Lower Providence's Bi-Partisan Sustainability Resolution

Township action to reduce carbon emissions & address local climate impacts

Gary Neights, Township Supervisor

September 14, 2019

Township Supervisor Perspective

Elected: 2017...



About Lower Providence



- 7,500 Homes
- 28,000 People
- **Municipal services:**
 - Park and Rec
 - Library
 - Police Force
 - Public Works

Map data ©2019

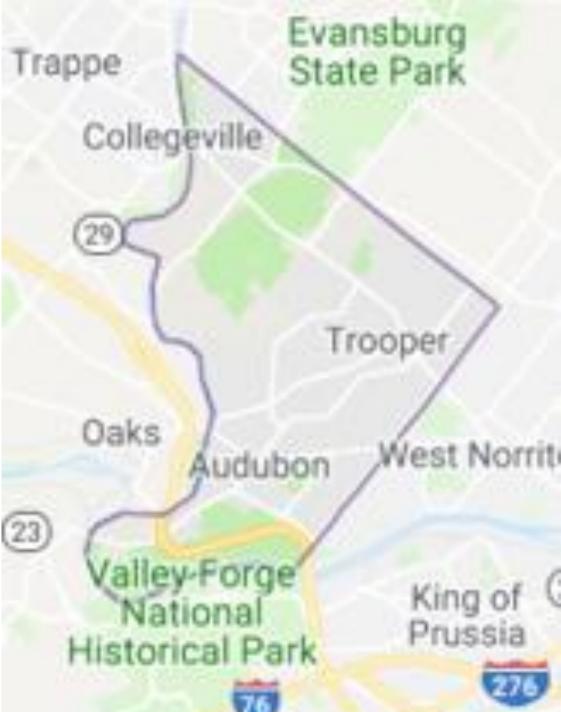
- Municipal support
 - **Business Association**

EMS



PROBLEMS

- No electric car charging infrastructure
- Can't walk or bike to parks
- Mind set locking that in



Poor multi-modal project execution



Recent 422 Project and Trooper Road Project

As an elected official I want more sustainable development





Grass Pavement (plastic grid reinforced pavers) for reserve parking & extensive rain garden area with curb inlets

Making our Parking Lots Sustainable & Environmental Assets -- March 2010 Dansko's Green Roof and bioretention/rain garden



https://www.lowermerion.org/home/showdocument?id=3468

Desired End State

- Multi-modal transportation
- From from 'sidewalks to no where' mindset to 'more value with every addition'
 Increase demand to live and work here

Sustainability Resolution





• Facebook inquiry by citizen on Sustainability

- Floated to other board members privately
- Introduced at public meeting... (1-4)
- Iterations...
- Finally adopted (5-0)

Iterations

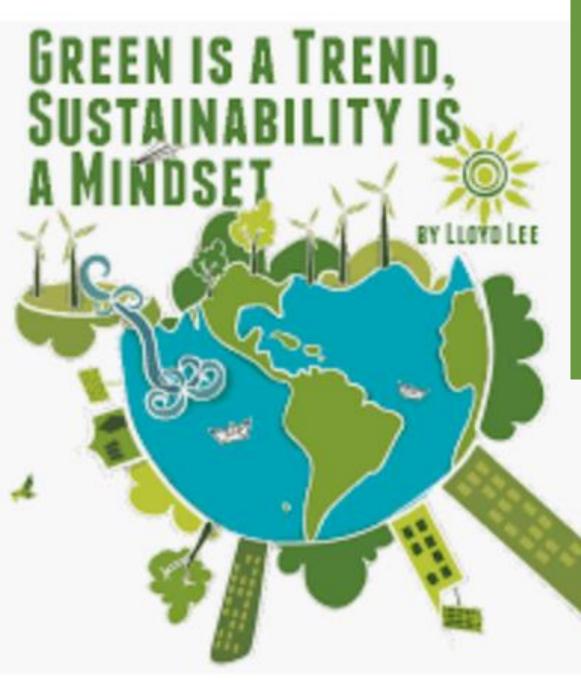
- Radnor's
 - Green power for all buildings by 2050...
- Majority Party
 - Praised township efforts to date
 - Evaluate green power on public buildings
 - Township engineer to weigh in on projects
- Minority Party
 - Defined issue based on recent UN Report CARBON
 - Defined sustainability (UN definition)...
 - Asked for EAC to weigh in on projects free and unbiased)
 - Called for annual Earth Day Proclamation
 - Called on township to lobby state and federal
 - Called for electric car infrastructure

Watch out: GREENWASH

Final bi-partisan resolution elements

- Radnor's
 - Green power for all buildings by 2050
- Majority Party
 - Praised township efforts to date, more praise
 - Evaluate green power on public buildings
 - Township engineer to weigh in on projects
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 - Defined issue based on recent UN Report CARBON
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https://www.lowerprovidence.org/sites/lowerprovidencepa/files/upload s/resolution_2019-24_sustainability-renewable_energy.pdf



RESULTS

- Small mindset changes
 Discussion of sidewalks and green
 Township engineer (Oct 1 start)
 Environmental impact analysis of
 - new projects
- Citizen's organizing an EAC
- Small steps to mitigate / reduce CO2