

2023 Annual Report of Allentown Environmental Advisory Council

ACTIVITY

In 2023 the Allentown Environmental Advisory Council developed and implemented the following goals and actions as outlined below. In addition, the EAC developed a refined set of goals for the Council to drive outcomes over 2024.

What we have accomplished in 2023:

- **Sustainability Coordinator in the budget.**
 - The position is currently posted.
 - Relationship development will need to occur between the new hire and the EAC to ensure the success of the candidate.
- **Allentown submitted its CDP response. Allentown's score improved to a B, up from a C last year.**
 - The CDP response is a big step towards transparency in the City's climate actions.
- **The EAC received the Bird Town grant of \$500 to implement a monthly environmental awareness program for children at the Allentown Public Library in 2024.**
 - We hosted our first event 01/13/2024
- **With assistance from interns from Muhlenberg and Northampton Community College.**
 - We successfully researched and filed a comprehensive report and recommendations on how the city can cost-effectively move forward with energy efficiency and renewable energy programs for city-owned assets as well as residents and businesses in Allentown.
- **Assisted the City in successfully applying for and receiving a shared energy manager to help the City to implement the EAC's recommendations on energy efficiency and renewable energy. Obtained PA DEP Funding.**
- **Successfully applied for 4 Muhlenberg interns to work with the EAC on updating the City's Greenhouse Gas inventory, implementing the Allentown Library Bird Town program, and improving outreach, communications and document management .**
- **Obtained commitment from an additional Muhlenberg student to be the overall Muhlenberg liaison for the Allentown EAC.**
- **Participated in a major cleanup event organized by Real Recognize Real**
- **Participated in the City's Earth Day program.**
- **Completed and submitted an evaluation and recommendations to the City on incorporating Bird Town metrics in EAC and City programs.**
- **Conducted extensive evaluation with stakeholder input on whether to recommend adoption of a plastic bag ordinance. Concluded not to recommend this**

Allentown EAC 2024 Goals

- 1. Implement a Neighborhood Cleanup Community Initiative focused on 1st and 6th wards. Involve local community-based organizations like Promise Neighborhoods. [Jennifer]**
- 2. Advise the City on the Scope of Work by the Shared Energy Manager granted to the City by PA DEP [Tinku]**
- 3. Research and develop a recommended ordinance on sustainable warehouse practices [Maria]**
- 4. Implement the monthly Bird Town Environmental Education program for Children at the Allentown Public Library per the Allentown EAC's successful grant proposal to Bird Town PA [Tinku + Felice]**
- 5. Work with Allentown's new Sustainability Coordinator to Improve AEAC Communication Efficiency, Transparency, and Accountability through a centralized database and improved public awareness programs [Kyle]**
- 6. Lead and Manage Muhlenberg Interns in Updating the City's Greenhouse Gas Inventory and develop separate inventories for emissions from municipal operations and City-wide emissions [Tinku]**
- 7. Continue AEAC Involvement in Community Education Programs including programs regarding air quality, lead and PFAS [Maria]**
- 8. Submit Annual CDP Disclosures [Tinku]**
- 9. Submit Annual Bird Town Report [Tinku]**
- 10. Participate in the Safe Streets for All Steering Committee (Tinku)**