

Hatboro Environmental Advisory Council
2025 Annual Report
March 31, 2026

Mission Statement

Established in 2020, the Borough of Hatboro Environmental Advisory Council (EAC) is an appointed board comprised of Borough officials, residents, and business owners who devote themselves to protecting Hatboro's environment. The EAC's focus is on protecting the environment and improving sustainability. The EAC researches environmental issues and funding sources to advise Borough officials as they consider undertaking projects that preserve, protect, and support the natural environment. The EAC provides education on environmental issues through its website and activities.

Purpose

The Hatboro EAC serves to fulfill its duties as outlined in Pennsylvania's Act 148 of 1973 (Amended in 1996 as P.L. 1158, No. 177) An EAC may:

1. Identify environmental problems and recommend plans and programs to the appropriate agencies for the promotion and conservation of the natural resources and for the protection and improvement of the quality of the environment within its territorial limits.
2. Make recommendations as to the possible use of open land areas of the municipal corporations within its territorial limits.
3. Promote a community environmental program.
4. Keep an index of all open areas, publicly or privately owned, including flood-prone areas, swamps and other unique natural areas, for the purpose of obtaining information on the proper use of those areas.
5. Advise the appropriate local government agencies, including the planning commission and recreation and park board or, if none, the elected governing body or bodies within its territorial limits, in the acquisition of both real and personal property [by a variety of means for environmental purposes].”

(Title 53 of the Pennsylvania Consolidated Statutes, Part III, Subpart D, Chapter 23, Subchapter B Environmental Advisory Councils §2324 (a))

Activities

- Work with Hatboro Mayor, Borough councilmembers, staff, & other Borough Commissions
- Collaborate with local, state and county environmental organizations including
 - MCCD, MCPC, DCNR, Penn State Master Watershed Stewards, PHS Tree Tenders, Gardeners of Crooked Billet

- Participate as a member of WeConservePA the state-wide EAC Network
www.weconservepa.org
 - Annual Membership in WeConservePA

Public EAC Meetings

The EAC held public meetings at Loller Academy/Hatboro Borough Hall in January, March, April, May, June, and August, and September 2025. Meetings for February, July, October, November, and December were cancelled.

Meetings were livestreamed on the Hatboro EAC Facebook page when the technology was compatible.

Proposed 2025 EAC Budget

\$2,000 Total:

WeConservePA Membership: \$500.00
Guest Speakers: \$750.00
Educational Supplies and Literature: \$150.00
Informational Signage: \$100.00
Earth Day Supplies: \$300.00
Contingency Funding: \$200.00

Recommendation for Borough Tree Budget: \$1,500.00

EAC Members: Seven volunteer, voting members appointed by Borough Council

Kelly A'Harrah
Ryan Fairman
LuAnn Kline
Ann Menichelli
Jonathan Pignatelli
Victoria Szaliga
Michael Williams
Cole Woodson

Borough Representation: Non-voting participation in the EAC serving in an advisory capacity

Mayor Tim Schultz
Councilperson Jennifer Hendrickson
Councilperson Alex Myers
Borough Manager Diane Hegele

EAC Subcommittees: EAC members plus resident volunteer, non-voting members

Wildlife and Habitat

Mike Williams
Ann Menichelli
Tim Schultz
Doris Lloyd

Trees/Gardens/Meadows

LuAnn Kline
Kelly A'Harrah
Doris Lloyd

Hatboro Area PHS Tree Tenders (subset of Trees)

Todd A'Harrah
Kelly A'Harrah
Alex Myers
Marianne Shaeffer
Tim Schultz
Judith Swanson
Cathy Weitz
Plus 7 additional Hatboro Area Tree Tenders

Watercourses and Riparian Buffers

Kelly A'Harrah
Cathy Weitz
Katrina Nuss
Todd A'Harrah
Jonathan Pignatelli

Trash Reduction (composting, recycling, green purchasing, Borough trash survey)

LuAnn Kline
Robin Laufer
Ryan Fairman
Ann Menichelli
Tim Schultz
Doris Lloyd

Energy Transition Plan (ETP) and Clean Energy Initiatives

Tim Schultz
Mike Williams
Ryan Fairman
Kelly A'Harrah

Technical Assistance

Robin Laufer
Jennifer A'Harrah

Volunteer Recruitment and Support; Public Relations

Ryan Fairman
Ann Menichelli
Mike Williams

2025 Accomplishments

1. Energy, Climate and Sustainability Issues
2. Water Quality/Stormwater Management
3. Resource Protection
4. Public Education

1. Energy, Climate, and Sustainability:

Energy Transition Plan (ETP) and Community Choice Aggregation for PA (CCA for PA)

ETP goal is for all municipal buildings to run solely on renewable energy sources by 2035 and for business and residential buildings to do the same by 2050.

