shared that the County’s [Department of Community Development \(DCD\)](#) awarded the Phoenixville Recreation Center \$550,000 through its Community Revitalization Program to install a solar panel array.

Regarding the Sustainable Energy Partnership of Southeast PA, DVRPC is using grant money they received from the National Renewable Energy Lab (NREL) to fund a consulting firm to outline energy reduction strategies for the county as part of the Sustainable Energy Partnership (SEP). SEP welcomed its first non-county member: Uwchlan Township. The Planning Commission is holding an Open Space Forum (open to the public) on Thursday, November 13. DVRPC is finalizing the Comprehensive Climate Action Plan for the Philadelphia metropolitan area, funded by the US EPA, and this will be a reference for the County’s Climate Action Plan update.

Facilities Report – Ms. Griffith reports on behalf of Mr. Martynick who could not attend. Facilities is finalizing design of the public EV charging project that will be installed in 2026. The department is forming a Southeastern PA County Facility Department Energy Conservation Working Group through the Sustainable Energy Partnership of Southeast PA.

Updates from the Board: There were no further updates from the board.

Public Comments: There were no public comments.

The next quarterly meeting will be on January 28, 2026.

#### ADJOURNMENT

THERE BEING NO FURTHER BUSINESS, A MOTION TO ADJOURN WAS MADE AT 4:35 PM. BY MR. KRUG AND SECONDED BY MS. BYUN, AND PASSED BY UNANIMOUS VOTE OF THE BOARD.

Respectfully submitted,



Matthew J. Edmond, Secretary

MJE/RG/saw