

**ENVIRONMENTAL ADVISORY COMMISSION  
BUCKINGHAM TOWNSHIP  
February 19, 2025**

## **AGENDA**

### **Attendees:**

- **Present:** Jim Walter, Donald Robb, Andrea Strout, Diane Smith, Ruth Foster
- **Visitors:** Stephanie Weisser, Lisa Braud, Supervisor Maggie Rash

### **Administration**

- Chairman Walter called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm
- The minutes from the November 20, 2024 and December 18, 2024 meetings were approved



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- The Meeting was adjourned at 8:00 pm
- Next meeting: March 19, 2025 at 7 pm at Township Hall Upstairs small meeting room

### **Climate Action Plan update - Andrea Strout**

- February 25, 2025 – 6:30 PM – presentation of first semester preliminary findings at Supervisors Work Session
- Penn State Sustainability Institute interns are assisting Buckingham through the end of the academic year to develop a Climate Action Plan
- Buckingham has also completed a Township Energy Audit
- Buckingham uses additional sources for guidance to develop the municipal CAP

- Review other municipal CAPs ( ex: Aetna , PA ) for model ordinances
- Bucks County Director of Sustainability Neil Dougherty
- Update: Sierra Club Ready for 100 2.0 Kickoff March 2025 providing additional guidance for municipal clean energy initiatives

### **Audubon Birdtown USA Designation Update**

- Diane Smith is leading application process to designate Buckingham Township as a certified Pennsylvania Birdtown. At next meeting Diane will provide an update on the application submitted to the Audubon Society in July 2024
- Committee: Diane Smith, Barbara Rintala, Stephanie Weisser, Linda Carol Gray, Linda DeMario

### **Spring Seminar Discussion**

- Rescheduled from Winter 2025
- Draft Topics: Spray Fields – how they work, benefit to community, safe infiltration of treated water; PFOS Public Water Supply Treatment Update; Private well owner PFOS testing guidance update
- Date: TBD

### **Bucks County Conservation Community – Native Plant Educational Event**

- May 10, 2025 - Wrightstown Grange *Time: 9:30AM-1PM*
- Buckingham will have a table with info on Native Plants
- Other Environmental Groups and Municipal Environmental Advisory Commission representatives will be present

### **Spring Native Plant Sale**

- Saturday April 19, 2025 – Hansell Park Pavillion *10 am-12 noon*
- Currently not taking pre-orders

### **Sensory Garden**

- February 26, 2025 – Presentation to Supervisors
- Holicong Park master gardener proposal to pro bono design, construct and maintain a garden area emphasizing smell, touch, color etc.
- Benefit – accessible therapeutic area with educational information signs

### **Storm Drain Markers**

- Buckingham has received a grant to acquire additional information markers for storm drains
- Prevent contaminated surface water discharge to streams, creeks, wetlands, etc.
- Upon receipt, Buckingham EAC will reach out to Scout troops and high school environmental clubs for assistance installing the markers

### **Update Buckingham Tree List**

- Last updated 14 years ago
- Proposal to update the tree list to remove invasive and non-native plants- EAC will review
- Buckingham is pursuing an Arbor Day Foundation Tree City USA designation
- Guidance also available from PA State Forester, local nurseries, consultant and resident Carol Manicone.
- Pursue designation and protection of certain trees as of exceptional natural and historic value

### **Buckingham Township EAC: Spring Tips: How to mulch a tree**

Spring is here and many home owners add mulch around their trees to improve the aesthetics of their landscape but mulching needs to be done correctly to not damage the tree or shrub. Mulching mimics the natural environment found in forests where leaves and branches blanket the soil surface, replenishing nutrients as they decompose and creating an ideal environment for root growth. Urban landscape trees and shrubs typically grow in much harsher environments with soils modified by human activities

(e.g., construction, lawns, and compaction). A 2- to 4-inch layer of mulch can re-create aspects of a forest's soil environment. According to the International Society of Arboriculture, mulching, when done correctly, is one of the most beneficial practices a homeowner can do for the health of a tree or shrub. But do not apply too much mulch and create a “Mulch Volcano” . For tree health, keep all mulch material away from the trunk. Allow the root flare (where the trunk meets the soil) to show. The root flare is at or near the ground line and is identifiable as a marked swelling of the tree's trunk where roots begin to extend outward.

Mulches are available in two major forms, organic and inorganic. Tree care professionals prefer organic mulches, such as wood chips, pine needles, hardwood and softwood bark, cocoa hulls, leaves, and compost mixes, since they decompose, improving soil structure and increasing soil fertility. This is important in urban landscapes where soils are often compacted and lack organic matter, especially on new construction sites. The various organic mulches decompose at different rates and require periodic reapplication. Inorganic mulches, such as gravel, stone chips, river rock, and rubber, do not provide the same benefits as organic mulches as they do not decompose.

For more information Penn State is a great resource.

[Mulching Landscape Trees](#)

Or watch this video

[Bing Videos](#)



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