EAC recommended CCA for PA to help obtain this goal, as CCA is a mechanism to clean, electrify, and fortify energy grid. CCA presented as perhaps the only viable (but not mandatory) large-scale option for residents and Borough government to reduce fossil fuel use in residences and buildings. (Borough Council previously approved a memorandum of understanding (MOU) with CCA of PA October 23, 2023.) In September 2025, the Pennsylvania Utilities Committee (PUC) denied the petition from the CCA for PA to continue pursuit of aggregate energy sourcing, citing anti-slamming and consumer choice concerns. The CCA for PA will file an appeal of the ruling in early 2026. The Borough wrote a letter to the PUC in support of the appeal.

Mayor Tim Schultz participated in the 2025 CCA for PA multi-municipality meetings.

Mayor Schultz proposed additional options for meeting ETP goals, including opt-in programs for electricity usage, aggregate bargaining, and collective water bargaining.

Monica Carey, from Solar United Neighbor, presented solar options available to PA residents and businesses at a public event on January 29, 2025. Post-presentation discussion and follow up including seeking residents and businesses interested in forming a solar consortium in Montgomery County.

Promoted use of electric vehicles-DEEM, Tesla, EV demonstrations at Earth Day.

Discussed addition of EV Charging Stations and to Hatboro's SALDO.

ReWiring America.Org- In 2024, Mayor Schultz completed training to enable him to coach others in navigating the IRA (Inflation Reduction Act) and BIL (Bipartisan Infrastructure Legislation) incentives and rebates, leading to conversion of energy from less sustainable sources to cleaner, renewable sources. In 2025, ReWiring America was unable to function at its previous capacity due to many government layoffs.

Involvement in Sierra Club/Community Advocates for Clean Energy (CACE)- IRA/BIL applications and updates, education, and conference participation.

Shade Tree Commission

The EAC collaborated with the STC to initiate the development of a Heritage Tree Ordinance.

The EAC made recommendations for methods for completing the Hatboro Municipal Tree Inventory. Two opportunities available were through PA Outdoor Corps and local DCNR Forester, Kayla Kehres.

Discussion of a long-term plan for maintenance of Borough trees was begun.

Pennsylvania Horticultural Society (PHS): Hatboro Area Tree Tenders (TT)

Hatboro Area Tree Tenders weeded, pruned, and measured PHS trees planted in 2022, 2023. Hatboro Public Works mulched the trees.

Data collected on each tree was entered into the PHS Urban Forest Cloud.

There is one PHS tree at Eaton Park and three trees at the rear of the Pennypack Community Center which are deceased and should be replaced to maintain the planned tree line. Two deceased trees were replaced at Celano Park.

Tree Tenders gave recommendations for new tree installations at Tanner Park, Borough Hall/Loller Academy, Bank Street Parking lot, top of streambank along Miller Meadow, and Memorial Park.

Along the DCNR riparian planting at Pennypack Park, 36 deceased trees were replaced with Native trees by Tree Tenders and community volunteers on November 15, 2025. These trees were protected with wire cages. Approximately 15 additional healthy trees were protected with wire cages, as their Tubex tubes had become damaged, lost, or the tree outgrew the tube. Because of possible stunted growth due to lack of direct contact with sunlight, or because they had outgrown the Tubex tubes, Tree Tenders made the recommendation for all Tubex tubes to be replaced with wire caging to allow for better photosynthesis for shorter saplings and space to grow correctly for taller trees.

12 deceased trees along the DCNR riparian planting at Eaton Park need to be replaced. Native trees are set aside for this purpose.

Tree Tenders discussed Spring and Fall 2025 PHS Bare Root Tree Sales and offered to manage any trees purchased by the Borough. Suggestion was made to extend the sale to businesses and residents. EAC was told sponsors would be needed to purchase any trees for Borough plantings.

Tree Tenders requested a community workday for purpose of removing invasive vines along Pennypack Creek.

