

The first public meeting on the Climate Action Plan

The Bethlehem Gadfly Climate Action Plan, Environmental Advisory Council June 18, 2020

 Latest in a series on Bethlehem's Climate Action Plan 

Bethlehem's Climate Action Plan BethlehemCAP.org

CITY OF BETHLEHEM STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT PLAN FOR CLIMATE ACTION PLAN DEVELOPMENT

Pandemic — George Floyd — Rayshard Brooks — Global Warming

So many crises buffeting us these days. Shell-shocking. Easy to lose sight of the two virtual public meetings hosted yesterday by Bethlehem-based engineering firm WSP and science-based community center Nurture Nature Center (NNC), located in Easton, who were selected as consultants to develop the Bethlehem Climate Action Plan. We expect that the slides from yesterday's meetings and perhaps some audio/video will eventually be available on the [Bethlehem CAP web site](https://bethlehemcap.org).



The screenshot shows a virtual meeting interface with three participants: Jeff Cook, Matt Diner, and Edyta Swenson. Below them is a slide titled "What is in a Climate Action Plan (CAP)?" which explains that the CAP is a roadmap and lists its components: Principles, Baseline, Goals & Targets, Actions & Strategies, Implementation Approach, and Reporting & Accountability.

What is in a Climate Action Plan (CAP)?

The Climate Action Plan is a roadmap. Implementation follows the release of the plan.

- Principles
- Baseline
- Goals & Targets
- Actions & Strategies
- Implementation Approach
- Reporting & Accountability

WSP will lead the CAP project and provide world-class subject-matter climate and engineering expertise. WSP is the subject-matter expert. WSP will work with NNC to advise the City on strategies related to communicating progress with the project process and gathering public input. NNC will develop engagement strategies. NNC looks like the communication expert. Public engagement seems to be a key element in the development of the CAP.

CAP WORKING GROUP MEMBER ORGANIZATIONS

- Alliance for Sustainable Communities – Lehigh Valley
- ArtsQuest
- Bethlehem Area School District
- Bethlehem Chamber of Commerce
- Bethlehem City Council
- Bethlehem Environmental Advisory Council (EAC)
- Bethlehem Parking Authority
- Buy Fresh Buy Local (Lehigh Valley)
- Citizens' Climate Lobby (Lehigh Valley chapter)
- City of Bethlehem, City Clerk
- City of Bethlehem, Emergency Management
- City of Bethlehem, Planning & Zoning
- City of Bethlehem, Public Works
- Community Action Committee of the Lehigh Valley
- Greater LV Chamber of Commerce, Diversity Council
- LANTA
- Lehigh University
- Liberty High School Environmental Club
- Lehigh Valley Green Building United
- Lehigh Valley Industrial Park
- LVHN
- Make the Road – Pennsylvania
- Moravian College
- New Bethany Ministries
- PPL
- UGI
- Sierra Club
- Sustainable Energy Fund
- Watershed Coalition of the Lehigh Valley
- Wind Creek Bethlehem

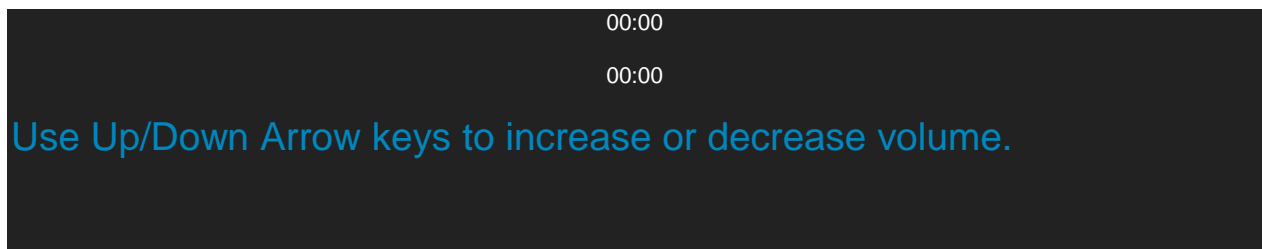
According to the tentative schedule (already modified) the final CAP is due during the first quarter of 2021. Looks like the first meeting of the working group (CAP WG) has already occurred. At least two more public meetings are planned.

KEY MILESTONES AND ANTICIPATED TIMELINE

Date	Milestone	Objectives
April 2020	First CAP WG meeting	Outline plan and expectations; information gathering through surveys and discussions
May 2020	First public meeting (informational)	Announce the process; highlight prior and existing City actions on climate; solicit public input; and administer a survey to gather input and understand the public's priorities
July 2020	Second CAP WG meeting (working session)	Help inform and develop components of the CAP.
September 2020	Second public meeting	Discuss goals and future vision for climate action in Bethlehem, with a focus on strategies for inclusion in the plan.
November 2020	Third public meeting	Present the draft CAP to the public and solicit feedback.
Jan. - Mar. 2021	CAP announcement	Public release of final CAP and kick off ongoing discussions to facilitate implementation


As mentioned above, we hope that some audio/video from the public meetings will eventually be provided on the [Bethlehem CAP web site](#). But, for now, your technologically challenged Gadfly can only provide this awful audio of the meeting hosts describing the “What is in a Climate Action Plan?” slide above. You will need to vacuum out your ear wax, turn your speaker to 100%, and glue yourself to the speaker. The sound gets a little better after the first minute or two but not much. On the other hand, you might want to just skip the whole damn lousy audio. Sorry.

Audio Player



Gadfly would love to hear from people who are actively involved in the climate movement and, especially, who attended the virtual meeting. Those who attended the meeting might tell us what they contributed to the discussion section of the session.

He knows you're out there!

Tip o' the hat to Councilman Reynolds, the Environmental Advisory Council, Mayor  Donchez, Michael Alkhal, and, of course, many others on the City staff for getting us to this significant point.

The Bethlehem Gadfly