

Lower Gwynedd Township EAC 2020 End of Year Report



EAC Membership

- Created partnerships and networked with individuals, local and state entities, volunteers, environmental nonprofits, and educational institutions
- Reached out to and collaborated with township residents interested in participating in EAC programming and projects
- Three new Associate Members joined the EAC in 2020

Bylaws

- Amended EAC Bylaws document, which will serve as a policy document for internal EAC functioning

Ordinance

- Amended the previous 2017 EAC Ordinance to better reflect statute requirements under PA Act 148

INITIATIVES

Battery Solutions

- Extremely successful program but ongoing education is important
- EAC members take responsibility (on a monthly or bi-monthly basis) for transferring and packaging batteries for shipping
- Updated signage placed in the vestibule to encourage best practices and proper protocol

Community events

- Bill Sabey from Plymouth Township EAB presented to the EAC regarding the Ready For 100 initiative and municipal participation and buy-in
 - o Two EAC members attended a Ready For 100 February event in Ambler
- Registered to table at the Ambler EAC Earthfest event but the event was cancelled due to COVID
- LGT April Recycling Event cancelled due to COVID 19
 - o EAC could not distribute educational materials, SLF swatters, plant plugs or tree saplings as planned

Composting initiative

- Initiated plans for promoting composting within the township via education, workshops and sponsoring community-wide composting initiatives
- Initiated plans to address opportunities and protocol for implementation of a large-scale yard waste composting program within LGT
 - EAC researched potential township and/or commercial areas to accommodate such a program
 - EAC to reach out to other municipalities having implemented large-scale programs
 - An obstacle to a yard waste (leaf) composting program in LGT is that the township lacks collection vacuums
- EAC examined ways in which we could promote backyard composting within the township through workshops and sale/giveaways of compost bins
- EAC members researched options to recycle Christmas trees within the township (locations, costs, equipment needed, etc.).

Pollinator Garden

- Schematic of plantings for the pollinator garden at the Penllyn Woods Community building was prepared and presented to the BOS
- Pollinator garden was planted by EAC and family members

Recycling

- Veronica Harris from the Montgomery County Recycling Commission presented her “Curb My Clutter” program and Waste Management’s recycling program to the EAC, BOS and public, which resulted in 60+ attendees
 - Subcommittee developed flyers and outreach materials, which were posted to the township website, EAC webpage and EAC Facebook page and in kiosks throughout the LGT park system
- Article highlighting the how to, what to, and where to recycle a variety of items posted to the EAC webpage, EAC Facebook Page
- Recycling article developed and included in the fall township newsletter
- Information also posted to Patch and a pictorial version was posted to Next Door

Spotted Lanternfly (SLF)

- Ordered a large volume of educational materials from PSE for display and dissemination at community events
- Working with PSE, a township Master Watershed Steward presented to the LGT community regarding SLF
- EAC and township staff (Parks) partnered on an educational outreach campaign / community scraping event of egg masses
- Purchased additional SLF flyswatters for township giveaways and EAC programming throughout 2020

- o EAC developed a COVID-safe program for residents to sign up to pick up SLF-swatters at the township building
- New Initiative
 - o EAC Members, in collaboration and guidance from township staff, identified specific areas/trees to be banded and monitored for early stage nymphs
 - o Dropbox folders and files were developed for EAC members to upload information regarding trees being monitored as well as findings throughout the project timeline
 - o Educational signage was developed and attached to trees within monitored areas

Spring and Fall LGT Newsletters

- One or two articles are submitted to the township for inclusion in both the spring and fall newsletters

SUBCOMMITTEES

Tree City:

- Subcommittee met with township staff and administrators to discuss the program and standards required to meet Tree City requirements
 - o Township has already met most requirements
 - o Reviewing existing ordinances

PFOS/PFAS:

- The Subcommittee presented research into the issues surrounding PFOS/PFAS
- EAC organized a special meeting (via Zoom) among the council, State Representative Todd Stephens and Correne Kristiansen, Chief of Staff to State Senator Maria Collett, to discuss regional efforts to mitigate PFOS / PFAS exposure and opportunities to participate in these efforts
- PFOS and Drinking Water Report
[PFOS and Drinking Water](#)

Plastics:

- Began research on the implications of a potential single-use plastics ban in the township and other means to limit their use
- Initiated work on a comprehensive educational plan regarding these issues

Stormwater Management:

- **PECO Green Region Grant**
 - o EAC provided insight and input regarding the grant application, which was awarded to LGT
 - o Rain Garden Subcommittee developed a brochure and rack card for display at the rain garden site (Penllyn Woods) and for additional outreach efforts
- **Rain Garden Outreach**

- o Initiated plans for the development of rain garden training classes followed by tours of rain gardens, residential and industrial storm water management systems and naturalized basins within the township
- **Spring House Bird Garden Concept**
 - o Early development of Spring House Bird Garden concept (October 2020)

Webinars

- EAC promoted the Bird-Window Collision Webinar hosted by Wyncote Audubon Society on November 11
- EAC Bird Town Subcommittee attended the (virtual) Bird Town Summit on October 24
 - o Audubon Backyard Bird count. Joint Audubon/Cornell program scheduled for February 12-15, 2021
 - EAC to initiate the promotion and potential sponsor of a community outing to participate next winter 2021