PHS Tree Tender Training was promoted through PHS, virtually and in person, as well as virtually through Penn State Extension. Advanced Tree Tenders Training and Pruning Club were also promoted. One TT/EAC member completed these two trainings.

2025 PHS Flower Show: Bartlett Tree Update- One TT/EAC member attended this workshop.

2. Water Quality/Stormwater Management

Riparian Corridor Conservation District Ordinance

The goal of the Watercourse and Riparian Buffer Committee in writing and establishing the Riparian Corridor Conservation District (RCCD) Ordinance was to legally mandate proper care for and protection of our watercourses and wetlands, aquatic life and waterfowl, reduce stormwater runoff and flooding, and improve water quality.

The final draft of the RCCD Ordinance was approved by the EAC on September 3, 2025. The Motion stated the next step for the ordinance is review by the Montgomery County Planning Commission.

Stormwater Management for New Developments on York Road and Victorian Village-Phase 2

The EAC discussed the increased draw on fresh water and output of wastewater likely with the addition of new residential buildings along York Road. Stormwater management plans in place from active building projects were reviewed. Concerns were raised about increased flooding of the Pennypack Creek due to additional sewer and stormwater runoff.

DCNR Grant for Riparian Buffer Plantings and Maintenance

558 tree plugs were installed in riparian buffers in December 2023 along the Pennypack Creek and its tributaries starting at the Hatboro Little League Complex and downstream in Eaton Park and Pennypack Park.

In 2025, PHS Tree Tenders continued to care for the trees at Pennypack and Eaton Parks, replacing lost trees, tree tubes, stakes and bird netting.

Saplings were installed in November 2025 to replace tree plugs which did not survive the initial installation.

The EAC recommended the DCNR grant trees at the Hatboro Little League Complex receive care during community workday and/or from volunteers during scheduled workdays at the Complex.

PECO/Asplundh Tree Removal at Pennypack Park

Riparian buffer trees were removed or pruned along power lines crossing the Pennypack Creek at Pennypack Park. Some of the deadfall was left for habitat. The EAC recommended replacement of these trees with small understory trees, shrubs and perennial grasses and plants.

Memorial Park Streambank Project Status

The watercourses at Memorial Park have virtually no riparian buffer, with the only plant growth along the watercourses being a variety of short grasses and a few mature trees. Lack of riparian buffer results in further erosion, especially during high water events; poor water quality, due to sediment in the water from the erosion; high water temperature, as there is little vegetation to shade the water; and loss of habitat for wildlife.

The EAC recommended the streambank project be brought to the Penn State Extension Master Watershed Stewards Program and its partners, such as Trout Unlimited, for review and possible acceptance as a project site for these organizations.

There are currently two Hatboro residents who are Master Watershed Stewards and interested in pursuing this project.

Celano Park Pedestrian Bridge

The EAC recommended signage for the Celano Park bridge, cautioning pedestrians to stay away from the bridge and creek during flooding and other high-volume stormwater or icy conditions.

3. Resource Protection

Advocacy for Earth Justice and Sierra Club Environmental Initiatives

Information regarding the Roadless Area Conservation Rule and the EPA Regulation of Greenhouse Gases was shared with the public in print and digitally.

Removal of Invasive Plant Species

Heavy growth of invasive plant species, notably vines, was observed along the riparian buffer, and is particularly dense in the riparian buffer at Pennypack Park.

Species include multiflora rose (*Rosa multiflora*), Japanese knotweed (*Polygonum cuspidatum*), English ivy (*Hedera helix*), porcelain berry (*Ampelopsis brevipedunculata*), kudzu (*Peararia montana* or *P. lobata*), and Asiatic bittersweet (*Celastrus orbiculatus*).

The EAC recommended removal of invasives to allow for Native species to return and impacted trees and shrubs to flourish. A community volunteer workday was suggested for this purpose.

PECO/Asplundh Tree Pruning and Removal

2025 was a major tree trimming year for Hatboro, as occurs every seven years. Numerous trees under PECO lines along roads, residences, businesses and parks were severely pruned or removed.

The EAC discussed the need to plant “the right tree in the right place” as decisions about replacement trees are made.

Pennypack Park Meadow

The Borough contracted with Hermann Moser of Land Studies Ecological Landscape Design for the maintenance of Pennypack Meadow.

Park visitors had been observed walking or riding bikes through the meadow. The EAC recommended roping off the meadow to prevent its disturbance by visitors. The Borough

determined the rope could be a trip hazard and opted instead for additional signage to be added to the area.

