

Environmental Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes
April 7, 2026

Attendees: Dan Dehner, Bill Silverstein, Krikor Panossian, Paul Nuschke, Karen Shinkle

Ad-hoc Members and Guest Attendees: Lili Panossian

Regrets: Britt Dunning, Jenny Ashbrook, Michael Krauss, Cory Salmon, Shaina Barnes

Identified Next Steps / Action Items

Date Identified	Responsible Person	Description	Due Date
2026-04-07	Dan	Find out if Swarthmore is doing Glass Recycling. If so, where is the recycling bin located, and is it open to anyone outside of Swarthmore? Report to Krikor	By next meeting
2026-04-07	Dan	Remove the following 2 items from standing agenda until a useable Comprehensive Plan is available: *Making recommendations as to the possible use of open land areas of this township *Keeping an index of all open areas, publicly or privately owned, including but not limited to flood-prone areas, swamps and other unique natural areas	When a useable Comprehensive Plan is made available, these items will be added back to the standing agenda

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Agenda: Theme: *What do you plan to contribute to the EAC in 2026?*

1. Approve Minutes:

- i. Dan to provide Approved PDF version to Maureen

2. EAC Charter:

- i. Identifying environmental problems:

1. Recycling

1. Yard Waste update from Township

- a. [Leaves & Mulch | Nether Providence Township](#)
- b. Bill: Where does it go?
- c. What to do with the Ivy? Does it go to the trash?
To Recycling/composts?

2. Sustainability Conference - Zero Waste

a. The 5 R's Hierarchy:

- i. Refuse what you do not need,
- ii. Reduce what you do need,
- iii. Reuse items (durable over disposable),
- iv. Recycle what cannot be refused/reduced,
and
- v. Rot (compost) organic waste

3. Bill is looking into the Recycling invoices

4. Krikor is looking for the Glass Recycling in Swarthmore

- a. Is it open for outside of Swarthmore
- b. **Dan** to check and report back to Krikor

2. Free the Trees update

1. Joint Project update (EAC & Parks Commission)

- a. April 9th: Conservation Trailer will arrive at Gouley Park
- b. April 11th: Boy Scouts will work in a designated area at Gouley Park
- c. April 20th: The Conservation Trailer will be returned

2. Paul's effort with Adults update

- a. March 14th: Adults were at Furness park
- b. March 21st: Adults were across Turner road from Furness

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- c. **QUESTION:** have you provided Maureen with the Liability Waiver for each participant in each event?
 - i. One waiver per participant per event.
 - ii. Maureen gave us 1 week to get the waivers to her.
 - d. Next Target area: Smedley Lieper trail between Rodgers Lane and Plush Mill Road.
- ii. Recommending plans and programs for the promotion and conservation of the natural resources and for the protection and improvement of the quality of the environment within the area of this township:
 - 1. Status of LNG Resolution
 - 1. Still in the hands of the Commissioners
 - 2. At the last meeting, it only just went in for legal review
 - 3. Disappointed that the commissioners sat on it for a month and took no action
 - 4. We will consider ourselves lucky if they ever do vote on it
 - 5. The President of the Commissioners has stated several times that Nether Providence does not vote on any issues/concerns that are outside of the township
 - 2. Rain Garden
 - 1. The Students will soon be wrapping up their efforts for the 2025/2026 School Year
 - 2. I expect the 1st iteration of the Plant Spreadsheet to be available by the end of the School year (May timeframe)
 - 3. Outdoor gas powered equipment
 - 1. Township's Position:
 - a. Nether Providence is typically not at the forefront of initiatives like this.
 - b. The Board would prefer to see more municipalities take the lead first and observe the public response.
 - c. While this isn't an immediate priority, it is something they may consider addressing in the future.
 - 2. EAC's Focus - Alternatives vs. a "Ban": **Postponed until next meeting**
 - a. Fossil Fuels emitted are bad for the environment

