

RESOLUTION 2011-3-10

**RESOLUTION FOR TOWNSHIP COUNCIL TO RE-ADOPT
THE GREEN ACTION PLAN IN ORDER TO RECOGNIZE THE ACCOMPLISHMENTS OF
THE TOWNSHIP IN MAKING CHERRY HILL A MORE SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITY AND
TO ESTABLISH NEW GOALS FOR THE FUTURE**

WHEREAS, on March 10, 2008 Cherry Hill Township Council adopted a 10 point Green Action Plan (the Plan) to guide the Township toward becoming a more sustainable community; and

WHEREAS, the Township Council adopted the Plan in recognition of the grave environmental condition of our society and in adopting the Plan took a proactive role in improving our overall quality of life by implementing far-reaching green initiatives that have helped to make Cherry Hill a sustainable community and shrink our carbon footprint.

WHEREAS, at the time of adoption and moving forward into the future the Plan has three initiative areas: 1. Community Partnership; 2. Environmental Education; 3. Attainment of specific environmental goals. Combined, these initiatives have made sustainability a priority throughout the Township and have guided the Township toward creating new standards of sustainability for our community; and

WHEREAS, the Township recognizes the success of our community partner Sustainable Cherry Hill – a grassroots, community based organization – in educating our community about sustainability and assisting the Township in attaining Sustainable Jersey Certification through the multitude of projects they have completed; and

WHEREAS, the Township wishes to continue its path toward becoming a model of sustainability in New Jersey and across the nation as an EPA Climate Showcase Community, creating a framework for local action to reduce our community-wide carbon footprint and providing a format to quantitatively measure our success; and

WHEREAS, the Mayor and Township Council seek to recognize the success attained by our community since the adoption of the Plan by completing a number of the 10 points identified in the 2008 Plan including:

1. Create benchmarks through an energy audit and carbon footprint calculation.
 - a. An energy audit of the Municipal Building was completed in 2008, since that time the township has made a number of efforts to reduce our energy consumption including new LED lighting in the Community Center.
 - b. Sustainable Cherry Hill held many educational seminars to help residents understand home energy audits and energy efficiency upgrades.
2. Increase the overall recycling rate in Cherry Hill by installing an incentive-based recycling program.
 - a. In 2007, the Township began our Recycle Bank program, paying back our residents for recycling more. The program will be expanded in 2011 to include plastics 4, 5, and 7.
 - b. Since the implementation of the Recycle Bank program the Township has increased its diversion rate by more than 60%.
 - c. Sustainable Cherry Hill has held an educational seminar to help residents and businesses understand the how to decrease their solid waste and increase recycling rates.
3. Explore renewable energy resources, including solar energy panels to reduce energy costs in Cherry Hill Township.
 - a. The Township has installed a 100kWh solar array on the rooftop of the Department of Public Works building Sustainable Cherry Hill has held an educational seminar on solar panels to help residents understand the benefits of residential solar.
4. Conduct green events and educational forums in Cherry Hill and solicit input from residents and businesses.
 - a. Sustainable Cherry Hill has conducted multiple educational and community outreach forums ranging from home energy audits to waste and composting, reaching an estimated 3000 people. Sustainable Cherry Hill has also held an annual Earth Day Festival to both celebrate our community and educate our residents about our sustainability efforts, reaching an estimated 6000 people.
 - b. Became an EPA Climate Showcase Community in 2010 and have sought input from residents and businesses as to how to best achieve success in creating a model for sustainability for communities across the nation.
5. Set an example by becoming a Clean Power Community Partner and encourage residents to do the same, in addition exploring the opportunity to become a New Jersey Clean Energy Partner.
 - a. The Township became a Clean Power Community Partner; however, the program is no longer supported by the New Jersey Clean Energy Program.
6. Replace incandescent light bulbs with compact fluorescent light (CFL) and light emanating diode (LED) bulbs and promote usage throughout the Township.

