

Borough of Carlisle
Climate Action Commission
Executive Committee
Meeting Summary
August 19, 2021
7:00 PM

- I. Joel Hicks called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM.

Present at the meeting: Joel Hicks, Sean Shultz, Karla Farrell, Mohamed Badissy, Sara Markowitz, Tamela Trussell, Tony Underwood, Jim Roland Tom Horton, Tony Rymer, Owen Snyder, and Joyce Stone.

II. Meeting Minutes

- A. Executive Committee voted 7-0 to approve the May 6, 2021 meeting minutes.

III. Public Comment

No public comment was received

I. Presentation:

An updated on the PPL Act 129 program was provided by Mr. Chris Schoemaker. He presented information on Energy Efficiency Programs made available through PPL. (See attachments)

Mr. Hicks commented that it will become important moving forward to educate home and business owners of the energy efficiency programs that are available in the Borough. He suggested having a dedicated person at PPL to provide information to the residents.

Mr. Hicks provided an update on an upcoming decision by DEP to use forty percent of the RGGI revenues for environmental justice communities, which would include the Borough of Carlisle. He would like to see more energy efficient options offered to our low-income community with future strategizing.

II. Chair updates

- A. Potential Widener Law projects for draft ordinances

The students from Widener Law are presently working on ordinances such as single use plastics and how to improve higher density utilization.

- B. Working on a policy analysis relationship with Dickinson College

College Professors are interested in helping the Borough develop policy recommendations for council goals. One goal is to move forward on a single use plastic reduction analysis. The Borough will work with Dickinson students and faculty on this policy over an eight month timeline.

C. EV-Charging and Parking Public Comment

Another project of interest is electric vehicle charging systems. A concern was received from a resident expressing challenges for EV charging when parking is not always available in front of homes.

III. Team Lead Updates:

A. Community Engagement: Sara Markowitz

The intern from Dickinson has completed his summer internship. The team will host focus groups from various businesses, using the size of their workspace as the criteria for each group. They will present descriptions of the six CAC projects to the focus groups and information collected will be included in the final plan to the Commission. The team will continue to discuss community values and plan to develop a list of “do’s and don’ts” values over the next two weeks.

Mr. Underwood recommended receiving feedback on the CAC vision statement and objectives would be used for the criteria of assessing co-benefits. This would also help his team access co-benefits across the different actions.

B. Pathways & Analytics: Tony Underwood

The team is now refining the work they have done and will be updating the facts sheets that will become part of the deliverable plan. He noted as they learn how many persons could be reached with the energy efficiency programs, a realistic assessment of the projections will be done by using ClearPath. This will determine what drives the effectiveness of the mission and provide a mission for the next year. Mr. Underwood suggested more guidance is needed regarding rating the various categories of co-benefits as high or low impact.

Mr. Hicks suggested a quantitative assessment should be developed to tell how well the effectiveness of the six projects can be measured. Mr. Underwood recommended setting target criteria for participation in the program and what needs to happen to reach that target in future years.

Ms. Trussell inquired if the Commission is aware of situations where homeowners do not qualify for RGGI energy-efficient upgrades due to code deficiencies. Mr. Hicks responded that they are aware of this.

C. Zoning: Karla Farrell

The team is working with the objectives and goals from the comprehensive plan and how they relate to the climate action plan goals and objectives. They also took the Pathways & Analytics team’s goals and categorized them within the comprehensive plan goals. They will then look at design guidelines and potential ordinances to consider. The team is also focusing on equity issues. For example, sidewalk cafes do not benefit everyone in the community. Perhaps seating area spaces could be created for general public use. The team is also reviewing transportation, street issues, and zoning issues. She noted that addressing these issues will make a more walkable and friendly town. They have also looked at the Borough’s weed ordinance and will work on replacing it with conservation planting. Ms. Farrell stated that the team will focus on design guidelines incorporated into available funding.

D. Projects & Estimates: Mohamed Badissy

The team is collecting the case studies to use for the program. They have met with the Center for Rural Pennsylvania and the Sustainable Energy Fund, who were able to share examples from other communities of what they have actually built and changed to have an impact on their own climate goals. He noted that the Commission has not started the actual cost-benefit analysis and this would be the time to adjust the priorities. They could focus on physical options for adjustments, construction, or transition of the community infrastructure.

Mr. Hicks questioned if there would be interest from the volunteers on the teams to extend the process of the Commission for another year. He suggested team leads meeting to discuss the process of making recommendations on the six projects that would usher the Commission into year two of the process.