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- b. The noise pollution from Outdoor gas powered equipment hit dangerous levels
 - c. Research results
 - i. [Top Alternatives to Gas Generators](#)
 - ii. [Phased Implementation Ban](#)
 - d. What can we agree on?
 - i. Postponed until next meeting
 - e. Who can do research and report on topic?
 - i. Postponed until next meeting
4. 3 member Bird Town Committee
 - 1. On the Nether Providence Website: ([link](#))
 - a. Which EAC Member is the Liaison?
 - i. Ralph Graves - she spearheaded it
 - ii. It might be Krikor - Dan to check
 - b. Krikor will step into this role.
- iii. Making recommendations as to the possible use of open land areas of this township
 - 1. Responses from Media, Swarthmore, and Newtown Square
 - 1. Media: Unsure if they have ever discussed this
 - 2. Swarthmore: Provide a Yearly update to the Swarthmore council with recommendations
 - 3. Newtown Square: Our township has no funds for open space acquisition and no funding mechanism
 - 4. Nether Providence: **There will be no effort expended on this topic until the Township releases a useable Comprehensive Plan**
 - a. **Next Step:** Dan to remove from Standing Agendas
- iv. Keeping an index of all open areas, publicly or privately owned, including but not limited to flood-prone areas, swamps and other unique natural areas
 - 1. Responses from Media, Swarthmore, and Newtown Square
 - 1. Media: Unsure if they have ever discussed this
 - 2. Swarthmore: Provide a Yearly update to the Swarthmore council with recommendations
 - 3. Newtown Square: [Greenway and Open Space Plan](#)

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4. Nether Providence: **There will be no effort expended on this topic until the Township releases a useable Comprehensive Plan**
 - a. **Next Step:** Dan to remove from Standing Agendas
- v. Undertaking such additional duties as requested by the Township Commissioners
 1. From President McKenzie: Please address the "Invasives" and what can be done about them.
 1. Invasive Ivy: Free the Trees project
 - a. Currently underway - see report above
 2. Invasive Bamboo: Needs attention
 - a. Looking for a volunteer to take this on
 - i. Research how to work with Bamboo
 1. Consider using the community
 - ii. What are the areas in the township where Bamboo are present?
 1. Are these areas private or public?
 2. If Public, identify the best time of year to perform, and set a date.
 - iii. Coordinate with the Community for help
 - iv. Consider having a speaker come in and do a training: Similar to the Free the Trees effort.
 3. Idea: Identify the top 3 types of Invasives and what to do about it
3. **Administrative:**
 - i. Please help me welcome our new EAC Member: Britt Dunning
 - ii. There is a new Role in the EAC
 1. The Commissioners unanimously approved: [Junior Ad-Hoc Member](#)
 1. Congratulations: Lili Panossian!
 - iii. Paul: Analysis on how often the NPT Website is used
 1. Findings
 1. Of the areas on the Township Website, the EAC is the most visited
 - iv. Township Newsletter

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3. This meeting is open to the public
 4. All Nether Providence EAC are encouraged to attend
 - ii. WeConservePA Review
 1. e-mail - What were your thoughts on the grants identified?
 2. Send a Postcard
 1. There is a postcard campaign to identify to PA Legislators the importance of our parks.
 2. Here is the link: [We Conserve PA Postcard Campaign](#)
 3. Highly encourage anyone to participate - all voices are heard
 3. Consider signing up for their communications - Lots of EAC information which can spark new ideas, or help follow through on current concerns.
 - iii. Delco Hazardous Waste Events:
 1. Several Dates
 2. [Link](#)
 - iv. The Extraordinary Caterpillar event
 1. It is a Potluck/lecture
 2. [Link](#)
 - v. Environmental Clearinghouse Newsletter
 1. Critical information which can be used in our EAC
 2. [Link](#)
 3. Would you like the e-mail?
 1. Response:
5. **Calendar Review:**
6. **Adjourn:**
- i. Topic for the May Meeting: Community Choice Aggregation:
7. **Next Meeting:**
- i. Tuesday, May 5, 2026, at 7:00 PM at the Township Building 2nd floor conference room:

Top Alternatives to Gas Generators

- **Portable Solar Power Stations/Generators**: These are battery-based systems that can be charged via solar panels or wall outlets. They are silent, emit no fumes, and are ideal for powering essentials like phones, laptops, and refrigerators without storing gasoline.
- **Home Battery Backup Systems**: Installed in homes, systems like the Tesla Powerwall provide seamless power, often paired with solar panels to keep the system charged indefinitely during a blackout.
- **Propane or Natural Gas Generators**: These are not "gasless" but offer a cleaner alternative to gasoline, with easier storage and, in the case of natural gas, an unlimited fuel supply via household lines.
- **Diesel Generators**: Known for higher efficiency, better durability, and lower maintenance needs compared to gasoline-powered units.