Miller Meadow

The Borough contracted with Hermann Moser of Land Studies Ecological Landscape Design for the maintenance of the north meadow at Miller Meadow.

Boy Scout, Aidan Wills, received approval to build a Storyboard Walk through Miller Meadow for his Eagle Scout project in 2026.

Memorial Park

Visitors to the park noted possible concerns about wildlife negatively impacting humans. The Borough ordered additional signage to be posted to raise awareness of the wildlife living in the park.

Deployment of Fireworks at Pennypack Park

The EAC provided the Borough with information regarding short- and long-range risks to the environment, wildlife and habitat resulting from exposure to fireworks. Risk to park visitors and motorists from fleeing deer and other animals was discussed. The recommendation was made to flush deer from the riparian buffer prior to the deployment of fireworks.

Information about alternatives to fireworks and lower-impact fireworks was shared with Borough Council and staff. The EAC emphasized natural areas such as Pennypack Park belong to the plant and animal species living there; it is not co-existence with humans, especially not for extremely disruptive activities such as fireworks. The humans should be stewarding the land and protecting the wildlife and habitat.

Debris left behind after deployment of fireworks on September 26, 2025, was observed, photographed, and picked up by several EAC members after the initial clean up by Public Works was completed. Information regarding the type and extent of the remaining debris was shared with Borough Council and staff. The suggestion was made to not deploy fireworks in a natural area. If large scale fireworks were to be deployed in the Borough again, additional resources need to be available to more thoroughly remove debris from whatever field was used for the deployment, though it is not possible to remove the debris that lands in the Pennypack Creek.

Bird Town, PA

The EAC application to Bird Town PA, for Hatboro was approved in December 2025.

Hatboro Public Works hung Bird Town PA signs at both ends of the borough along York Road.

A Hatboro Bird Town PA Committee was formed. Initial topics discussed were Native plant habitats for wildlife, preventing window strikes for birds, and reducing artificial lighting at night to protect migrating birds.

The inaugural Hatboro Bird Town PA event was participation in Earth Day Celebration 2025. Information about birds, Native plants, and birding was shared with the public.

4. Public Education - Community Engagement

DEP Environmental Education Grant, November 14, 2025

This grant was discussed for the purpose of adding educational signage to Hatboro parks. Sign types were reviewed and coordinated with existing signage.

The Army Corps of Engineers Project at Miller Meadow

The EAC recommended signage which defined the purpose, design, and maintenance guidelines of the ACE streambank project along Pennypack Creek adjacent to Miller Meadow.

Giant Food Company/Keeping PA Beautiful Grant

Planting additional trees in the parking islands at Bank Street and along the top of the ACE streambank was recommended.

The Giant Growing Greener Grant was applied for to provide trees for the ACE/Miller Meadow streambank. Hatboro was not awarded this grant.

America 250 Liberty Tree Project

The EAC recommended the Borough apply to receive a tree celebrating America's 250th birthday through the America 250 initiative.

EAC participation at Borough events:

Community Day at Memorial Pool- May 17, 2024-Penn State Master Watershed Steward Microplastics Display

National Night Out- August 8, 2025, NexTrex Recycling Challenge Promotion

Educational Programs:

Solar United Neighbors Presentation- Monica Carey, January 29, 2025

Birding 101 Presentation-Barbara Beck, Bird Town Leader, Richland Township, February 18, 2025

Inaugural Hatboro Tree Talk- “Big Trees: Friend or Foe?” Kathleen Salisbury, Temple University, September 17, 2025

Earth Day Celebration 2025 (EDC25)

Saturday, April 12, 2025, 10:00am-2:00pm

Organized by Kelly A’Harrah and Robin Laufer

Location: Pennypack Community Center

Exhibitors: Approximately 30 educational exhibits including Sierra Club, CACE, Hatboro Public Works, Temple University, Penn State Extension/Master Watershed Stewards and Gardeners, Hatboro Bird Town PA, Jarrett Nature Center, PHS Tree Tenders, STC, Aqua, PECO, Septa, DCNR, 4 Brothers Honey, ULCH, Gardeners of Crooked Billet, and Suburban Cycling Unlimited, Partnership TMA of Montgomery County, DEEM, Weaver’s Way, Journeywork, Liberty Bird Alliance, and NWF Backyard Habitat Certification were on display in the gymnasium and outdoors.