Mr. Badissy spoke of communications with other communities that have changed their process into a pure feasibility conversation such as, can it be built? Is there money or capacity? The secondary point is if it can be built, is it worth building or doing because of both its fundamental economic value and its code benefits. He remarked that there could be a conversation this year about feasibility or a longer-term, more informed community-driven discussion about the value of those feasible choices and options that have both economic and community values.

IV. Other EC member Updates

Mr. Sean Schultz remarked that ICLEI was excited by what the Commission has been doing and they would like the Commission to participate in the presentation for the September LCAP meeting.

Mr. Hicks thanked the Commission and expressed his appreciation for their efforts and every minute of time that is put into the work on the Commission.

V. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 8:29 PM.

Presentation provided by Chris Schoemaker with PPL

PPL Electric Utilities Energy Efficiency Programs are suited for everyone in the community. Whether you are a resident, small business, or larger business, we have a suite of energy efficient programs for all customers within our service territory. You can find details on all the programs mentioned below at www.pplelectric.com/ways-to-save

Programs for Residents

Appliance Recycling – Customers are paid \$35 for turning in inefficient refrigerators and freezers that are in working condition. As an add-on, we will also collect and pay \$10 for inefficient dehumidifiers and room air conditioners on the same visit. To participate:

- Customers can call, 1-877-486-9204, 8am-6pm EST, or schedule online.
- In-home and curbside pick-up
- PPL Electric picks up and recycles old inefficient units.
- Customer receives the check in the mail between 4 to 6 weeks from time of pickup.
- Look for recycling events throughout out the territory

Residential Rebates – Customers receive rebates on the purchase of specific energy efficient items for their home. Some popular examples include water heaters, HVAC equipment, smart thermostats, and more. The full list of qualified items is on our website <https://www.pplelectricsavings.com/HomeEquipment/Products>.

Online Marketplace – Customers can avoid rebate forms and get their discount directly by purchasing items directly from PPL Electric in our online store.

In-Home and Virtual Audits - During an In-Home audit, a Building Performance Institute (BPI) certified contractor will walk a customer through their heating and cooling systems and provide energy-saving recommendations specific to their home. The virtual assessment will connect customers with an energy advisor virtually for a no-cost, personalized efficiency tour of your home with personalized recommendations.

New Construction – Customers can save money and contribute to their carbon footprint by purchasing an energy efficient home. Customers building a new home should inquire with their builder if they participate in the New Home program. With this program, the company provides incentives to builders who install energy efficient measures that go beyond normal code requirements.

Efficient Lighting - Participating customers can purchase a variety of discounted LED specialty bulbs at local retail stores and the Company's Online Marketplace.

Programs for Businesses

Business Energy Efficiency Program - Commercial & industrial customers can take advantage of rebates on energy efficient products and services (lighting, HVAC, refrigeration, etc.) through multiple methods. All projects require pre-approval to ensure eligibility and allow for necessary data collection. The list of rebates can be found online. The components of the program are as follows:

- **Distributor Instant Discount Program** - Discounts on lighting fixtures and bulbs available at participating distributors. Visit online for a complete list of distributors and eligible products.

- **Direct Discount Program**- Designed specifically for small-business customers. Participating contractors assist small businesses in identifying a project, explain the energy savings associated to the project, complete the installation, and submit the application.
- **Efficient Equipment Program** – Incentives for completing energy efficiency replacements such as lighting, HVAC, refrigeration and more. Projects are incentivized based on energy (kWh) and demand (kW) savings. Your contractor of choice submits the project for pre-approval to determine the estimated savings amount.
- **Custom Program** - Offers incentives for equipment outside of the efficient equipment program such as process improvements, compressed air optimization, HVAC retro-commissioning, etc. As the name implies, the program is unique to each customer and the way they use energy. Custom project must pass a cost-effective test to be eligible. Custom projects are incentivized based on energy (kWh) and demand (kW) savings. Your contractor of choice submits the project for preapproval to determine the estimated savings amount.

Programs for Schools

Student Energy Education Program – Offered free to schools in our community. THINK! ENERGY education programs teach students in grades 2-12 about energy efficiency and environmental issues and provides students with kits to take home that include energy efficient measures for their home.

Program for Low-income Residents

Direct Install Program – Customers with households that are within 150% of the Federal Poverty Guidelines receive energy efficient measures and services for free! To participate:

- Customer can either apply online or call 1-888-232-6302.
- Customers will be sent a welcome kit to try and entice them to sign up for the Assessment program.
- PPL Electric schedules appointment for remote energy assessment.
- PPL Electric conducts remote walk-thru assessment over the phone to identify energy saving opportunities.
- PPL Electric sends customer a customized energy reduction package (CERP) of energy saving materials for customer to install.
- PPL Electric will resume in-home audits for single family, multi-family and manufactured housing when appropriate and requested by customers.