Comparison: Gas vs. Battery

- **Noise**: Generators are loud (often ~68 dB), while battery stations are essentially silent.
- **Maintenance**: Gas generators require oil changes and carburetor maintenance, while batteries require virtually no maintenance.
- **Runtime**: Generators can run as long as you have fuel, whereas batteries have a set capacity based on their size.

Environmental Advisory Council Network News

Lower Merion Twp. Prepares to Launch First Season of Phased Implementation Ban on Gas-Powered Leaf Blowers



The Township of Lower Merion (Montgomery County) is preparing to implement a new ban on gas-powered leaf blower, established by ordinance in November 2025. In 2026, the use of gas-powered leaf blowers will not be allowed from June 1 to October 1. The ban window lengthens each year until 2029, when the use of gas-powered leaf blowers will be prohibited all year long.

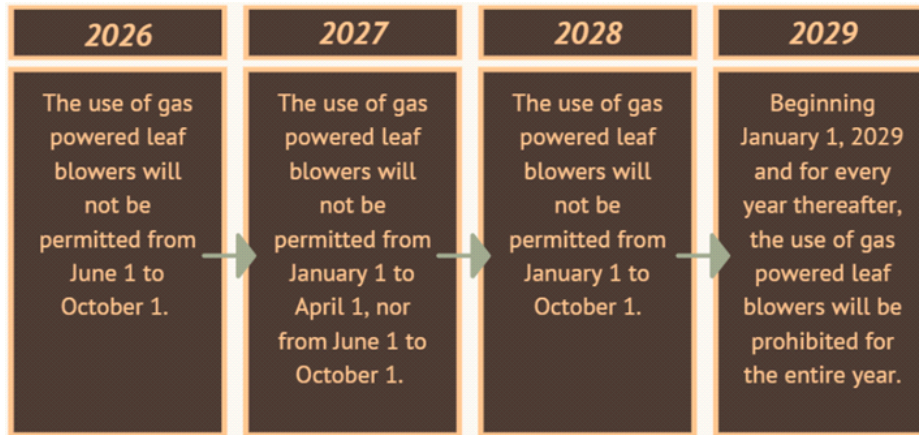


Image courtesy: [Township of Lower Merion](#)

On March 5, 2026 Lower Merion Township hosted a Landscaper Training and Equipment Exhibition at the Ludington Library. The event was attended by over 50 landscapers, who learned more about the new ordinance and had the opportunity to speak with manufacturers of electric lawn care equipment.

[The ordinance is now available at the WeConservePA Library to serve as a resource to other EACs.](#) The ordinance, along with the following educational resources, may also be found on the township website:

- [Lawn Equipment Electrification | Lower Merion Township, PA](#)
- [Gas-Powered Leaf Blower Ordinance Brochure](#)
- [Switching to Electric Leaf Blowers | Presentation by MowGreen](#)

Stay tuned for updates from Lower Merion Township as the new ban takes effect this summer, as well as opportunities to connect with other municipalities in Pennsylvania that are considering similar ordinances to regulate gas-powered equipment.

Interested in joining a working group to share information and explore phase-outs of gas-powered equipment? To connect with the group, please reach out to Rebecca Buckham at rbuckham@weconservepa.org.

2026 *REVISED* Delaware County Household Hazardous Waste (HHW) Collection Events

TICKET MUST BE PRESENT TO ACCESS EVENT *Registration required for all events,
Register at: delcohhw.eventbrite.com or scan the QR code
*Registration/QR Code will be activated 6 weeks prior to each event



This Program is offered as a community service to the residents of Delaware County and is **not open** to businesses, institutions or industry.