Presentations: Pennsylvania Bat Protection and Rehabilitation, 4 Brothers Honey, ULCH Storytime with Mr. Jim

Environmental Projects: Pollinator Hotels, Seed Balls

Food: Hungry Moon Empanadas

Hospitality: Wegman’s Incorporated and Amy’s Pizza of Hatboro

Donation of pollinator hotels: J. Wipplinger Companies

Donation of seed ball supplies: Planet Bee

Attendance was approximately 200 members of the public.

Zero-Waste Initiative

NexTrex plastic bag and plastic film recycling collection bins were placed in Borough facilities for residents to drop off recyclable plastics.

Holiday string light recycling at local businesses was promoted.

Proposed Swap Meet for Sports and Garden Gear.

Location for polystyrene/#6 Styrofoam recycling shared on EAC website: Northeast Foam, 90 Hamilton Street, Chalfont, PA 18914.

Location for pens, magic markers, ink cartridges and other office supplies shared on EAC website: All Staples office supply stores.

Composting

Public Nuisances Ordinances 838 and 970 Section 10-104 regarding compost piles were reviewed and limitations regarding residential composting were noted. The Borough solicitor is reviewing and amending these to include undated composting rules and regulations.

National Wildlife Federation

Certified Wildlife Habitat Certification information was provided to residents, businesses, and houses of worship.

Current number of certified residential and municipal properties is 77.

NWF Certified Wildlife Habitat households were offered free Native plant seeds and milkweed seeds.

Native Plants

The RCCD ordinance committee researched examples of local Native Plant Ordinances and discussion began regarding development of an ordinance appropriate for Hatboro, especially given the new developments being proposed and built in the Borough.

Native plant seeds were distributed for free at the Earth Day Celebration 2025.

The Monarch Waystation between Miller Meadow and Cressbrook House continued to grow common and swamp milkweed. Milkweed seeds were distributed at EDC25.

The Gardeners of Crooked Billet held a Native plant sale at the ULCH Book Sale on May 10, 2025.

Recommendation was made to remove non-Native plants at Loller Academy/Borough Hall and replace them with Native species. The EAC offered to assist in replanting the garden beds.

Mug wort was identified on the Borough Hall property by the EAC, and Hatboro Public Works removed it. The Borough requested additional mug wort growth on other Borough properties be identified for removal.

The EAC discussed No-Mow May 2026 and adjustments which may be necessary to local ordinances to allow residents to grow turf grass and other plants. Resources about adding Native plants and gardens in residential yards in place of turf grass were shared on social media and in print.

Pennypack Community Garden- ADA Accessible Public Vegetable Garden

The Pennypack Community Garden was managed by another Borough group in 2025.

Hatboro Public Works provided wood chips for the walkways in the garden.

Compost was provided by Mayor Tim Schultz through Back to Earth Compost.

Three EAC members volunteered to care for the garden.

EAC suggested a remembrance for Judy McCullough, who was a strong supporter of and a hardy volunteer at the garden, watering throughout the very hot, dry summers.

Borough and Community Communications

Conferences and Trainings – EAC members attended these events

PHS Tree Tenders Winter 2025 Basic Training

PHS Tree Tenders Winter 2025 Advanced Training and Pruning Workshop

PHS Community Garden Tender Winter 2025 Training

WeConservePA Winter Gathering- February 2025

The Philadelphia Flower Show: Bartlett Tree Care Update- March 2025

Upper Dublin Environmental Open House- March 2025

Sun Day at Love Park, Philadelphia, September 27, 2025

WeConservePA Fall Gathering- October 2025

Community Advocates for Clean Energy (CACE) and Sierra Club Symposium-
December 2025

Penn State Extension Virtual and In-Person Workshops- Numerous topics including
Native plants, stormwater management, removal of invasive plants, pollinator habitat,
tree species for warmer climates, vegetable gardening, rain gardens

EAC Contact Information

Borough of Hatboro
Loller Academy/Hatboro Borough Hall
414 S York Road
Hatboro, PA 19040
Phone: (215) 443-9100
Website: myhatboro.org
Email: info@myhatboro.org

EAC Website: <https://hatboroeac.wixsite.com/hatboroeac/about-us>

EAC Facebook Page: Hatboro EAC

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Respectfully submitted,

Kelly A'Harrah, Secretary, Hatboro EAC, with the approval of the 2025 Hatboro EAC members