



PLANNING DEPARTMENT

C u m b e r l a n d C o u n t y



Cumberland County, PA Climate Action Plan

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Cumberland County Climate Action Plan

Target Community: Cumberland County, PA

Key Partners: Plan creation – Dickinson College, Shippensburg Center for Land Use Sustainability, PA-DEP, focus group members – municipal, energy, transportation, waste management, agricultural

Planning Process Timeframe: 2020 - 2021

Scale: Countywide (Population: 259,469 – US Census)

Cost: TBD

Brief Description: Cumberland County was selected by PA Department of Environmental Protection to be part of 2nd cohort of Local Climate Action Program (LCAP) in 2020. The program matches local governments with college students and faculty, and a contractor to develop greenhouse gas inventories and climate action plans. Our plan focuses on implementation actions that residents, businesses, and the county and municipalities can take to address the inputs of greenhouse gases and to mitigate the impacts of warmer, wetter weather on our citizens, the natural and cultural resources and our property.

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Top 3-4 Challenges:

1. Limits to county jurisdiction, role
2. Perception – too big to grasp, to create positive influence
3. Largest impacts are from sectors we have little control over – transportation for example.
4. Limited staffing, other resources to take action on all recommendations in the plan

Top 3-4 Solutions:

1. Leading by example with operational improvements (Energy efficiency, vehicle fleet electrification, alternative energy generation)
2. Plan focuses on implementation strategies on various levels of organization, to enhance what is already being done
3. We offer technical assistance, education and coordination with communities, lead webinar series with partners
4. Public survey – ask people what barriers exist and propose solutions

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Funding and Data Sources:

- PA DEP – LCAP Program
- GHG Inventory, Reports generated through Shared Energy Manager
- Alternative Fuels Incentive Grant Program, Driving PA Forward
- Bipartisan Infrastructure Law

Equity Considerations and Integration:

- Vulnerability and Adaptation Assessment – populations in farming occupations, people with low income, people who live in flood prone areas, people with health conditions that are susceptible to climate
- Outreach to impacted communities for impacts and perceived benefits of implementing plan elements

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Key Takeaways/Recommendations:

- **Focus on implementation from Day 1 - this will be important to measure the impacts of your actions**
- **Focus on what can be done, and who should take the prescribed actions – people need to see a role for themselves in the solution**
- **Encourage and collaborate with other communities with overlapping goals – to avoid redundancy and share resources where possible**
- **Incorporate climate/resiliency considerations into all elements for which you are currently responsible**