~ Sponsored by ~

County of Delaware

Delaware County Solid Waste Authority

Reward Holding Corporation

Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection

Think Globally, Act Locally! If improperly discarded, household products containing toxic chemicals can be a threat to people, pets and the environment. Never dispose of hazardous materials in the trash as they may harm your sanitation workers or result in a collection vehicle fire. It is also unsafe to pour HHW down a sink or storm drain as it will end up polluting our drinking water.

ONLY Household Hazardous Waste will be accepted **Electronics Waste & Latex Paint will NOT be accepted**

- **Sat., April 18th** Emergency Services Training Center
1600 Calcon Hook Rd., Sharon Hill (Darby Twp.) 19079
- **Sat., June 13th** Upper Chichester Municipal Bldg
8500 Furey Rd., Upper Chichester, PA 19061
- **Sat., Sept 12th** Rose Tree Park
1671 Providence Rd., Media PA 19063 (rear lot)
- **Sat., Oct., 17th** Emergency Services Training Center
1600 Calcon Hook Rd., Sharon Hill (Darby Twp.) 19079



ALL EVENTS BY APPOINTMENT ONLY rain or shine -REGISTRATION REQUIRED



Acceptable HHW



Unacceptable

Flammables

- Oil-based Paint
- Oil-based Sealers
- Paint Thinner
- Gasoline
- Kerosene
- Gas / Oil Mixture
- Heating/Motor Oil

Batteries (Non-Alkaline)

- Lead Acid
- Rechargeable
- Lithium
- Ni-Cad Batteries

Toxics

- Pool Chemicals
- Rust / Paint Remover
- Antifreeze

Herbicides

Pesticides

- Lawn Chemicals

Caustics

- Cleaners / Solvents

Mercury Containing Devices

- Mercury Thermostats
- Mercury Thermometers
- Fluorescent Tubes
(Compact Fluorescents a/k/a CFL's may also be recycled at any Lowes or Home Depot)

We cannot / will not accept any Electronic Items or Latex Paint

Unacceptable

- ⊘ **ELECTRONICS**
We cannot accept Electronics
- ⊘ **Smoke Detectors**
(Please dispose with household trash)
- ⊘ **Latex Paint**
Remove lid and allow to dry or mix with absorbent material until no longer a liquid. Discard lids separately and place with your curbside trash.
- ⊘ **Asbestos**
- ⊘ **Explosives**
- ⊘ **Gas or Propane Cylinders**
- ⊘ **PCB's**
- ⊘ **No 50 Gallon Drums**

- Lithium
- Ni-Cad Batteries
- Cleaners / Solvents

**Electronic Items or
Latex Paint**

For additional information, contact:
 Delaware County Solid Waste Authority 610-892-9627
 Driving Directions can be found by visiting:
www.delcoswa.org

- ⊘ **Explosives**
- ⊘ **Gas or Propane Cylinders**
- ⊘ **PCB's**
- ⊘ **No 50 Gallon Drums**
- ⊘ **Pressurized CFC's**
- ⊘ **Tires**
- ⊘ **Medical Waste**

**** Only 5 gallons containers marked for Household Use Only will be accepted**

Alkaline Batteries -
 (Please dispose with household trash)

Printed on Recycled Paper



TAKE A PEEK INTO THE DAZZLING WORLD OF NATURE'S TINIEST AND MIGHTIEST SUPERHEROES!



PHOTO BY SAM JAFFE

A FILM BY JEFF MCKAY

FEATURING

SAM JAFFE AND THE CATERPILLAR LAB,
DOUG TALLAMY, AND DAVID WAGNER

THE EXTRAORDINARY CATERPILLAR



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OFFICE@OPENCONNECTIONS.ORG

SAVE THE DATE!

APRIL 16, 2026

5 PM - ABOUT 8 PM

BRING A DISH TO SHARE, WATCH THE DOCUMENTARY, AND ENJOY A Q&A WITH A XERCES SOCIETY AMBASSADOR. REDBUD NATIVE PLANT NURSERY WILL ALSO BE THERE TO SHARE INFORMATION.

**1616 DELCHESTER RD,
NEWTOWN SQUARE, PA**

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