

# Sustainability in Horsham Township

Council Meeting Presentation  
8.13.2025



# A Long-standing Commitment



- ▶ In Horsham Township, being environmentally conscious isn't a trend — it's a long-standing commitment woven into everyday decision-making. For years, Horsham has taken a proactive approach to sustainability, steadily implementing green initiatives that reduce environmental impact, improve community health, and serve as a model for surrounding municipalities.



## From Small Upgrades to Large-Scale Projects

- ▶ This commitment didn't start overnight. From small upgrades to large-scale projects, the Township has consistently prioritized eco-friendly improvements across infrastructure, facilities, and services.



# LED Lighting for Energy Efficiency

- ▶ One of the most noticeable changes has been the full replacement of streetlights and traffic signals with energy-efficient LED bulbs. This transition not only cuts down on energy use but also contributes to long-term cost savings — a win for both the environment and taxpayers. **Horsham was the 1<sup>st</sup> in Montgomery County to covert all lights to LED!**
- ▶ 523 LED streetlights installed Township-wide
- ▶ 52 LED traffic signals operated by Horsham Township



# What is Carbon Dioxide emissions?

Carbon dioxide emissions refer to the release of carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>) gas into the atmosphere. This is primarily caused by the burning of fossil fuels (coal, oil, and natural gas) for energy in various sectors like electricity production, transportation, and industry. CO<sub>2</sub> is a greenhouse gas, and its increased concentration in the atmosphere damages our environment.





# Solar Power on all Facilities

All Township facilities are now outfitted with solar panels to reduce electricity use and reliance on nonrenewable resources. **Horsham was the 1<sup>st</sup> in Montgomery County to convert all facilities!**

## ► Admin/Community Center:

- Live in December 2024
- CO2 Emissions Saved - 170,211.05 lbs.
- Trees Planted - 1,286



# Solar Power on all Facilities

## ► **Library:**

- Live in November 2024
- CO2 Emissions Saved - 171,179.09 lbs.
- Trees Planted - 1,293





# Solar Power on all Facilities

- **Police Station:**
- Live in December 2024
- CO2 Emissions Saved - 563,923.06 lbs.
- Trees Planted - 4,261





# Solar Power on all Facilities

- **Public Works:**
- Live in March 2025
- CO2 Emissions Saved - 410,381.05 lbs.
- Trees Planted - 3,101





# Solar Power on all Facilities

- ▶ **Total All Facilities:**
- ▶ CO2 Emissions Saved  
- 1,315,694.20 lbs.
- ▶ Trees Planted - 9,941





# Protecting Natural Resources

- ▶ Within our 900+ acres of parks and open space — one of the largest of any Township in Montgomery County — active steps are being taken to restore and protect local waterways. Stormwater basins are retrofitted, and stream banks stabilized to improve water quality and reduce erosion.
- ▶ Over the past four years, more than **\$810 thousand dollars** has been allocated to support the maintenance of our stormwater management efforts.



# Protecting Natural Resources

- Horsham supported and contributed financially to the permanent preservation of 35 acres at Pennypack Farm. Thanks to the conservation easement, Pennypack Farm and Education Center will continue educating College Settlement students and campers about farming and sustainable agriculture.







## Street Sweeping

- ▶ Regular street sweeping plays a critical role in keeping pollutants and debris out of storm drains, further safeguarding local ecosystems.
- ▶ If there is not a major project going on in our Public Works Department, the street sweeper is out on the roadways.
- ▶ Each year, our street sweeping prevents approximately 50 tons of road debris from entering our local streams.

# Paperless Trail

- ▶ Township Council has gone completely paperless since 2012, using iPads to access meeting documents, while staff slowly transitions to a paperless environment throughout the organization — a move that saves trees and modernizes operations.





# Tree Planting & Reforestation

- ▶ Cedar Hill Park reforestation = 205 trees and 26 ball and burlap trees around the park.
- ▶ Deep Meadow Park (*following the completion of the Miracle Field project*) 50 ball in burlap trees with 20 in one location and 30 in another location.
- ▶ A total of 273 trees were recently planted in Lukens Park (171), the Library (42) and Hearne Property (60)
- ▶ These efforts beautify spaces within our parks, improve air quality, and support local wildlife habitats.



# Community Involvement Programs

Residents are encouraged to take part in Horsham's environmental mission through community-wide programs like leaf and branch disposal events and the annual **EcoVENT** – which offers free tree giveaways, electronics recycling, and paper shredding.

Our first Tree Giveaway/EcoVent provided 375 free native trees for residents. *(2026 an additional 150 trees will be given away)*

We collected 5,408lbs of electronics, 180lbs of clothing

And 3.45 tons of shredded paper - that's equivalent to saving 59 trees and 13,800 kwh energy saved

Our Leaf Program, held on the third Saturday of each month, collects approximately 50 tons of leaf and yard debris from residents each year.





# Greener Transportation



- ▶ The H.O.P.S. propane shuttle bus program connects commuters with our local business parks and train stations, offering a green alternative to single-passenger cars. It even includes a bike rack if users would like to bring their bike for trail use during lunch breaks.

# EV Charging for the Future

- ▶ For electric vehicle users, free charging stations (up to 4 hours) are available at both the Township complex and the library, encouraging cleaner transportation choices.
- ▶ Since the stations were installed in 2023, we have seen over 2,500 total charging sessions with over 300 unique users.
- ▶ Over 19,000 kg of greenhouse gas emissions have been prevented - equivalent to planting 475 trees!







## ► In-house Daily Recycling

- Eyeglasses
- Cell Phones
- Ink Cartridges
- Flags

# Textile Recycling Available

► Lukens Park

► The Library







# BIRD TOWN PENNSYLVANIA®

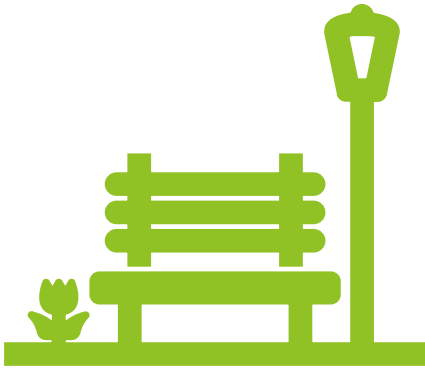
## BIRDTOWN USA

Engages - Educates - Encourages - Supports

### Benefits for Horsham

- ▶ holding native plant pop-up gardens, sales and swaps
- ▶ installing demonstration native plant, pollinator and rain gardens
- ▶ developing proclamations, resolutions and ordinances to address invasives, native plants, pesticides, clean water, etc. to support healthier ecosystems
- ▶ supporting and running citizen science programs
- ▶ educating about invasive plants and running workshops for their removal
- ▶ planting trees and shrubs to create green corridors and reduce runoff and build up riparian buffer zones
- ▶ working with schools to engage and educate about these issues
- ▶ educating about storm water management with rain barrel workshops and giveaways

# Sustainability as a Way of Life



- ▶ Through every initiative — large or small — Horsham Township continues to prove that sustainability is not a one-time effort, but a way of life. With thoughtful planning and a clear vision, the Township leads by example, showing how communities can grow responsibly while protecting the environment.





# HORSHAM

P E N N S Y L V A N I A

A community connected....

.... to the environment.

## Thank You!