

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
- Municipal support
 - Business Association
 - EMS

Diamonds in the Rough



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



*Dansko's Green
Roof and bio-
retention/rain
garden*

**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*

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
- 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
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https://www.lowerprovidence.org/sites/lowerprovidencecpa/files/uploads/resolution_2019-24_sustainability-renewable_energy.pdf

GREEN IS A TREND, SUSTAINABILITY IS A MINDSET



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