

# 2023 League November 1-3, 2023 Sustainability Conference



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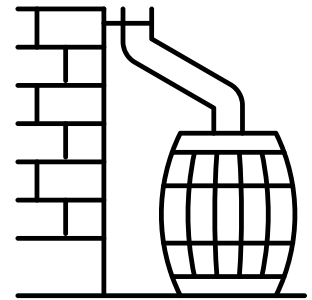
Welcome to the Sustainable PA Annual Conference, a dynamic gathering of municipal leaders, professionals, and change-makers dedicated to advancing sustainable practices and fostering a resilient future. This event serves as a pivotal platform for sharing innovative strategies, forging meaningful connections, and exploring actionable solutions to address pressing environmental, social, and economic challenges. With a diverse lineup of sessions, expert speakers, and interactive workshops, the conference empowers attendees to deepen their understanding of sustainability's multifaceted aspects and collaboratively chart a course towards a more sustainable and equitable world. Join us for a transformative experience that amplifies collective efforts for a brighter tomorrow.

## Wednesday, November 1

### 2:00 p.m. - 3:30 p.m. Rain Barrel Making Workshop

**Speakers:** **Debra English**, Director of Historic and Environmental Preservation with the Borough of Gettysburg

This interactive workshop explores rain barrels as a means of community engagement and sustainability. Discover how rain barrels help reduce water usage, prevent flooding, and contribute to groundwater regeneration. Learn from real-life success stories, including the Gettysburg Borough Stormwater Authority's public outreach initiatives. Don't miss the chance to explore this eco-friendly practice and its impact on your community.



### 5:00 p.m. - 6:00 p.m. Opening Reception with Exhibitors

**Special Guest:** **Miranda Moore**, Miss Pennsylvania, Environmental Engineer, EIT & Sustainability Professional, ENV-SP



## Thursday, November 2

### 8:00 a.m. - 8:45 a.m. Continental Breakfast and Networking



### 9:00 a.m. - 9:15 a.m. Welcome & Introduction

### 9:15 a.m. - 10:15 a.m. Getting Buy-in, Gathering Data, and Setting Goals

**Speakers:** **Kendy Alvarez**, Mayor, Lewisburg Borough, **Miranda Moore**, Engineer, UGI, **Chris Nafe**, Energy Program Specialist, DEP, **Amanda Woodrum**, Co-Director, ReImagine Appalachia

Uncover the essence of climate action planning in this session. See how collaboration sparks buy-in, data collection, and goal-setting for sustainable projects. Learn strategies for crafting climate action plans, building coalitions, and fostering unity. Discover how diverse stakeholders drive collective action for equitable, win-win climate solutions

### 10:15 a.m. - 10:45 a.m. Networking Event with Exhibitors



### 10:45 a.m. - 11:45 a.m. Fund it

**Speakers:** **Matt Mahoney**, Director of Government Affairs, Sustainable Pittsburgh, **Louie Krak**, Infrastructure Implementation Coordinator, Governor's Office of Critical Investments

Explore the transformative landscape of Pennsylvania's energy future. Delve into climate resilience, environmental justice, and decarbonization, driven by the Justice 40 Initiative and the 2022 Inflation Reduction Act. Learn to harness investments, forge partnerships, and cultivate equitable growth for a prosperous Pennsylvania. Embark on a journey through funding opportunities that shape a cleaner, resilient future.

### 12:00 p.m. - 1:00 p.m. Lunch with Exhibitors



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## 1:15 p.m. - 2:15 p.m. Plan It

**Speakers:** **Peter Buck**, Co-Director of the Local Climate Action Program & Associate Director of Climate & Sustainability Education at Penn State Sustainability, **Brandi Robinson**, Co-Director of the Local Climate Action Program & Associate Teaching Professor, Department of Energy and Mineral Engineering at Penn State

This presentation provides an overview of the Local Climate Action Program (LCAP), a partnership between of Penn State Sustainability, Penn State's Department of Energy and Mineral Engineering, Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection, and ICLEI: Local Governments for Sustainability. This session will discuss the process by which participating local governments work with undergraduate and graduate students to develop greenhouse gas emissions inventories and climate policy and programming for their communities, all in service to the state's climate action plan goals and the broader United States' Nationally Determined Contribution under the Paris Agreement.

## 2:15 p.m. - 3:00 p.m. Networking Event with Exhibitors



## 3:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m. Working Session and Break Outs - Get Started!

**Speaker:** **Nicole Faraguna**, Director, Office of Planning & Policy, Department of Conservation and Natural Resources  
As Pennsylvania's conservation leader and trustee of the commonwealth's natural resources, DCNR has developed guidance for landowners, developers, planners, and local officials for the siting and construction of grid-scale solar projects. Join DCNR's policy director for this interactive session where we'll briefly review DCNR's Conservation Considerations for Siting, Planning, and Maintaining Grid-Scale Solar Systems in Pennsylvania (PDF) guidance document and discuss opportunities to advance sustainable practices and responsible siting of grid-scale solar across Pennsylvania. Then connect with colleagues and experts to start working on your local plan!

## 5:00 p.m. - 6:00 p.m. Networking Reception



## Friday, November 3

## 8:00 a.m. - 9:00 a.m Continental Breakfast and Networking



## 9:15 a.m. - 10:15 a.m. Implement It

**Speakers:** **Pam Adams**, Sustainability Planner, Centre Region Council of Governments, **Elizabeth Compitello**, Manager, Office of Sustainable Energy, DVRPC, **Patricia DeMarco**, Vice President, Forest Hills Borough Council, **Jonathan Zeller**, Market Lead - Energy & Sustainability, Siemens Smart Infrastructure

Explore sustainable energy pathways in the "Implement It" session. Discover a model of intergovernmental collaboration investigating solar power purchase agreements (SPPA). Learn about financing strategies, leveraging Inflation Reduction Act funding, and utilizing PA Guaranteed Energy Savings Act ("GESA") legislation for climate action plan implementation. Delve into the Borough of Forest Hills' journey towards net-zero operations for all buildings through efficiency upgrades and renewable energy integration. Join us to uncover practical insights and solutions for sustainable energy implementation.

## 10:15 a.m. - 10:30 a.m. Break

## 10:30 a.m. - 11:15 a.m. Track and Report It

**Speakers:** **Bethany Ayers-Fisher**, Sustainability Manager, City of Reading, **Joel Hicks**, Research Professor and Councilman, Carlisle Borough

Gain insights into successful local climate action planning (LCAP) initiatives in this session. Discover how the City of Reading's participation in DEP's LCAP cohort in 2019 and subsequent involvement in 2022-2023 enabled them to effectively monitor their operational and community greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions. Learn how this data drives strategic planning and informs daily operational decisions for a sustainable future. Additionally, explore the experience of Carlisle Borough in the context of LCAP, uncovering strategies that align with the broader goal of reducing environmental impact while optimizing local operations. Join this presentation to understand how LCAP can be a powerful tool for cities and communities to achieve tangible sustainability outcomes.

## 11:15 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. Open Discussion, Closing, and Surveys