- a. The Township has explored options to upgrade the lighting in all municipal buildings and has completed the upgrade in the Community Center.
 - b. As a BPU Community Partner, the Township has engaged the services of the Green New Jersey Resource Team to canvas communities in the Township, educate them about CFL bulbs and have handed out free CFL bulbs at the Municipal Building and at Township events.
7. Adopt annual tree-planting program for carbon offsets.
 - a. The township has worked with local corporate entities to plant trees across the Township and with the support of the Cherry Hill Environmental Advisory Committee has planted trees all across the Township including 50 trees that will be donated by the New Jersey Tree Foundation.
8. Promote E-Waste recycling and analyze a convenient alternative to properly disposing of E-Waste in Cherry Hill Township.
 - a. The Township has begun collecting E-Waste at the Department of Public Works.
9. Integrate hybrid and fuel efficient vehicles into the Township fleet.
 - a. The township has purchased three electric hybrid vehicles, has a large number of flex-fuel vehicles and has converted a number of DPW vehicles into bio-diesel vehicles.
10. Explore green building incentive plans for future Township construction and development.
 - a. The Township has explored an incentive program such as streamlined permitting for projects that incorporate Green Building principles.
 - b. Sustainable Cherry Hill has held an educational seminar to help residents and businesses understand the benefits of green building practices.

WHEREAS, The Township seeks to recognize accomplishments not identified as part of the ten point plan but completed over the last 3 years:

1. Completed and adopted a sustainability element to the Township's Master Plan in July of 2010.
2. The Township adopted an Integrated Pest Management and Green Grounds Policy for all municipal owned property, trained officials, grounds workers and maintenance staff through the New Jersey Environmental Federation. Worked with Sustainable Cherry Hill to provide educational outreach to residents and businesses related to organic yard care.
3. In July 2009, Sustainable Cherry Hill held a Community Visioning program gathering residents, business owners and other local stakeholders to define a vision for sustainability called "Cherry Hill 2020: Shaping a Sustainable Future".
4. Installed rain gardens across the Township to better manage and treat stormwater runoff on municipal properties.
5. The Cherry Hill Environmental Advisory Committee completed upgrading of trails through the Croft Farm property and created a trail program to address ongoing needs of the trails throughout Cherry Hill, has planted a number of trees throughout the Township, and have improved Township-owned stormwater basins.

WHEREAS, the Township seeks to reaffirm its commitment to the above listed points and, in addition, commit to achieving Silver Level Certification through the Sustainable New Jersey program and the following goals:

1. Complete Energy Audits at the Department of Public Works and the Library and utilize the findings of all municipal energy audits to improve efficiencies through building improvements, such as lighting upgrades, at all Township buildings.
2. Continue to implement energy efficiency improvements at municipal buildings including the planned installation of a 30kWh solar array at the Municipal Building.
3. Working with Sustainable Cherry Hill, continue to engage in community outreach and education regarding energy efficiency and sustainable practices.
4. Work with community organizations to educate residents and businesses about waste reduction and help them implement innovative solutions to reduce waste.
5. Recognize local businesses that have adopted sustainability into their business model.
6. Adopt a green purchasing policy to expand the purchase of green products where financially feasible and equally effective as current products used.
7. Continue to make our municipal fleet more efficient through implementation of an advanced management system and expand our inventory of alternative fuel vehicles.
8. Promote resource saving behavioral policies for facility management and staff related to lighting, heating, cooling, and operation of office equipment.
9. Continue to improve the safety of and access to bike and pedestrian facilities across the Township to encourage the use of non-motorized transportation.
10. Promote organized community clean-ups to improve the quality and aesthetics of our public open spaces.

WHEREAS, the Township recognizes that achieving the goals laid out above will require coordinated action at every level and that achieving such reductions within Cherry Hill Township will require local action in addition to federal and state action on such issues as investment in technology, tax policy, energy efficiency standards, among others; and

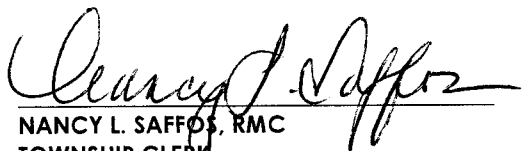
WHEREAS, the Township remains committed to implementing all Green Action initiatives in a fiscally conservative manner by utilizing federal, state and county grant money, combined with other forms of revenue that will not impose a negative affect on the taxpayer. All forms of revenue used for these initiatives will be applied in a judicious and austere manner to provide a better quality of life for the Township's community.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the Township Council of the Township of Cherry Hill, County of Camden, State of New Jersey, that the Township of Cherry Hill does hereby re-endorse the Green Action Plan to improve the environmental quality of life for our community and promote an understanding of the impacts of our everyday choices on our local, national and global resources.

ADOPTED: 03/28/2011


COUNCIL PRESIDENT

ATTEST:


NANCY L. SAFFOS, RMC
TOWNSHIP CLERK