


Public needed at Climate Action Plan meeting Wednesday

The Bethlehem Gadfly | Climate Action Plan, Environment, Environmental Advisory Council | June 16, 2020 | 1 Minute

 *The latest in a series of posts relating to the environment, Bethlehem's Climate*

Action Plan, and Bethlehem's Environmental Advisory Council 

Bethlehem Climate Action Plan Public Virtual Meeting

Virtual Meeting Registration



Make your voice heard

at the first public meeting to inform the creation of
Bethlehem's Climate Action Plan (CAP).

A Climate Action Plan (CAP) addresses climate change by promoting resilience through mitigation strategies that reduce greenhouse gas emissions such as increased energy efficiency, and through adaptation strategies that help the community prepare for the impacts of climate change such as stormwater runoff improvements for flood prevention.

The City and consultant WSP will introduce the climate action planning process and the planned timeline for Bethlehem and provide information about actions the City has taken to date that address climate change. Then, find out how you can share YOUR thoughts on the goals and priorities you want to see reflected in the plan.

**This virtual meeting will be held
Wednesday, June 17, at both 12:00 pm and 5:30 pm.**

Please register for the session that is most convenient for you at
<https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/rt/7859566807906925067>

Community input is crucial to the success of Bethlehem's Climate Action Plan.

Start providing input now

Please also respond to the 10 minute CAP public input survey by going to
in English: <https://tinyurl.com/bethlehemCAPpublic>
en español: <https://tinyurl.com/bethlehemCAPpublicspanish>

Additional information about Bethlehem's CAP planning can be found at:
BethlehemCAP.org

from Christina Tatu, “Bethlehem asks for public’s input on Climate Action Plan.” June 15, 2020.

Once known for Bethlehem Steel, with its towering blast furnaces that sent plumes of smoke into the sky and a coating of ore dust into surrounding neighborhoods, Bethlehem has done a lot to clean up its image.

Over the last 15 years, the city has reduced its greenhouse gas emissions by nearly 40%, and by the end of the year officials are hoping to have a climate action plan to make Bethlehem even more environmentally friendly. There will be two forums Wednesday to gather public input for the plan, which was proposed by Councilman J. William Reynolds in 2017.

When finished, the plan will outline policies the city can support to reduce its carbon footprint, or the amount of greenhouse gasses it produces that cause climate change. The plan will also analyze hazards the city could face from climate change, such as increased temperatures and flooding, and it will outline measures local businesses and residents can take to reduce their environmental impact.

Wednesday’s forums will include information about what the city has done to reduce emissions and will ask residents what they see as the most important goals going forward, said Jeffrey Irvine, a project director with WSP.

A group of stakeholders has also been discussing what the goals should be, Reynolds said. The group of about 50 includes members of the public, representatives from Moravian College and Lehigh University, local business owners and environmental proponents.

Proposals include encouraging restaurants to limit foam and plastic packaging with takeout orders and using local ingredients, said Lynn

Rothman, chairwoman of Bethlehem's Environmental Advisory Council, who is also a stakeholder.

The group also wants to see the city hire a sustainability officer to help implement any environmental policies that are developed.