



**COUNTY OF DELAWARE**  
GOVERNMENT CENTER BUILDING  
201 W. FRONT STREET  
MEDIA, PENNSYLVANIA

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For Immediate Release  
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**FACT SHEET: Earth Day 2009**

County Council is pleased to recognize that Wednesday, April 22, is Earth Day, a global effort to preserve and protect the planet.

Since Earth Day started in 1970, one of the main messages is that every day is Earth Day, and we have to be mindful of how we treat our resources throughout the year.

That first Earth Day led to the creation of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and passage of the Clean Air, Clean Water and Endangered Species acts.

On Earth Day 2008, County Council announced the formation of the Energy and Environmental Advisory Board to make recommendations to Council on actions that will foster a cleaner, greener county.

County Council takes this occasion to underscore Delaware County's green commitment and to update residents on Delaware County's energy and environmental initiatives. Council's mission is to conserve energy, preserve our natural resources and conserve tax dollars.

The members of the Advisory Board and the County Planning Department meet regularly to formulate a plan, identifying both short-term and long-term initiatives to promote clean energy, clean air and reduced costs.

Last fall, Council added hybrid cars to the county fleet, installed solar panels on one the Sweeney Building and held a public meeting to seek input from residents.

In 2009:

1. **Green Pages:** Council is in the process of creating Green Pages for the Web site and now has a GreenCounty e-mail so the public can provide feedback.

2. **Greenhouse Gas Inventory:** The Delaware Valley Regional Planning Commission's inventory is complete (posted on its Web site) and the County Advisory Board is reviewing it.

3. **Goals created:** Advisory Board now has five major goals.

Develop a County Energy Conservation Plan.

Achieve cost savings through energy efficiency

Achieve emission reductions

Institute energy efficiency throughout county government operations

Raise public awareness about energy conservation, environmental protection

4. **Subcommittees:** Will address the following areas.

Renewable Energy. Purchase and use of wind and/or solar power.

Waste reduction and Recycling

Energy Efficiency in Our Operations

Transportation Initiatives

Land Use Initiatives (open space, create trails, protect watersheds)

(more)

*(Earth Day continued)*

**5. Partnerships:** Council is pleased to partner with many municipal and civic organizations in these efforts.

Last week, Council recognized the efforts of the Darby Creek Valley Watershed Association and the Chester-Ridley-Crum Creeks Watershed Association to keep our streams and watersheds clean.

Council partners with the Delaware County Transportation Management Association to host Bike To Work Day on May 15 to raise awareness about alternative means for transportation.

The Planning Department is working with municipalities to preserve Open Space, create greenways and protect our watersheds.

The Conservation District is holding a poster contest to raise awareness about our natural resources among school-age children. This year's theme is "Dig It, the Secrets of Soil." Council will be recognizing the winners in May.

All of these efforts will lead to a cleaner, greener county.

Attending today's Council meeting are the following members of the Energy and Environmental Advisory Board:

Lorraine Bradshaw

Sue Cordes

Rebecca Ross

John Pickett

Pete Alyanakian