

Response to Public Comments from 1/19/21 Meeting

- **Why not rescind neighborhood restrictions on hanging laundry?**
 - Hanging laundry to save electric use from clothes dryers is admirable where practical. Individual HOA's regulate this option for many residents. We recommend lobbying HOA Boards to allow flexibility, particularly where backyard and deck options exist.
- **Have the municipalities considered anti idling ordinances?**
 - We will pass this suggestion on to the municipal energy policy team.
- **Why not stop the single container recycling we use?**
 - Recycling (whether it be single stream or multi stream) is an important component of environmentally conscious behavior, but it is not the target of this initiative's focus. We suggest contacting the EAC or SAC in your township about waste reduction opportunities.
- **So if there are twice as many jobs [in the renewable energy sector], but there account for a lot less of the fuel used [energy generated], it appears that may be one reason the cost is high. What do you think?**
 - There is an important distinction to be made between the cost of energy generation and the amount of energy generated for any given source. Many renewable energy sources have comparable prices to their non-renewable counterparts. At the same time, however, many renewable energy sources constitute a smaller percentage of energy generated than non-renewables. The reasons for this smaller portion vary, but commonly have more to do with the fact that there are already systems and policies in place supporting non-renewable energy. The energy industry (and policy) have slowly started to shift towards renewable energy, but these changes have been slow, have varied across the country and are still moving.
 - The "clean energy job sector" includes "energy efficiency jobs", like energy auditors, weatherization, insulation, etc. Another reason is that fossil fuel power, while still expanding, has a large infrastructure and many Gigawatts of power plants already in place. The utility-scale renewable energy sector will need to build that much before we can retire all of the gas, coal and oil plants.
 - No, we don't think that is why renewables are more expensive. In fact, utility-scale wind and solar are competitive - if users are willing to lock into a long term contract, which is currently only available to big users.
- **Are people aware of the Philadelphia Energy Co-Op. They serve southeast PA and you can purchase renewable electricity from them.**
 - The Energy Co-op is just one of many EGS'S (Energy Generating Suppliers), licensed by the PA PUC (Public Utility Commission), to sell Renewable Electricity to residents and businesses. Go to PA Power Switch website hosted by the PUC: www.papowerswitch.com/about-switching-electricity for information

about how you can switch to a renewable energy supplier. Also, check out <https://makebenproud.com/> for best info on 3rd party providers of renewable electricity. We'll have much more info on renewable electricity options for residential customers in our Residential Module coming in the spring.

- **Do you foresee any incentives for shifting to renewable energy in the future?**
 - There already are federal and state incentives for distributed generation (rooftop solar), EVs, charging stations, financing for clean energy on commercial properties, high efficiency HVAC systems and more. We expect some enabling policy from our municipal governments (which is the focus of this campaign) which will incentivise both electrification and local solar - like improved permitting, priority parking for EVs, more public charging stations, etc. The CEF project will help promote these policies when they are available, but there is no reason to wait for new tax credits and discounts. The tipping point for justification of many clean energy products is already here. Details to follow in our Residential and Small Business modules.
- **Will this committee or program be assisting homeowners who would like to convert to solar power, maybe through grants or helping them find resources to make conversion easier?**
 - Yes! We hope to roll out more resources in the near future to assist homeowners (and community members alike) in accessing the right resources to find renewable energy options that work for them.
- **Do you have any idea of what the carbon footprint of a wind farm is to mine the materials, transport, construct, maintain and replace the materials?**
 - In 2006, turbine manufacturer Vestas studied the carbon payback period for various turbines. This study took into account extraction and manufacturing of raw materials, production of the turbines, their transport, erection, operation, maintenance, dismantling and disposal, and the same for their foundation and the transmission grid. The figure was between seven and nine months, depending on the type of turbine. Other analyses have come up with similar figures. Coal's carbon footprint is almost 90 times larger than that of wind energy, and the footprint of natural gas is more than 40 times larger, according to the Department of Energy's National Renewable Energy Laboratory (<https://www.factcheck.org/2018/03/wind-energys-carbon-footprint/>).
 - Read more: <https://www.newscientist.com/lastword/mg24332461-400-what-is-the-carbon-payback-period-for-a-wind-turbine/#ixzz6IKIAftVR>
- **Is there any progress at the local or state levels to require HOAs to allow solar installs?**
 - There are currently no Solar Access laws in Pennsylvania (these laws stop Homeowners associations from preventing solar installations), however, many

states across the nation have adopted such measures. There have been Solar Access Laws proposed in the recent past (SB 1039) in Pennsylvania specifically, but none have been adopted to date. This may change in the next few years as more states join the trend of supporting locally generated, renewable power.

- We are looking for “Clean Energy Future Ambassadors” to engage with thier HOAs, schools, carpools, places of employment, places of worship, etc. Contact us to learn how we can help you make the case for informed energy purchasing decision making.