

Princeton Environmental Commission
Summary of Accomplishments for 2016

It has been a productive year for the Princeton Environmental Commission. We began the year by establishing goals. A summary of progress towards each goal is provided below.

The two overarching themes in the Environmental Commission's goals for 2016 were to address and mitigate the causes and effects of climate change and to partner with the municipality, local nonprofits and Princeton University to increase the effectiveness of our actions.

1. Support Council on initiatives beneficial to the environment and assist with public education on these initiatives
 - PEC supported council in the development and refinement of ordinances to mitigate storm water run-off, recycle construction waste and establish standards for the installation of electric vehicle service equipment.
 - The PEC developed resolutions which were endorsed by Council on the topics of the delay in releasing the New Jersey Water Supply Master Plan, protesting the end of funding for e-waste recycling and advocating for New Jersey to achieve 80% renewable energy use by 2050. Members of the PEC also authored three letters to the editor which were published in local papers.
 - PEC members attended meetings for the Princeton Neighborhood Zoning Project and the Nassau Streetscape Design Standard and provided comments relating to storm water management, siting and building for energy efficiency and waste management.

2. Increase awareness of sustainability efforts in Princeton by creating awareness of and support for "green" projects. Partner with FOPOS to develop a mutually beneficial project to help with open space stewardship and raise the profile of the Environmental Commission within the community.
 - PEC partnered with FOPOS to secure a \$1,500 grant from ANJEC to revitalize the trails in the Woodfield Reservation. The PEC contributed \$500 to this project as did FOPOS. As a result, 33 workdays were held comprising 425 labor hours from 18 volunteers. 10,250 feet (about 2 miles) of trail were cleared. 1,500 feet of new trail was constructed and 220 linear feet of boardwalk were installed as well as 3 new bridges.
 - A trail "reopening" was held on October 15th with over 50 people in attendance. TenAcre partnered with FOPOS and the PEC to offer parking to hikers.
 - The reopening event received good media coverage via Access Princeton, Facebook and Planet Princeton as well as in *Town Topics* and the *Princeton Packet*.

3. Analyze the impact of the Green Building Checklist.
 - Data was collected as a basis for assessing the impact of the Green Building Checklist since its inception in 2013. Work will continue in 2017 to complete the data analysis as well as follow up interviews and to prepare a summary report. This analysis will result in points towards Princeton's recertification with the Sustainable Jersey program.

4. Partner with Sustainable Princeton to research and develop an ordinance for EV charging.
 - PEC researched existing model ordinances related to EVSE equipment, and developed a draft ordinance. PEC will partner with municipal staff and Sustainable Princeton to refine the draft ordinance.

5. Lay the framework for a campaign to clean up Lake Carnegie
 - The Stony Brook Millstone Watershed was invited to give a presentation educating the PEC on water quality issues in Princeton.
 - Reducing nonpoint source pollution was a focus in reviewing the town's draft storm water ordinance.
 - Members of the PEC attended the ANJEC Environmental Congress including breakout sessions on water management.
 - As Princeton University proceeds with its planning process, the PEC will continue to look for ways to partner to improve water quality in Princeton and specifically Lake Carnegie.

6. Continue our work reviewing development applications
 - In 2016, the PEC continued its work reviewing development applications and offered detailed comments for how plans could be enhanced to minimize development impact on the environment and to improve sustainability.