

CENTRE REGION COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS

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February 14, 2011

TO: COG Agency Directors
Mike Rupert, COG Sr Residential Building Inspector (*for COG Building*)
Greg Roth, COG Park Supervisor
Todd Roth, COG Aquatics Supervisor
Rusty Schreiner, COG Fire Administrator
Dave Modricker, Ferguson Township (*for COG building*)
Tom Brown, State College Borough (*for Schlow Centre Region Library*)

FROM: Jim Steff, COG Executive Director 

SUBJECT: General Forum Resolution

During its January 24, 2011 meeting the General Forum of the Centre Region COG referred the *enclosed* model resolution to the municipalities for consideration and implementation as they deem appropriate.

The recommendations contained in this resolution identify the values of the Centre Region elected officials as they relate to energy conservation, sustainability and efforts to reduce green house gas emissions.

I ask that you keep the Resolution's values and environmental goals in mind as you:

- Purchase vehicles and mechanical equipment
- Review designs for new or renovated COG related buildings
- Maintain grounds and plantings
- Maintain buildings and purchase building supplies
- Recommend budget appropriations

As you take steps to implement these recommendations please keep me informed. I would like to report your actions to the General Forum so that they know we are being pro-active about implementing the values they believe are important.

MODEL RESOLUTION 2011-1

WHEREAS, it is in the nation's, region's and individual municipality's interest to reduce the environmental, human health and national security impacts resulting from the production and use of our energy resources, and

WHEREAS, a Centre Region Greenhouse Gas Emissions Inventory report¹ has been produced by faculty and students in the Department of Geography at The Pennsylvania State University, and

WHEREAS, that report indicates that three sectors of energy use in the Centre Region produce 96% of the gaseous releases. These sectors are Electricity (59%), Local Transportation (21%), and On-site Fuels (16%), and

WHEREAS, although electricity use is a clean form of energy, most of the electricity produced, the combustion of transportation and on-site fuels, and the import of certain of those fuels can have an adverse impact on the environment, human health and national security, and

WHEREAS, using suggestions by residents of the region a Prioritized Greenhouse Gas Mitigation Options report² has been produced by faculty and students in the Department of Geography at The Pennsylvania State University, and

WHEREAS, that report contains a number of suggested mitigation options for each of the three sectors of energy use (Electricity, Local Transportation and On-site Fuels) for consideration by municipalities, and

WHEREAS, the Borough of State College has previously developed an action plan in the form of a set of municipal goals³

THEREFORE, IT IS RESOLVED, that each of the five municipalities in the Centre Region will consider developing and implementing an action plan to mitigate --- to the extent that it has the authority, responsibility, and ability --- the environmental, human health, and national security impacts resulting from the municipality's use of energy.

IT IS FURTHER RESOLVED, that the following example mitigation options, as well as others (e.g., in the cited Mitigation Options report) which are determined to be suitable for inclusion, are provided for use by the individual municipalities in developing an action plan which is tailor-made to their specific township's uniqueness.

1. Centre Region Greenhouse Gas Emissions Inventory, by Peter D. Howe and edited by Brent Yarnal and Howard Greenberg, no date.
2. Prioritized Greenhouse Gas Mitigation Options, by Kevin Hillmer-Pegram and edited by Brent Yarnal and Howard Greenberg, no date.
3. Resolution 944, Declaration of the Borough of State College as a Climate Protection Community, August 27, 2007.

ENERGY EFFICIENCY ACTION ITEMS

Electricity

As feasible, technically possible, and economically viable for the municipality:

1. Convert lighting in municipal buildings and facilities to ones that are more energy efficient than incandescent bulbs and T12 fluorescent tubes (e.g., compact fluorescent lights (CFL), T5 or T8 fluorescent tubes, etc.)
2. Convert municipal street and traffic lights to maximize energy efficiency (e.g., induction lighting, light emitting diodes (LED), etc.)
3. Consider the use of motion detecting light switches for internal lighting
4. Consider energy efficient lighting (indoor and outdoor) for new facilities
5. Purchase Energy Star appliances
6. Reduce parasitic power loads by turning off electrical equipment not required to be operating during off-duty hours (e.g., computers, printers, copiers, scanners, etc.)
7. Pursue bulk electricity purchases for municipal use through Co-Ops and help locate electricity Co-Ops for residents
8. Encourage developers in their property owner association covenants to permit outside drying of clothes
9. Encourage the installation of operable windows in newly constructed or renovated buildings to reduce need for "conditioned" air
10. Encourage businesses to reduce their off-hour internal and external lighting consistent with security and heating requirements
11. Provide education programs to code staff and local builders on methods to construct environmentally efficient buildings
12. Through municipal newsletters and websites, encourage energy conservation programs and energy audits (e.g. Allegheny Powers Watt Watchers, PA Small Business Development Center Environmental Management Assistance Program, SEDA-COG)

Transportation

As feasible, technically possible, and economically viable for the municipality:

13. Continue to plan for and require bike and pedestrian facilities in new developments
14. Prepare a regional bike facilities map that identifies missing linkages. Continue to plan and build interconnected bike paths
15. Consider winter maintenance of bike paths

16. Promulgate and/or enforce sidewalk ordinances
17. Encourage car-pooling of employees
18. Consider work-at-home options and flexible work hours, such as a 4 day work week, for employees
19. Prior to the purchase of vehicles consider maximizing fuel efficiency
20. Implement the Centre County Long Range Transportation Plan 2040 initiatives that advance public transportation and ride sharing
21. Implement the Centre County Long Range Transportation Plan 2040 initiatives that advance congestion management strategies (e.g., signal coordination, traffic circles, access management, incident management, flexible work schedules)

On-site Fuels

As feasible, technically possible, and economically viable for the municipality:

22. Consider alternative forms of heating and cooling municipal buildings such as by use of geothermal heat pump systems
23. Consider solar thermal or geothermal heat pump hot water systems for municipal buildings
24. Through the use of programmable thermostats and other controls, lower building temperatures during off-hours
25. Consider energy efficiency when replacing heating and cooling systems
26. Consider low maintenance grasses and plants for facilities
27. Relax stringent municipal ordinances and encourage developers to relax home owner's association covenants regarding excessive lawn care (e.g., relax grass height restrictions and other grooming requirements)

Through municipal newsletters and websites, encourage:

28. Improved weatherization of homes and businesses
29. Homeowners and businesses to lower thermostats emphasizing economic and environmental benefits
30. The use of programmable thermostats to lower temperatures at nights and when building are unoccupied
31. The use of geothermal heat pump systems for homes and businesses

Encourage developers to consider:

32. Installing neighborhood-wide geothermal heating and cooling systems
33. Installing main natural gas lines under all streets in new developments